




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: Larson Pit	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-2007-012	MINERAL: Gravel, sand and clay	COUNTY: Phillips
INSPECTION TYPE: Monitoring	WEATHER: Cloudy	INSP. DATE: April 10, 2024	INSP. TIME: 10:00
OPERATOR: Gregory Larson	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Gregory Larson	TYPE OF OPERATION: 112c - Construction Regular Operation	
REASON FOR INSPECTION: Normal I&E Program	BOND CALCULATION TYPE: None	BOND AMOUNT: \$28,889.00	
DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA	POST INSP. CONTACTS: None	JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None	
INSPECTOR(S): Jocelyn Carter Jared Ebert	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	SIGNATURE DATE: May 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>Y</u>	(FN) FINANCIAL WARRANTY----- <u>N</u>	(RD) ROADS----- <u>Y</u>
(HB) HYDROLOGIC BALANCE----- <u>Y</u>	(BG) BACKFILL & GRADING----- <u>Y</u>	(EX) EXPLOSIVES----- <u>NA</u>
(PW) PROCESSING WASTE/TAILING---- <u>NA</u>	(SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES----- <u>NA</u>	(TS) TOPSOIL----- <u>Y</u>
(MP) GENL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE- <u>N</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>NA</u>	(RS) RECL PLAN/COMP-- <u>NA</u>
(ES) OVERBURDEN/DEV. WASTE----- <u>NA</u>	(SC) EROSION/SEDIMENTATION--- <u>Y</u>	(ST) STIPULATIONS----- <u>NA</u>
(AT) ACID OR TOXIC MATERIALS----- <u>NA</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 Larson Pit was inspected by me, Jocelyn Carter, and Jared Ebert with the Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety (DRMS/Division). The physical inspection of the site was done without the Operator present. Greg Larson, contacted me shortly after the inspection and requested an in-person meeting later the afternoon of the day of the inspection (4/10/2024). Jared and I met with Mr. Larson at his farm in the town of Haxtun around noon that day to discuss the findings of the inspection. The weather at the time of the inspection was cloudy and breezy with moderate temperatures.

The Larson Pit is in Phillips County, about 7 miles southeast of the town of Haxtun, Colorado. To access the Larson Pit from Haxtun, travel south on Colorado Highway 59 for 6.8 miles, travel east on County Road 16 for 1 mile, the entrance is located on the southeast corner of the intersection of County Road 16 and County Road 7. The mine sign was posted at the entrance gate but obstructed by weeds.

The operation takes place along the Sandy Creek which flows into the site from the southeast permit boundary, traverses north towards the north permit boundary, then bends back to the south at the north ox bow where mining operations started. The Sandy Creek then bends to the east and flows out of the permit area at the east boundary. There was no mining activity occurring or equipment on site at the time of the inspection.

Disturbance was observed on the north side of the creek, into the ox bow feature. There were several areas that had been scarped out, with the most recent disturbance being at the center and older disturbance appearing to be on the west and east ends. The most recent area had slopes at an angle of repose and one section with an overhang, the highwall created was about 15 feet in height. The older disturbance areas were also at an angle of repose but became gentler towards the east and the developed highwalls were shorter than the most recently disturbed area.

After inspecting the disturbed area, the areas to the east and south of the permit area were walked. There is some pre-law debris that was observed on the north and south sides of the creek in the eastern portion of the permit area. There are three stockpiles of material on the south side of Area #2 that were observed, one at the east end and two on the west end. The stockpile labeled as "Southwest Stockpile" in the map provided below was vegetated and appeared to be older than the other two, which were not well vegetated but stable.

Photos taken by me during the inspection are included in this report along with a map. Photos provided to DRMS by the Operator are provided, proceedings the map.

Please contact me with any questions, comments, or concerns about this inspection report by email at Jocelyn.carter@state.co.us or by phone at (720) 666-1065.

Records

A review of the permit file and annual reports was completed for this inspection. The permit is for 64.5 acres and extracts gravel, sand, and clay. Topsoil is not consistent throughout the site. The approved mining plans states that any topsoil will be stripped, stockpiled, and will be used for reclamation. There are three designated areas to be mined, starting at the north end of an ox bow feature. Disturbance was observed to be in Areas #1 and #2 of the permit area; no disturbance was observed in Area #3.

In Fall of 2021, after a heavy precipitation event that led to flooding, the permit area was greatly affected and lost all the stockpiled topsoil at that time, according to Mr. Larson. The flooding event also naturally filled pits and graded slopes within the affected areas.

