




**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> Siskin	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> M-1987-116	<b>MINERAL:</b> Stone	<b>COUNTY:</b> Custer
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Preoperation Inspection	<b>WEATHER:</b> Clear	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> May 1, 2024	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 10:45
<b>OPERATOR:</b> Colorado Quarries Inc	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b> Aaron Tezak	<b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b> 110c - Construction Limited Impact	
<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b> Preoperation Inspection	<b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b> None	<b>BOND AMOUNT:</b> \$30,700.00	
<b>DATE OF COMPLAINT:</b> NA	<b>POST INSP. CONTACTS:</b> None	<b>JOINT INSP. AGENCY:</b> None	
<b>INSPECTOR(S):</b> Amber M. Gibson	<b>INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:</b> 	<b>SIGNATURE DATE:</b> May 10, 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>N</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**

Siskin was inspected by Amber Gibson with the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division/DRMS) as part of a pre-operational inspection for a Conversion to a 112c revision no. 1 (CN1) application. Aaron Tezak (representing the Applicant/Operator – Colorado Quarries, Inc.) accompanied me during the inspection. The weather was warm and clear. This site was last inspected on February 12, 2020.

The site is located about 4 miles southeast of the town of Silver Cliff. The site access is via CR 344, which enters the property from the west. The gate restricting access to CR 344 was unlocked, and the Division met the Applicant/Operator at the current excavation area. This site is currently permitted as a 110c Limited Impact Construction Operation with approval to affect 9.0 acres. The Operators have submitted CN1 with the intent to increase the permitted boundary to 85.7 acres. The commodity currently mined at this site is decorative stone/landscape material. The approval of CN1 would update the mining commodity at this site to specifically green rhyolite stone for use as decorative stone, landscaping material, and pozzolan. The currently approved post-mining land use, and the proposed post-mining land use per CN1, is rangeland.

### **Availability of Records:**

The annual report, map, and fee are current through November 2, 2024. The Division received CN1 on February 6, 2024, and the current decision date is set for May 20, 2024. The Division sent the Applicant an adequacy review of the application on May 3, 2024. As of the date of this report (May 10, 2024) the Division has not received an adequacy response from the Applicant.

### **Financial Warranty:**

The current financial warranty held by the Division for this site is in the amount of \$30,700. During the CN1 review process, a new reclamation warranty will be calculated based on a phased bonding approach that accounts for the proposed maximum disturbance.

### **Hydrologic Balance and Sediment Control:**

In the permit/affected boundary area proposed in CN1, two intermittent streams cut across the proposed affected area, as well as two perennial ponds (See Applicant's Maps C-1, C-2, and C-3). These features were observed during the inspection. The northern pond and both drainages/streams were dry. The Applicant stated during the inspection that the north pond rarely contains water. The pond in the southern portion of the proposed permit area was holding water at the time of the inspection (Photo 1). The Applicant stated that they have never seen the southern pond dry.

There was no evidence of off-site run-off observed during the inspection. In the CN1 application, the Applicant proposes to install stormwater berms around the disturbed areas, and a 100 foot setback from the drainages, to help prevent surface water from entering and from leaving the site. The water that falls within the disturbed areas is expected to infiltrate into the ground within 72 hours of a precipitation event. If the water does not infiltrate within that time, the Applicant has proposed to pump sediment-free water from the pit into discharge points in compliance with a CDPHE discharge permit.

### **Gen. Compliance with Mine Plan:**

The area currently affected at the site has remained around three acres for years. Disturbance at this site includes a processing area with portable equipment (Photo 2), a pit excavation area, product stockpiles (Photo

3), and a topsoil pile. The pit has approximately 750 feet of highwalls around the perimeter. The highwalls, ranging from a few feet tall to between 8 and 10 feet tall in some areas, appeared to be stable at the time of the inspection (Photos 4-6). Mining disturbance observed during the inspection appears to have been conducted in compliance with the Applicant/Operator's currently approved plan.

The Applicant stated that mining activity had recently been conducted at the site, and that they have excavated a little more to the north and east, but other than that the disturbed acreage at the site has about the same for years. The market for material mined at this site has recently increased, thus driving the desire to increase the permitted/affected area of the site.

