




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: Simla Highway Pit	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-1995-095	MINERAL: Gravel	COUNTY: El Paso
INSPECTION TYPE: Preoperation Inspection	WEATHER: Clear	INSP. DATE: April 30, 2024	INSP. TIME: 10:00
OPERATOR: Hill Top Gravel LLC	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Blake Tope	TYPE OF OPERATION: 110c - Construction Limited Impact	
REASON FOR INSPECTION: Surety Related	BOND CALCULATION TYPE: Complete Bond	BOND AMOUNT: \$14,462.00	
DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA	POST INSP. CONTACTS: None	JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None	
INSPECTOR(S): Hunter Ridley	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	SIGNATURE DATE: May 1, 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>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>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>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 Simla Highway Pit was inspected by Hunter Ridley with the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division). The inspection was completed pursuant to Rule 3.2(7) for the Operator's submission of a 110c to 112c Conversion Application (CN-1) on March 4, 2024. The application was deemed complete on March 11, 2024 and as of the date of this inspection, all adequacy items have been reviewed and approved by the Division.

The site was previously inspected by the Division on May 4, 2022 as part of the Division's routine monitoring program. Tim Tope was present at this inspection and represented the Operator, Blake Tope with Hill Top Gravel LLC. The Simla Highway Pit is accessed from Co Rd 125 (Simla Hwy) and is located approximately three miles south of Simla. The site was not operating at the time of the inspection, but recent activity was noted.

Mine & Reclamation Plan Summary: This site has a complicated mining and reclamation plan history. A comprehensive summary can be found in a previous inspection report, dated May 4, 2022. No revisions have been applied for since this date, aside from a 112c conversion application, which is the predominant subject of this report. The conversion application simplifies the mining and reclamation plan for the site.

Availability of Records: Annual reports are current, having been filed through July 2023. The approved post-mine land use is rangeland. There are no open infractions. Both the surface and minerals are privately owned.

Acid And Toxic Materials: No acid or toxic materials are involved in this operation.

Backfilling and Grading: The proposed 112c permit conversion states that all mined slopes will remain at 3H:1V or flatter throughout mining. This alleviates the need for a bonding task to backfill or regrade highwalls for reclamation. The currently mined slope appeared to be at a 3H:1V slope (Photos 3, 8, and 10).

Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste: Overburden is not separated from topsoil (see Topsoil section below).

Financial Warranty: The bond was re-evaluated and updated by the Division as part of this 112c conversion process (calculation attached below). The newly required bond amount for the site is \$38,992.00. The Operator has kept the cost of the bond relatively low by committing to a phased operation wherein no more than 15 acres are dedicated to active mining. All additional acreage will be in final reclamation. A maintenance seeding task for 5 of these 15 acres has been added to the bond calculation. Before the Operator progresses to a new phase, the Division shall be notified, as the bond will need to be updated to account for the eventual increase in the number of reclaimed but not yet formally released acres.

Fish and Wildlife: No impact to wildlife was observed.

Hydrologic Balance: A small stormwater impoundment is located along the northeastern side of the current 110c permit. This impoundment appeared to be holding water and functioning, recent snowmelt and runoff was observed (Photo 7). This small impoundment will follow the path of mining as it progresses across the proposed 40 acres. No exposed groundwater and no excess erosion of the area was observed. A small ephemeral drainage is located in the middle of the proposed 112c permit boundary (Photo 6). This was not holding water at the time of inspection and is usually dry. No major erosion or bank cutting was observed.

Gen. Compliance with Mine Plan: The operation appeared to be in compliance with the approved mine plan at the time of the inspection. A small stockpile is located south of the mined slope (Photo 10). A small pile of

rubble was noted near the SW corner of the current 110c permit boundary (Photo 4). The maximum allowed disturbed area for the proposed 112c operation will be 40 acres, with 15 acres being bonded for initially in the first phase. The 112c operation will mine in a clockwise, 'S' shaped pattern, while slowly moving east to west. Contemporaneous reclamation will occur, but no acreage is planned to be formally released from the permit until the end of life of mine.

Off-site Damage: The operation appeared to be confined to the permit boundary, based on Google Earth review and site observations.

Processing Waste: No processing waste was observed.

Roads: Haul and access roads did not appear to be a source of sediment that could be tracked offsite. All haul roads will be included in the permit with the approval of the 112c conversion.

Right of Entry: Blake Tope is the owner of Hill Top Gravel (Permittee) and West Wood LLC (landowner).

Reclamation Success: No reclamation has been initiated.

Revegetation: No seeding beyond that completed prior to SR-1 has been done. No noxious weeds were observed.

Sediment Control: Only minor erosion was observed (Photo 9) and no BMPs were needed at the time of the inspection.

Support Facilities On-site: No equipment was observed onsite.

Signs and Markers: A mine sign was posted at the site entrance and contained all required information pursuant to Rule 3.1.12 (Photo 1). The two notice signs for the conversion application notice pursuant to Rule 1.6.2(1)(b) were also posted (Photo 2). The affected area boundaries were well marked with posts and fence lines. The proposed 40-acre boundary corners were also marked with t-posts. These corners were all checked via GPS and adjusted where necessary (Photo 5). The Operator is reminded that any disturbance outside the permitted 40 acres, even on land owned by the Permittee, is considered off-site damage and would be subject to enforcement action. As no buffer between mining activities and the permit boundary have been proposed, this is especially important to keep in mind.

Permit Stipulations: There are no permit stipulations.

Storm Water MGT Plan: No oil or fuel spills observed. Stormwater drains to the pit and infiltrates (Photo 7).

Topsoil: A topsoil stockpile is in the south end of the pit (Photos 3 and 10).

Structures: An engineering evaluation was previously accepted by the DRMS for the Simla Highway Pit as a structure damage compensation agreement could not be obtained from El Paso County. This evaluation assumes no excavation disturbance within 50 feet of the highway and working slopes will be 3H:1V of flatter. Two fence lines, one to the south and one to the east, are owned by the permittee and therefore do not require structure agreements. No additional structures in the proposed 112c area were observed.

Post Inspection Meeting: The Division followed up via phone call with the Operator/Permittee after the

inspection. The Division found no issues with the site and the Operator expressed their approval of the proposed bond amount. Based on the observations of this inspection, the Division will **approve** the conversion of the Simla Highway Pit from a 110c to a 112c operation.

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

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1: Mine sign posted at the site entrance.



Photo 2: 112c conversion application notice signs posted.



Photo 3: View north of the active 110 site, topsoil pile is in the foreground, the active mining slope is in the background.



Photo 4: A small pile of scrap concrete is located near the southwestern corner of the 110c permit.



Photo 5: Example of a t-post used to mark the proposed 112c permit boundary.



Photo 6: View east of the ephemeral drainage which bisects the proposed 112c permit acreage nearly in half.



Photo 7: A stormwater impoundment is located along the permit's eastern edge.



Photo 8: View north of the active mined slope.



Photo 9: Small erosion rills are present on the western and southern facing hillsides.



Photo 10: View south from atop the active highwall, topsoil and product stockpiles are shown to the west.

Inspection Contact Address

Blake Tope
Hill Top Gravel LLC
21225 Scott Rd
Calhan , CO 80808