



## COLORADO

Division of Reclamation,  
Mining and Safety


Department of Natural Resources

### 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> Aldrich Gravel Pit	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> M-1983-109	<b>MINERAL:</b> Sand and gravel	<b>COUNTY:</b> Kiowa
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Monitoring	<b>WEATHER:</b> Clear	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> January 30, 2024	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 12:30
<b>OPERATOR:</b> Kiowa County	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b> Rick Spady	<b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b> 110c - Construction Limited Impact	

<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b> Normal I&E Program	<b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b> None	<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> Joel Renfro	<b>INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:</b> 	<b>SIGNATURE DATE:</b> March 8, 2024

**The following inspection topics were identified as having Problems or Possible Violations. OPERATORS SHOULD READ THE FOLLOWING PAGES CAREFULLY IN ORDER TO ASSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE TERMS OF THE PERMIT AND APPLICABLE RULES AND REGULATIONS. If a Possible Violation is indicated, you will be notified under separate cover as to when the Mined Land Reclamation Board will consider possible enforcement action.**

#### **INSPECTION TOPIC:** Signs & Markers

**PROBLEM/POSSIBLE VIOLATION:** Problem: The current mine identification sign posted at the entrance of the mine site is weathered and is no longer readable. The sign also does not include a statement that the reclamation permit for the operation has been issued by the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board (CMLRB). This is a problem for failure to meet all requirements of a mine identification sign per Rule 3.1.12(1).

**CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:** The operator shall, at the entrance of the mine site post a sign, which shall be clearly visible from the access road, with a minimum size equaling one hundred and eighty-seven (187) square inches, such as eleven (11) inches in height and seventeen (17) inches in width, with appropriate font size, with the following: the name of the operator, the operation name, a statement that a reclamation permit for the operation has been issued by the CMLRB, and the permit number. The operator shall submit photo documentation that a proper sign has been posted by the corrective action due date.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE:** 4/07/24

## **OBSERVATIONS**

The Aldrich Gravel Pit was inspected by Joel Renfro with the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division/DRMS) as a part of the Division's routine monitoring program on March 8, 2024. This site was previously inspected on October 10, 2018. Allen Watts with Kiowa County was present during the inspection. The site is located approximately 3 miles north of Galatea, Colorado in Kiowa County. Access to the site is from the north off of County Rd W 5. **Photos 1-8** taken during the inspection are included with this report.

This is a 110c operation permitted for 9.7 acres to mine sand and gravel for use in county road construction and maintenance. The permit boundaries are clearly marked in the corners of the site with T-posts. No material processing occurs on site.

During the inspection, the site was found to be inactive, and no products were observed to be stockpiled or transported off-site. The topsoil is currently stored along the southwestern border of the mining pit. The last activity on the site was recorded in September 2022. Some water was present in the pit, but it was difficult to determine for how long it had been there because it had just melted due to snowfall in the area prior to the inspection. Erosion rills were noted to be forming on the slopes surrounding the pit. If the erosion continues to escalate, it could result in a problem citation during a future inspection.

The approved post-mine land use is rangeland. Reclamation for this site will include grading disturbed slopes to 3H:1V or flatter, placing 9-12 inches of topsoil, and seeding with a native plant seed mix. No reclamation work appears to have started yet. However, since it sounds like mining activity may have come to an end, then the Division recommends completing reclamation in compliance with Rule 3.1.3

The mine entrance sign is weathered away and difficult to read. There is also no statement on the mine entrance sign that a reclamation permit for the operation has been issued by the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board (CMLRB), therefore the sign does not include all information required by Rule 3.1.12(1). This is cited as a problem in the report (see page 1). The operator will need to submit photo documentation that a proper sign has been posted by the corrective action due date.

This concludes the report.

*Any questions or comments regarding this inspection report should be forwarded to Joel Renfro at the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety, 1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, CO 80203, via telephone at (303) 866-3567 ext. 8147, or email at joel.renfro@state.co.us.*

**PHOTOGRAPHS**



**Photo 1.** Mine entrance sign looking south.



**Photo 2.** Permit boundary marker in the northwest corner of site looking south.





**Photo 3.** Mining pit looking south.



**Photo 4.** Permit boundary marker in the southwest corner of the site, looking east.





**Photo 5.** Topsoil stockpile along southern edge of permit boundary looking east.



**Photo 6.** Eastern edge of the site looking north.





**Photo 7.** Mine pit from southern edge of the site looking north.



**Photo 8.** The access road into site looking north.

### GENERAL INSPECTION TOPICS

The following list identifies the environmental and permit parameters inspected and gives a categorical evaluation of each

(AR) RECORDS----- <u>N</u>	(FN) FINANCIAL WARRANTY----- <u>N</u>	(RD) ROADS----- <u>N</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>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>PB</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>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

#### Inspection Contact Address

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