#### Other:

Various ranch fences were observed along the access road (Photo 7) and throughout the proposed permit area. The Applicant had stated during the inspection that many of the fences within the proposed permit boundary are old ranch fences. However as addressed in the Division's adequacy review, per Rule 6.4 the Applicant shall determine the owner(s) of all fences within 200 feet of the proposed boundary and update Exhibits C and S of the CN1 application accordingly.

#### Roads:

Access to the site has been via CR 344, outside of the permit boundary. The approval of CN1 would incorporate approximately 8.2 acres of this road into the new permit boundary, and would remain post-reclamation. The road appeared to be in good condition at the time of the inspection. Portions of on-site roads to be constructed upon approval of CN1 are also planned to remain post-reclamation (see Applicant's Map F-1).

#### Right of Entry:

The Operator has submitted right of entry agreements for the access road, and submitted proof of ownership for the surface and subsurface rights for the eastern portion of the proposed permit boundary in the CN1 application.

#### Signs and Markers:

A mine sign was observed at the entrance to the currently disturbed area (Photo 8). This sign appears to be in compliance with Rule 3.1.12(1). Additionally, a notice of a proposed mining operation was posted on the entrance gate on the restricted portion to the CR 344 access road in compliance with Rule 1.6.2(1)(b) (Photo 9).

The Applicant had placed boundary markers around the proposed mining area prior to the inspection. The Applicant and the Division located each of the erected markers and collected approximate coordinates using the Esri Field Maps application (See Figure 1). The markers appear to be placed within this area in the orientation reflected on the maps in the CN1 application. Once approved, and prior to operation, the Applicant shall also place markers along the access road to be in compliance with Rule 3.1.12(2). During the inspection, the Applicant stated that they plan to install additional markers for line-of-sight, pit boundaries, and set-backs during each phase, upon approval of CN1.

#### Topsoil:

Topsoil was observed in the western portion of the current operation, away from ongoing mining operations in compliance with Rule 3.1.9(3) (Photo 10). The Applicant was told that they will need to stabilize the topsoil

pile with a vegetative cover (per Rule 3.1.9(1)), to which they stated they plan to stabilize the pile upon approval of CN1. The Division reminds the Operator that per Rule 3.1.9(4), the topsoil stockpile shall be rehandled as little as possible until replacement on regraded, disturbed area. If the pile is to be re-located and stabilized upon the approval of CN1, the planned configuration/stabilization **shall be reflected** in the Applicants adequacy response pertaining to the Division's topsoil concerns.

Conclusion:

This concludes the Division's Inspection Report; a figure displaying topics discussed in the report, and a subset of corresponding photographs that were taken during the time of the inspection, are included below. If you need additional information or have any questions, please contact me by email at [amber.gibson@state.co.us](mailto:amber.gibson@state.co.us) or by telephone at (720) 836-0967.

Inspection Contact Address

Aaron Tezak  
Colorado Quarries Inc  
270 S 15th St  
Cañon City, CO 81212

CC: Nicole Martin, (Applicant/Operator), Colorado Quarries Inc  
Ben Miller, (Permitting Contact), Lewicki and Associates, PLLC  
Jared Ebert, Senior EPS, DRMS

## PHOTOGRAPHS



**Photo 1:** Looking north at the current site and the perennial pond located within the southern portion of the proposed CN1 boundary.



