




MINERALS PROGRAM INSPECTION REPORT
PHONE: (303) 866-3567

The Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety has conducted an inspection of the mining operation noted below. This report documents observations concerning compliance with the terms of the permit and applicable rules and regulations of the Mined Land Reclamation Board.

MINE NAME: La Veta Town Gravel Pit	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-2016-018	MINERAL: Sand and gravel	COUNTY: Huerfano
INSPECTION TYPE: Monitoring	WEATHER: Cloudy	INSP. DATE: January 11, 2024	INSP. TIME: 09:00
OPERATOR: Town of La Veta	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Chris and Tom Knowles	TYPE OF OPERATION: 110c - Construction Limited Impact	
REASON FOR INSPECTION: Normal I&E Program	BOND CALCULATION TYPE: None	BOND AMOUNT: \$0.00	
DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA	POST INSP. CONTACTS: None	JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None	
INSPECTOR(S): Amber Gibson	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	SIGNATURE DATE: January 25, 2024	

GENERAL INSPECTION TOPICS

This list identifies the environmental and permit parameters inspected and gives a categorical evaluation of each. No problems or possible violations were noted during the inspection. The mine operation was found to be in full compliance with Mineral Rules and Regulations of the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board for the Extraction of Construction Materials and/or for Hard Rock, Metal and Designated Mining Operations. Any person engaged in any mining operation shall notify the office of any failure or imminent failure, as soon as reasonably practicable after such person has knowledge of such condition or of any impoundment, embankment, or slope that poses a reasonable potential for danger to any persons or property or to the environment; or any environmental protection facility designed to contain or control chemicals or waste which are acid or toxic-forming, as identified in the permit.

(AR) RECORDS----- <u>Y</u>	(FN) FINANCIAL WARRANTY----- <u>Y</u>	(RD) ROADS----- <u>Y</u>
(HB) HYDROLOGIC BALANCE----- <u>Y</u>	(BG) BACKFILL & GRADING----- <u>Y</u>	(EX) EXPLOSIVES----- <u>N</u>
(PW) PROCESSING WASTE/TAILING---- <u>N</u>	(SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES----- <u>N</u>	(TS) TOPSOIL----- <u>Y</u>
(MP) GENL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE- <u>Y</u>	(FW) FISH & WILDLIFE----- <u>N</u>	(RV) REVEGETATION---- <u>Y</u>
(SM) SIGNS AND MARKERS----- <u>Y</u>	(SP) STORM WATER MGT PLAN---- <u>N</u>	(RS) RECL PLAN/COMP-- <u>Y</u>
(ES) OVERBURDEN/DEV. WASTE----- <u>N</u>	(SC) EROSION/SEDIMENTATION--- <u>Y</u>	(ST) STIPULATIONS----- <u>N</u>
(AT) ACID OR TOXIC MATERIALS----- <u>N</u>	(OD) OFF-SITE DAMAGE----- <u>N</u>	

Y = Inspected / N = Not inspected / NA = Not applicable to this operation / PB = Problem cited / PV = Possible violation cited

OBSERVATIONS

The La Veta Town Gravel Pit was inspected by Amber Gibson with the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division/DRMS). Chris and Tom Knowles, representing the Operator (the Town of La Veta) accompanied me during the inspection. The inspection was completed as part of the Division's routine monitoring inspection program. The Division's last inspection was conducted on March 28, 2019. The weather was cloudy and cold.

The La Veta Town Gravel Pit is a 110c Limited Impact Construction Materials Operation. The site is located approximately 3.5 miles northwest of La Veta, Colorado, just south of Highway 160 on County Road 451. The La Veta Town Gravel Pit is permitted for 9.75 acres. The commodities mined at the site are sand and gravel, which will be used primarily for road maintenance and repair. The site is surrounded by rangeland and the post-mining land use is rangeland.

Availability of Records:

The annual report, map, and fee are paid through May 17, 2024. There are no outstanding infractions.

During the initial permitting process, in an adequacy response from the Division, the Division asked for clarification as to whether this site would be mined as an intermittent operation. There is no follow-up response to this inquiry in the record. However, the Division's internal permit system shows that this operation is intermittent. During the inspection, the Division asked the Operator for clarification on whether they mine year-round or if they operate as an intermittent operation. The Operator stated that they do operate as an intermittent operation.

Backfilling and Grading, Reclamation Success, and Revegetation:

As mining progresses, the slopes are reclaimed contemporaneously. The slopes located in the eastern portion of the permit have been reclaimed to a 3H:1V slope, seeded, and have an established vegetative cover (Photos 1-2). No noxious weeds were observed during the inspection. The Operator has overburden stockpiles placed around the perimeter of the pit to reduce the push and haul distances required to backfill the slopes to aid in facilitating concurrent reclamation (Photos 3-4).

Financial Warranty:

The La Veta Town Gravel Pit is permitted and operated by the town of La Veta. The Division does not hold a financial warranty for Operators that are units of municipal or county governments (Rule 4.1.2(2)).

Hydrologic Balance:

No standing water was observed on-site during the inspection. The site had some snow cover. No signs of excess sediment deposition or eroded surfaces caused by surface water run-off were observed during the inspection.

