




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: Nickell Gravel Pit	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-1994-077	MINERAL: Gravel	COUNTY: Washington
INSPECTION TYPE: Monitoring	WEATHER: Clear	INSP. DATE: January 31, 2024	INSP. TIME: 09:00
OPERATOR: Washington County	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Steve Williams	TYPE OF OPERATION: 112c - Construction Regular Operation	
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): Brock Bowles	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	SIGNATURE DATE: February 2, 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>N</u>	(FN) FINANCIAL WARRANTY----- <u>N</u>	(RD) ROADS----- <u>Y</u>
(HB) HYDROLOGIC BALANCE----- <u>N</u>	(BG) BACKFILL & GRADING----- <u>N</u>	(EX) EXPLOSIVES----- <u>N</u>
(PW) PROCESSING WASTE/TAILING---- <u>N</u>	(SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES----- <u>N</u>	(TS) TOPSOIL----- <u>N</u>
(MP) GENL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE- <u>N</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>N</u>
(ES) OVERBURDEN/DEV. WASTE----- <u>N</u>	(SC) EROSION/SEDIMENTATION--- <u>N</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 inspection was conducted by Brock Bowles of the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division). Steve Williams of Washington County Road and Bridge (operator) was present for the inspection. The Nickell Gravel Pit is located 11 miles south of Last Chance. The site is a 112c operation permitted for 67.95 acres and the post-mining land use is pastureland.

No mining was taking place at the time of the inspection and no mining equipment was onsite. The last excavation was in 2014 according to the 2023 annual report. The site is in final reclamation.

Roads:

The pit access road from Hwy 71 has been reclaimed (photo 1). The gravel has been removed and the area has been graded to blend in with the surrounding agricultural field. Topsoil has been replaced and winter wheat was recently planted and is beginning to sprout.

Revegetation:

The mining operations were located on the west bank and in the channel of Vega Creek, an ephemeral stream. The east side of Vega Creek is a natural cut bank that was not disturbed by mining (photo 2). This cut bank feature is documented in previous inspection reports.

The bottom of Vega Creek did not have topsoil and was comprised of gravel. There were some grasses and a lot of sunflower stalks in the creek bottom. The channel bottom was mostly flat with a few small water flow channels. The creek was dry at the time of the inspection.

The west side of Vega Creek is where the access road, loading area and stockpiles were located. These areas have been backfilled/graded, topsoiled, and seeded (photos 3 - 5). The slopes are graded to 3h:1v or less. There is a bench about 8 acres in size and roughly 2'-5' feet higher than the creek bottom but is still within the creek channel. The bench is graded flat and sloped towards the creek. The bench area is well vegetated with upland grass species and forbs. The vegetation density and composition is consistent with the surrounding undisturbed areas. No noxious weeds were noted. No erosion features were seen on the bench area or on the side slopes.

The Nickell Pit appears eligible for final bond release.

Signs and Markers:

The permit sign was posted at the site entrance off Highway 71 (photo 6). The entry gate was closed upon arrival.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1 – Reclaimed access road, the road went straight across the agricultural field for 2,000’.



Photo 2 – Vega Creek bottom with natural cut bank on east side.



Photo 3 – West side of Vega Creek, facing north, former location of loading area and stockpiles.



Photo 4 – Southern part of mined area where Vega Creek enters the permit area, photo facing southeast.



Photo 5 - Northern section of Vega Creek.



Photo 6 – Mine entrance sign facing Hwy 71

Inspection Contact Address

Steve Williams
Washington County
11920 Co. Rd. CC
Anton, CO 80801