**Photo 2:** Looking south at some of the portable equipment on site.





**Photo 3:** Product stockpiles on site.



**Photo 4:** Looking east at the start of the highwalls along the eastern side of the pit.





**Photo 5:** Looking west at highwalls in the current pit.



**Photo 6:** Looking north-east along the highwalls in the pit.





**Photo 7:** Fence along the north-side of the access road.



**Photo 8:** Mine sign posted at the current operation.



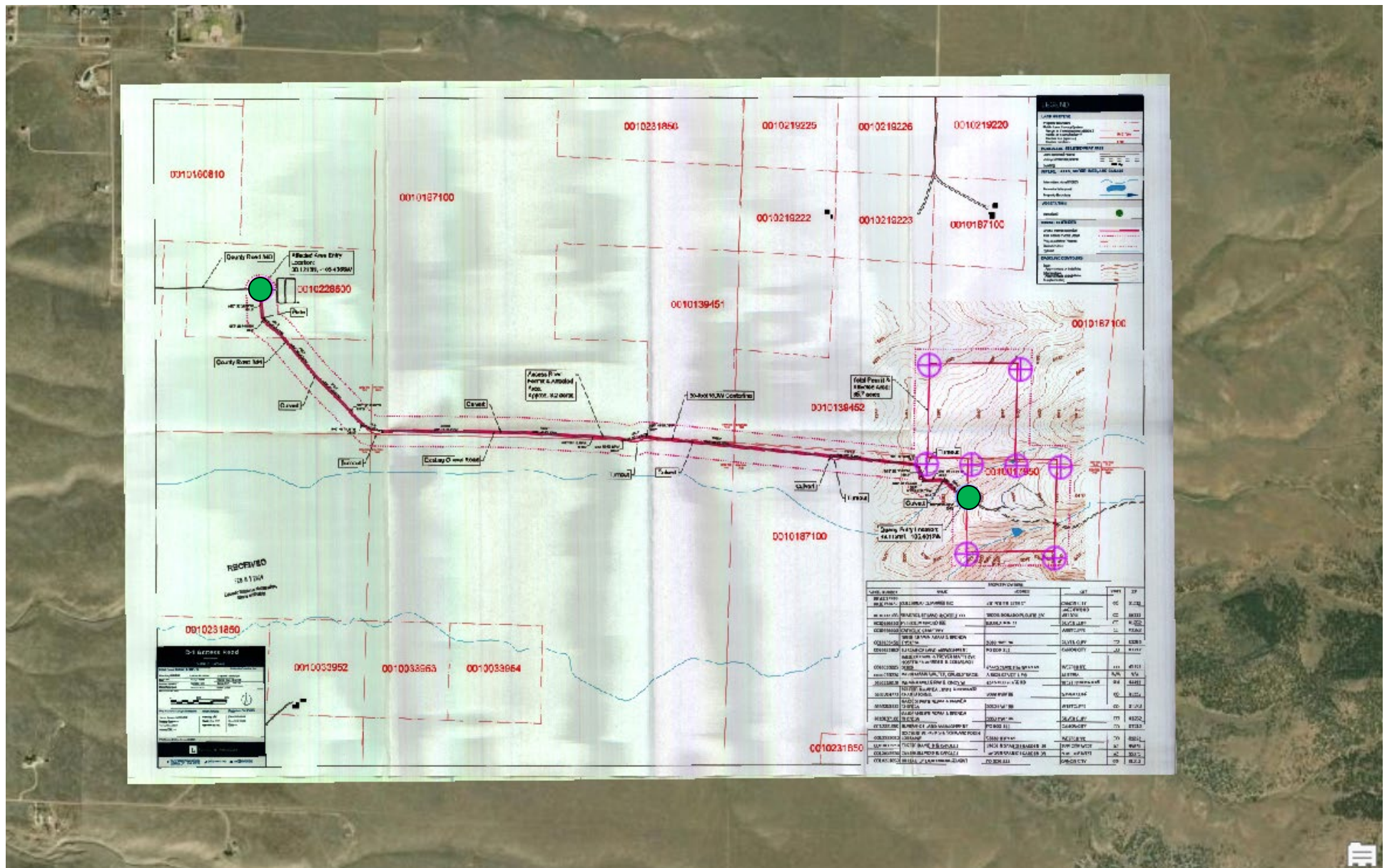


**Photo 9:** Notice sign posted on the entrance gate in compliance with Rule 1.6.2(1)(b).



**Photo 10:** Topsoil stockpile in the west side of the current operation.





**Figure 1:** An image of the Applicant's Map C-1, georeferenced into Esri's ArcOnline platform. The map was georeferenced using the Applicant provided access coordinates to the access road and entrance to the mining area (green circles). The purple cross-hair icons indicate the boundary marker locations collected in the field by the Division using Esri's Field Maps application.