Gen. Compliance with Mine Plan:

This operation is permitted over, and adjacent to, a previous gravel pit. Since permitting, the mining is progressing from east to west in accordance with the approved mining plan (Photos 4-8). The Operator stated that the last activity at the site was during September 2023, and consisted of hauling product off-site. The last time that excavating and crushing was conducted at the site was July 2020. There are highwalls along the north, west, and south sides of the pit (Photo 4). The highwalls appear to be stable and are approximately

654.26 feet long with a maximum height between 13 and 15 feet. There is a product stockpile located in the south-east corner. This pile is extremely close to the boundary, but the disturbance mapped during the inspection indicated that the pile is within the permit boundary. The Operator is advised to proceed with caution, and to consider placing additional boundary markers in the east and along the tapering north and south edges to aid with line-of-sight when active excavation resumes.

Right of Entry:

The Operators have a lease agreement with the surface/subsurface owner that is valid until its expiration date on December 31, 2026.

Roads:

The road used to access the site is a pre-existing road and is in good condition. The road is approved to remain after final reclamation.

Sediment Control:

As noted in the *Gen. Compliance with Mine Plan* section above, the eastern boundary is encroached upon by the product stockpile. Additionally, as mining progresses west, the pit boundaries will need to narrow to stay within the tapering northern and southern boundaries (see Map 1 below). As a reminder, no disturbance is permitted outside of the permitted affected area boundary, including reclamation activities. Pursuant to Rule 3.1.5(3), the Operator shall protect areas outside the affected land from slides or other damage. Failure to do so may be cited as a Possible Violation and the matter may be brought before the Mined Land Reclamation Board (MLRB) for an enforcement hearing.

Signs and Markers:

A mine sign was posted at the entrance to the site (Photo 10), in compliance with Rule 3.1.12(1). The affected area boundary was marked in compliance with Rule 3.1.12(2). The markers were observed during the inspection, and the coordinates were collected during the Division's previous inspection (see blue flags on Map 1).

Topsoil:

The topsoil pile is located above and behind the northern and southern sides of the pit, behind and adjacent to the overburden piles (Photos 5 and 11). The topsoil stockpiles are stored in locations where disturbance by ongoing mining operations will be minimized, in accordance with Rule 3.1.9(3). At the time of the inspection, the piles were partially covered in snow, but appeared to have stabilizing vegetative covers established.

Conclusion:

This concludes the Division's Inspection Report; a map displaying topics discussed in the report, and a subset of corresponding photographs that were taken during the time of the inspection, are included below. If you need additional information or have any questions, please contact me by email at amber.gibson@state.co.us or by telephone at (720) 836-0967.

Inspection Contact Address

Chris and Tom Knowles
Town of La Veta
209 S Main St
La Veta, CO 81055

CC: Jared Ebert, DRMS

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1: Looking east at the boundary of the current permitted pit area, and beyond. The slopes have been backfilled and graded from mining conducted previously in the permitted area and during a prior gravel operation.

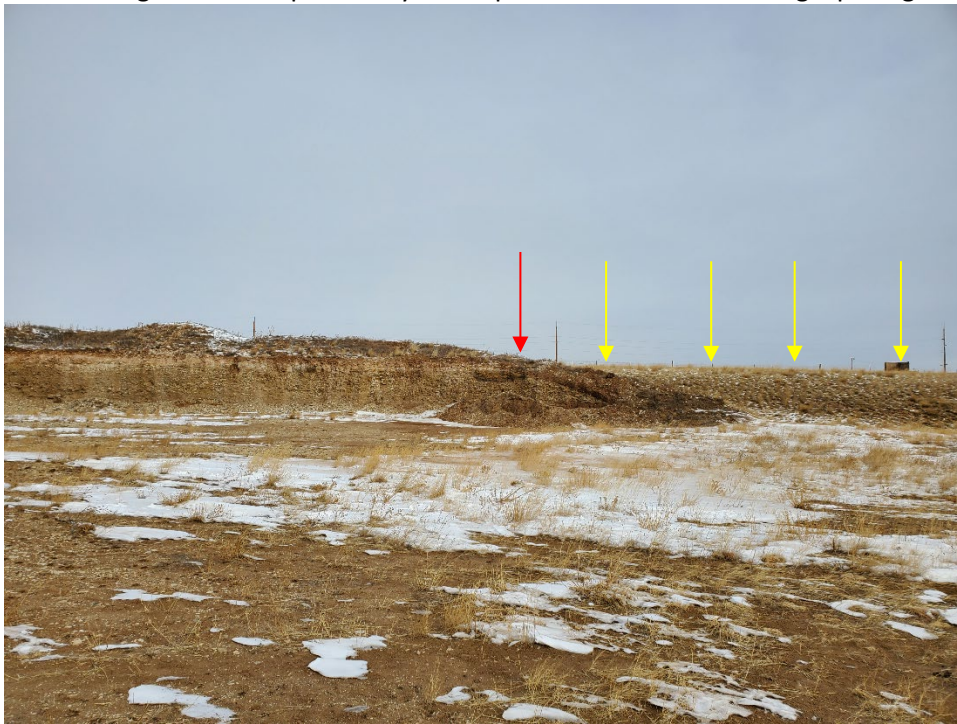


Photo 2: Looking north at the current eastern extent of the pit walls (red arrow), and the backfilled, graded, and vegetated slopes where the area has been mined-out to the east (yellow arrows).