Hydrological Balance

The mining operation is in the creek bed of the Sandy Creek; mining operations does not expose groundwater. There did not appear to be any alterations to the hydrologic balance due to mining. There was water retained in the creek bed and at the foot of the active mining area on the north side of the creek at the time of the inspection.

General Mine Plan Compliance

While on site, it was observed that topsoil was not being stripped or segregated/preserved as stated in the approved mining plan. There was a stockpile that appeared to be topsoil located on the northwest side of the ox bow, near the most recent mining disturbance. But it was clear that overburden and product was also being added to the stockpile. It also appeared that the mining operation was moving north, into the bank of the ox bow of Sandy Creek, creating a highwall. The approved mining plan states that the operation would progress from the north end of the ox bow and move south and west in Area #1 and progress south and east in Area#2.

Jared and I had a conversation with Greg Larson about the potential violation that had occurred in not salvaging and protecting topsoil and the apparent direction of mining progression to the north instead of south. Mr. Larson stated that some of the recently mined and distributed material did incorporate the topsoil because it was being used for an airfield. He also stated that there was a miscommunication between him and his employees of where mining was to occur, which is why mining was occurring north into the ox bow bank.

It was agreed that if the Operator salvages topsoil from the highwall that was created and from the existing stockpile and graded the highwall in a timely manner, the Division would consider the potential violation and problem to be abated and resolved. Mr. Larson did send photos of the sight showing that topsoil had been salvaged and segregated from other mining operations and the highwall graded. Photographs of the site provided by the Operator are included in this report. The Division considers the problem to have been abated.

Signs and Markers

There was a sign observed at the mine entrance in accordance with Rule 3.1.12(1). There appeared to be a fence that marked the northern portion of the permit boundary. Not all markers were inspected during the monitoring visit.

Overburden/Developed Waste

The overburden/product stockpile appeared to be stable. The only issue observed with this was that it was mixed with the topsoil stockpile. This issue, discussed in the General Mine Plan Compliance section, is considered resolved.

Financial Warranty

The current bond of \$28,889.00 is considered adequate.

Backfill & Grading

According to annual reports, 7 acres have been backfilled and graded to date. A flood event in Fall of 2021 naturally backfilled pits and graded slopes. There was a highwall observed at the time of the inspection that required grading. The Operator provided photos of grading work to address the General Mine Plan Compliance issue, discussed earlier in this report. The grading appears to be adequate in the photos.

Fish & Wildlife

There was no flowing water in the creek at the time of the inspection, but there was some retained water in the creek bed and in the mined pits along the north side of the Sandy Creek. Waterfowl and birds were observed on site and frogs could be heard along from around the areas of retained water.

Erosion/Sedimentation

There were no issues regarding erosion or sedimentation observed on site.

Off-site Damage

No off-site damage was observed at the time of the inspection.

Roads

There is one road on the permit area that provides access to the active mining area from County Road 7 at the northeast corner. The road appeared stable with no issues at the time of the inspection.

Topsoil

The topsoil appeared to be mixed with overburden and/or product material. This issue was discussed in the General Mine Plan Compliance section of this inspection report, the problem is considered resolved by the Division.

Revegetation

Common mullein was present throughout the site. The Operator should follow their weed control plan and/or consult with the Soil Conservation District on the best weed control methods to implement at the site. If the approved weed control plan needs to be revised, this can be done through a Technical Revision to the permit.

Reclamation Plan/ Compliance

Reclamation operations has not begun on site according to annual reports. The only reclamation that was observed on site was the natural reclamation that occurred because of the flooding event in Fall of 2021.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo #1: Mine sign at gate entrance, partially obstructed by weeds.



Photo #2: Northeast boundary marker with haul/access road in the background.



Photo #3: View from the east end of the highwall looking south. The stockpile seen in this photo appears to be a mix of topsoil, overburden, and product.



Photo #4: View from the highwall at the most recently disturbed area, looking south. Water is ponding at the deepest portion of the pit below. A portion of the stockpile of topsoil, overburden, and product can be seen at the center right of the photo.



Photo #5: View from the highwall at the most recently disturbed area, looking west at the overhang portion of the highwall.



Photo #6: View from the east end of the disturbed area looking west, the mined pits can be seen on the left side with the scraped areas along the left side of the photo. Water can be seen in the mined pits.



Photo #7: Pre-law debris observed on the north side of the creek in Area #3. Photo taken from the creek looking northeast.



Photo #8: Taken from the creek bed in Area #3 looking east southeast; pre-law debris on the south side of the creek can be seen in the photo.



Photo #9: Stockpile of material on the south side of the creek at the east end of Area #2, labeled as “East Stockpile” on the map provided below; looking north.



