




**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.

<b>MINE NAME:</b> Pikeview Quarry	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> M-1977-211	<b>MINERAL:</b> Limestone (general), granite gneiss and do	<b>COUNTY:</b> El Paso
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Monitoring	<b>WEATHER:</b> Clear	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> February 28, 2024	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 10:00
<b>OPERATOR:</b> Riverbend Industries Inc.	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b> Jerry Schnabel	<b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b> 112c - Construction Regular Operation	
<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b> Normal I&E Program	<b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b> None	<b>BOND AMOUNT:</b> \$13,389,784.00	
<b>DATE OF COMPLAINT:</b> NA	<b>POST INSP. CONTACTS:</b> None	<b>JOINT INSP. AGENCY:</b> None	
<b>INSPECTOR(S):</b> Hunter Ridley Timothy Cazier, P.E.	<b>INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:</b> 	<b>SIGNATURE DATE:</b> March 4, 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>NA</u>	(FW) FISH & WILDLIFE----- <u>Y</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**

This inspection was conducted by Hunter Ridley and Tim Cazier (DRMS/Division) as part of the continuing planned monthly inspections to observe the backfill placement for the final reclamation of the Pikeview Quarry. Jerry Schnabel (representing the Permittee, Riverbend Industries Inc.) and Stantec representatives Tim Culberson, Paul Kos, and Michaela Swain were present for the inspection. USFS representatives were unable to attend due to schedule conflicts.

Surety Reduction (SR3) is currently in processing with the Division. Riverbend Industries Inc. is seeking a bond reduction for earthwork completed at the site. The Division and site representatives discussed the proposed changes to the bond amount held by the Division which is currently at \$13,389,784.00. A draft reduced bond calculation was sent to Riverbend Industries Inc. on March 1, 2024, for review.

**Records:** Compaction testing records were reviewed back to January 22nd, the last date not available during the previous inspection. All test results reviewed in this period (January 22<sup>nd</sup> to February 24th) demonstrated at least 90 percent compaction in compliance with the approved specification. No tests were performed on several of the days as no work was performed due to weather conditions. Mr. Schnabel presented the Leica prism system data and trends for January. Three of the 7400 series of prisms (7400-1, 7400-2, and 7400-3) were showing above average movement with ~2in of vertical, downward movement. However, longitudinal movement was steady for these prisms. Mr. Schnabel explained that, unlike series 7200 and 7300 prisms, the 7400 series were placed *before* final dozer compaction of the bench. In contrast, the 7200 and 7300 series were placed months after the final dozer compaction of their associated benches. Therefore, any natural settling of material on these slopes would have been missed by the readings of 7200 and 7300 series. The slight movement of the 7400 series is most likely to natural settling of material has slopes above are reworked. The Division conducted a visual inspection of the 7400 series prisms and confirmed that the material in which the prisms were placed is looser material than other benches but appears easily compactable (Photo 10). No tension cracks or signs of potential slide activity were evident. Stantec will continue to monitor this prism series closely over the next month as the last of material is placed on the slopes. Stantec also stated they will continue to conduct visual inspections at least weekly, but often daily, for this area. Should the movement of these prisms flatten out over time, the Division has no major concern for slope stability.

**Backfilling and Grading:** Mr. Schnabel indicated that placement of material from the south borrow area was nearly complete (Photo 11). Scrapers were seen removing material from the shop area as well. Material from the various borrow areas is placed in an alternating pattern and mixed before grading. This ensures that compaction is optimal on benches. There are currently about 10-12 trucks and 3-4 scrapers working on site to move ~ 15,000 CY per day of material. Water trucks are still onsite to combat any issues with dust. There have been slight adjustments made to traffic patterns to improve safety at the site. Equipment now follows one-way, circular traffic, no roads have a grade > 25%, and roadable vehicles now fuel up near the office to reduce foot traffic in the active areas. Subgrade contouring is complete on the lower bench and middle benches and growth media has been placed. All placed backfill continues to be tested for compaction in accordance with the approved specifications.

**Roads:** A slice of the uppermost road located at the South Peak had fallen out one day prior to the inspection. Stantec representative Paul Kos noted that this was likely due to rapid freeze and thaw of an abundance of moisture received at the site recently (Photos 3 and 6). There were no injuries or damages as a result of this road failure. The South Peak area is planned to be blasted at the start of March. In the interim, berms will be placed on both sides of the road to block any traffic from getting near the slope.

**Explosives:** The highwall on the “South Peak” area (Photo 5) has been approved to be blasted to achieve a stable final slope. DRMS approved the blasting plan technical revision (TR-23) request on December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Drilling equipment was stationed at a staging area just north of the South Peak (Photo 7). Mr. Schnabel stated that drilling would begin in early March and that unlike other areas of the quarry, pre-split would not be used for this slope. By avoiding pre-split blasting, the final slope design will have a more irregular and natural looking face.

**Fish and Wildlife:** No impact on wildlife was observed.

**Revegetation & Topsoil:** The first bench of the buttress has been fully topsoiled and seeded. Topsoil has been placed on the middle bench but not yet trimmed to final grade. Topsoil is initially placed vertically on slopes, creating a pattern of windrows (Photo 2), before being trimmed to final elevation and reworked horizontally to achieve final grade. Revegetation in the northern portion continues to be monitored throughout the off season. This includes the irrigated tree-planting system.

Myrtle Spurge, a List A Noxious Weed species, continues to be monitored and treated as needed in the southwest portion of the site. Mr. Schnabel is aware that thistle, which is common in the northern portion of the site, and knapweed will likely need to be treated once the year's growing season begins.

**Hydrologic Balance:**

As discussed in last month's inspection report, the current design of the North Ditch will need to be amended to work around the exposed large bedrock feature (named the “Dragon's Back”) (Photo 8). Upper ditches are also planned to be redesigned to allow for mountain seep to fall in with surface runoff, travel around the ‘Kiewit Cliffs’ area and towards the North Ditch (Photo 5). The Operator is reminded that this will require the submission of a Technical Revision for review by the Division before the new channels are constructed.

The remaining culvert that used to take the upper drainage flow below the upper access road to the North Ditch has been completely dugout. The culvert is to be removed and disposed of off-site (Photo 9).

**Post Inspection Meeting:** No problems or possible violations were observed during the inspection. Items of importance discussed during the site meeting are summarized below:

- Changes to the site traffic patterns
- Management of the road failure at the South Peak area
- Monitoring of the 7400 prism series
- Redesign of the upper ditches
- Surety Reduction (SR3)

## PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1: A mine sign is located at the site entrance and in compliance with Rule 3.1.12.



Photo 2: View west of the benches, each in various stages of backfill and topsoiling.



**Photo 3: View west of the south peak area (far left), a slice of the road just beneath the horizontal cliff has recently fallen out.**



**Photo 4: Leica station, batteries for the system were recently replaced.**



**Photo 5: View north of the middle bench and 'Kiewit Cliffs' area, the drainage channel for the mountain seep is planned to run down to this bench and out of the site to the northeast.**



**Photo 6: View southeast of the area of road which fell out at the South Peak.**



**Photo 7: View northwest of drilling equipment stored in the staging area, drilling for the blasting of South Peak are scheduled to begin early March.**



**Photo 8: View northeast of the benches in progress, a channel will cut through this area to drain water from the mountain seep away from the benched area, the 'Dragons Back' is visible to the east (circled).**



**Photo 9: View south of the remains of the culvert which was recently removed.**



**Photo 10: View north of prism 7400-2, material around is loose and easily compacted.**



**Photo 11: View southeast of the south borrow area.**

**Inspection Contact Address**

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