Photo 3: Looking east across the southern disturbance boundary. Overburden piles placed along perimeter of the pit.



Photo 4: Looking north-west at the pit. Overburden piles located along the pit perimeters (arrows).



Photo 5: Looking west along the northern disturbance boundary.



Photo 6: Looking south along the western disturbance boundary.



Photo 7: Looking north-west at the highwalls around the pit.



Photo 8: Looking east across the pit from the western disturbance boundary.



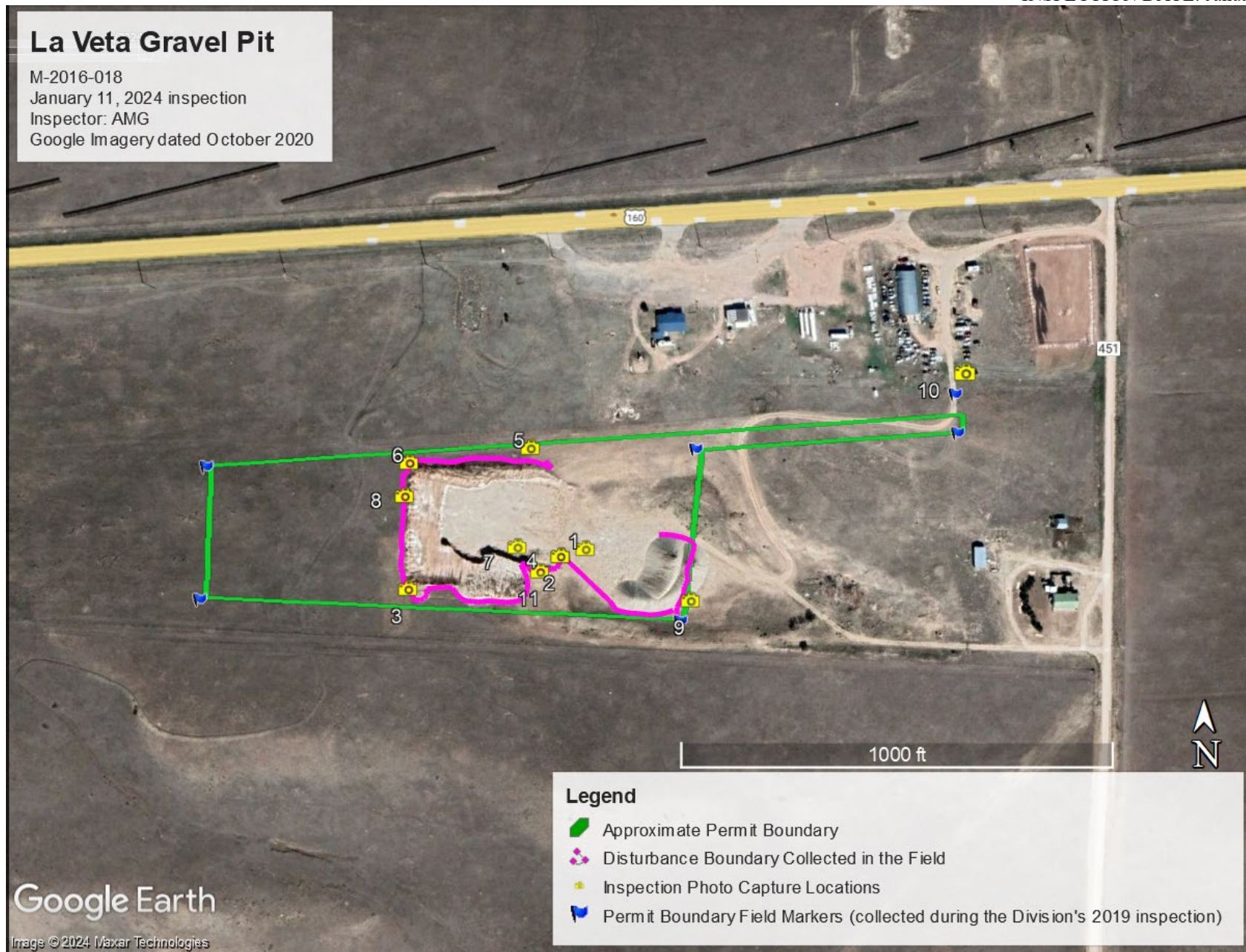
Photo 9: Looking west at the product stockpile located along the east boundary. The Division walked along the base of the pile to map the disturbance boundary (see pink lines on Map 1).



Photo 10: Mine sign posted at the entrance gate.



Photo 11: Looking south-west at the southern topsoil pile.



Map 1: Map generated in Google Earth to display the locations where photos were taken and where the disturbance boundary was walked during the January 11, 2024 inspection of the La Veta Town Gravel Pit. Google aerial imagery dated October 2020.