




**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> Western Equipment & Truck Mine#1	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> M-2023-042	<b>MINERAL:</b> Unknown commodity	<b>COUNTY:</b> Weld
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Preoperation Inspection	<b>WEATHER:</b> Clear	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> February 14, 2024	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 08:30
<b>OPERATOR:</b> Western Equipment & Truck, Inc.	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b> Richard Miller	<b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b> 112c - Construction Regular Operation	
<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b> Preoperation Inspection	<b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b> Complete Bond	<b>BOND AMOUNT:</b> \$0.00	
<b>DATE OF COMPLAINT:</b> NA	<b>POST INSP. CONTACTS:</b> None	<b>JOINT INSP. AGENCY:</b> None	
<b>INSPECTOR(S):</b> Hunter Ridley	<b>INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:</b> 	<b>SIGNATURE DATE:</b> March 6, 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>Y</u>	(RD) ROADS----- <u>Y</u>
(HB) HYDROLOGIC BALANCE----- <u>Y</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>Y</u>	(FW) FISH & WILDLIFE----- <u>Y</u>	(RV) REVEGETATION---- <u>N</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>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**

A Construction Materials Application for the Western Equipment & Truck Mine #1 (M-2023-042) was received by the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division) on December 6, 2023. The application is for a Regular (112) Operation Reclamation Permit and was filed for review on December 21, 2023. No objections have been received as of the date of this inspection. The public comment period ended on February 8, 2024.

The application has not yet been approved by the Division. An adequacy letter was sent to the Applicant representative (Richard Miller) on January 12, 2024. The Division received a response on March 5, 2024 and sent a second Adequacy Review Letter on March 6, 2024. The current proposed decision date is March 20, 2024.

The proposed site is located ~5 mile southeast of Greeley, CO and ~2 miles west of Kersey, CO at the intersection of Hwy 34 and CR 49. The application proposes a 74.07 acre site, with 64.2 acres to be mined. There are no structures within the proposed permit boundary, but there are several structures within 200ft of the proposed permit boundary. These include one house (Photo 2), two utility lines, trucking company facilities, a ditch, and two oil and gas facilities (Photo 3). The applicant is in the process of securing structure agreements for said structures. If no agreement can be secured, the applicant will submit an appropriate engineering evaluation that demonstrates that such structure shall not be damaged by activities occurring at the mining operation, pursuant to Rule 6.4.19.

The proposed operation will salvage topsoil for the purpose of reclaiming oil and gas facilities. Topsoil depth at the site is estimated to be between 24 and 26 inches as outlined in the Web Soil Survey of the area. Anywhere between 10 – 20 inches of topsoil will be stripped and hauled offsite. The applicant has committed to leaving a minimum of 6 inches of topsoil above the gravelly sand subsoil to aid in future reclamation activities. As per the Mine Plan narrative, only 5 acres of area will be worked at any one time. While not yet confirmed, mining will likely begin in the southeastern corner of the permit boundary and work its way west. The haul truck entrance will be located off CR49 to avoid the busier traffic of Hwy 34 (Photo 5).

The proposed post mining land use is general agriculture, with a plan to seed disturbed areas with buffalograss. Any cut slopes will be regarded to 3H:1V slopes, but in general the site will remain flat with a slightly depressed mining footprint.

### **Site Observations**

This was a pre-operational inspection of the proposed Western Equipment & Truck Mine #1 conducted by Hunter Ridley with the Division. Applicant representative Richard Miller as well as project engineers Jason Andrews and Eric Roads accompanied the inspection. Of the four required notice signs, two remained posted at the site, both along Hwy 34 (Photo 1). The applicant is reminded to ensure that these signs are in place until the site is fully permitted and permanent signs replace the notice signs. A fence delineates the property boundary of the site, which is also the proposed permit boundary. Mining will maintain a 50 ft offset from the permit boundary and will be marked with t-posts. The surrounding area is predominantly agriculture with small homes dotted around. An excess of weeds was not noted to be at the site.

The only additional permanent, manmade structures noted in the field which were not outlined on preliminary Map C-1 include a ditch located along Hwy 34 and two utility lines (Photos 4 and 6). The Division will require structure agreements for these additional features and will need them added to Map C-1.

Photographs taken during the inspection have been included below. Responses to this inspection report should be directed to: Hunter Ridley at the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, 1313 Sherman St., Room 215, Denver, CO 80203. Direct contact can be made by phone at 720-868-7757 or via email at [hunter.ridley@state.co.us](mailto:hunter.ridley@state.co.us).

### **PHOTOGRAPHS**



**Photo 1: One of two notice signs located along Hwy 34.**



**Photo 2: View southwest of an adjacent home and barn structures.**



**Photo 3: View southeast of the proposed site, oil and gas facilities are visible to the west.**



**Photo 4: View east of the proposed site, a utility line and ditch are located to the north along Hwy 34.**



**Photo 5: View east of the proposed site haul truck entrance off CR 49.**



**Photo 6: View west from the proposed truck entrance, the utility line runs along the southern edge of the proposed permit boundary.**

**Inspection Contact Address**

Richard Miller  
Western Equipment & Truck, Inc.  
1600 Specht Point Road, Suite 209  
Fort Collins, CO 80525