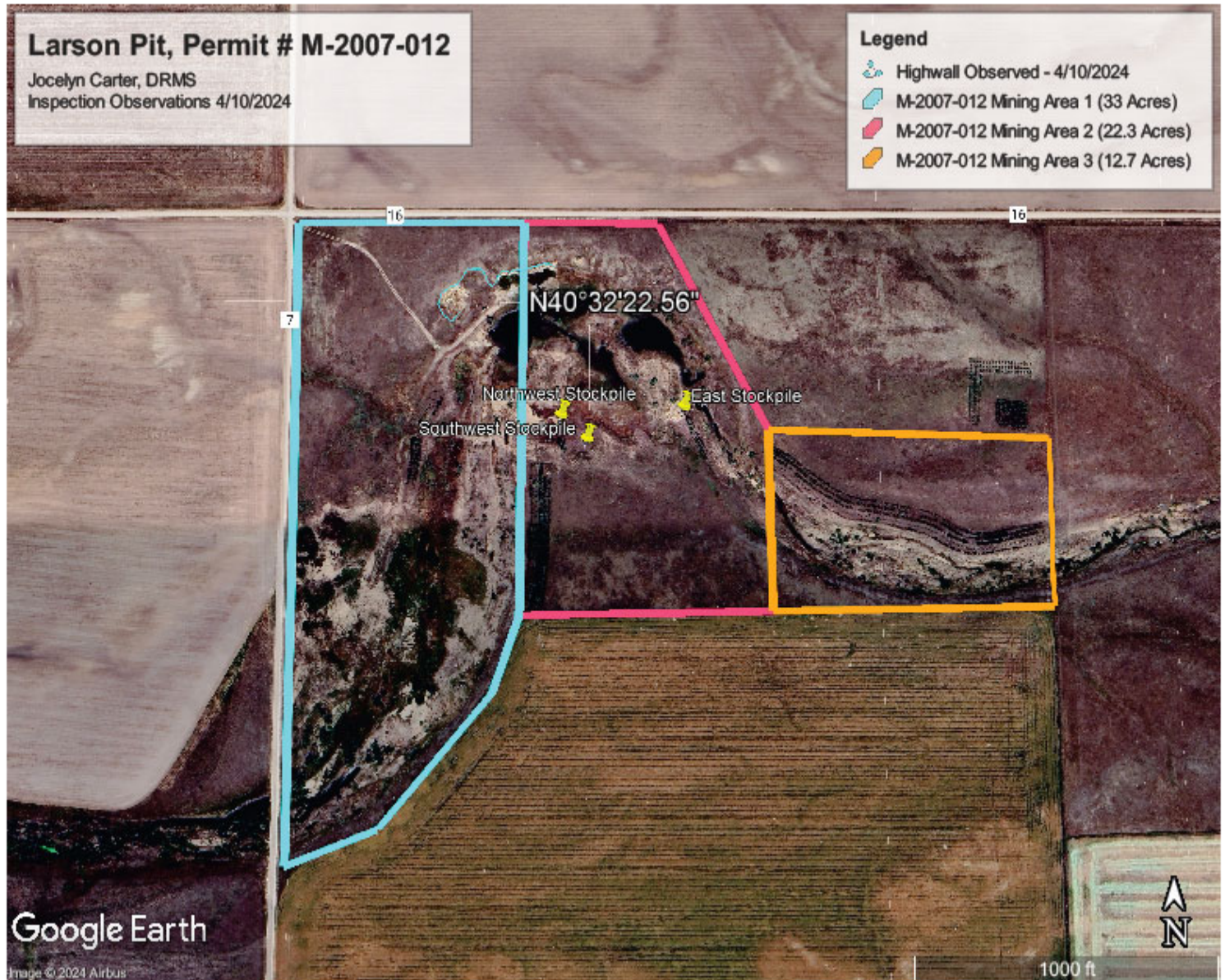
Photo #10: Vegetated stockpile observed on the south side of the creek on the west end of Area #2, labeled “Southwest Stockpile” on the map provided below; looking south.



Photo #11: Stockpile located on the west end of Area #2, labeled “Northwest Stockpile” on the map provided below; looking northwest.



Photo #12: View of the most recently disturbed area from the base of the pit, looking north.



Map created using the most recent aerial image from Google Earth from 9/23/2023. This image does not depict the disturbance that was observed along the north side of the ox bow in Area #1 that was observed during the inspection.

PHOTOGRAPHS PROVIDED BY OPERATOR

The following photos were taken by the operator and submitted to DRMS on April 26, 2024 in order to abate the issues discussed in the General Mine Plan Compliance section of this report.













Inspection Contact Address

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Enclosure

CC: Jared Ebert, DRMS
Amy Eschberger, DRMS