




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: Ritchey Sand Pit Reclamation	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-2023-027	MINERAL: Sand	COUNTY: Yuma
INSPECTION TYPE: Preoperation Inspection	WEATHER: Clear	INSP. DATE: April 24, 2024	INSP. TIME: 09:00
OPERATOR: Yuma County	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Tom Andersen	TYPE OF OPERATION: 110c - Construction Limited Impact	
REASON FOR INSPECTION: Preoperation Inspection	BOND CALCULATION TYPE: NA	BOND AMOUNT: NA – County Government	
DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA	POST INSP. CONTACTS: None	JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None	
INSPECTOR(S): Nikie Gagnon	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	SIGNATURE DATE: May 14, 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>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>N</u>
(MP) GENL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE- <u>N</u>	(FW) FISH & WILDLIFE----- <u>N</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

This was a pre-operation inspection for the proposed Ritchey Sand Pit Reclamation Pit. Yuma County submitted a 110c application to comply with Board Order MV2023020. The application proposes to reclaim a 0.549 acre sand excavation on the side of a hill located at the intersection of County Roads HH.5 and 36 in Wray, CO. Nikie Gagnon with the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division) conducted the inspection. Tom Andersen, representing Yuma County (Operator), accompanied the Division during the inspection. The weather was clear and warm and the site was dry.

The reclamation application was received on March 19, 2024 and deemed complete on April 15, 2024. The County published a public notice in the Wray Gazette on May 8, 2024. The end of the comment period is May 18, 2024. As of the date of this inspection report, no public comments have been received for this application. The decision date was extended 15 days to May 30, 2024 to allow time for public comment and submittal of remaining adequacy items.

Yuma County submitted a reclamation only permit application and does not propose additional mining at the site. During the inspection the current site conditions were compared to the conditions noted during the complaint inspection conducted on August 31, 2023, and the descriptions provided in the reclamation application. The Division observed a sidehill excavation approximately 1200 square feet and 20 feet high. The Division did not see any evidence of ongoing excavation at the site. A barbed wire fence runs along the front of the pit to keep the public from removing additional material.

Erosion and Sedimentation

During this inspection, wind-blown sand was observed in the floor of the pit, near the road, and on the vegetation surrounding the excavation. The Operator plans to initiate the reclamation work as soon as possible after the reclamation application is approved to help mitigate additional wind and water erosion of the slope. The Division observed exposed sand on a sidehill on a neighboring property north of the excavation which is also contributing sand in the surrounding area.

Revegetation

The excavation is on the side of a large sand hill and the current land use is pastureland. The Operator consulted with the local conservation service and submitted their recommended seed mix and general guidelines for successful reclamation of the site. The Division observed vegetation and topsoil that was salvaged around the pit prior to excavation. According to the Reclamation Plan in the application, the Operator plans to place this material on top to help in revegetating the slope after backfilling to a 3:1 slope is complete. The NRCS recommendations include broadcast seeding at a double rate, and applying 2300 lb/ac of straw mulch, crimped or blown on after seeding. According to the Reclamation Plan, the Operator plans to water the site with a water truck to speed up the establishment of vegetation. The Division recommends monitoring for weeds and treating as necessary until the site is released.

Signs and Markers

A public notice sign was posted at the front of the excavation in accordance with Rule 1.6.2(1)(b). Permit boundary markers were observed at the four corners of the permit area. The Operator provided GPS points for the marker locations, and these were confirmed in the field and correlate with the affected area shown on the reclamation map submitted with the application.

No additional concerns were noted during this inspection. This concludes the report. A subset of the photographs taken during inspection are attached. Please contact Nikie Gagnon (303)866-3567 ext. 8126 or email at nikie.gagnon@state.co.us if you have any questions regarding this report.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1: View of the excavation from County Road 36. Barbed wire fence installed along the front of the pit in the foreground.



Photo 2: Public notice sign posted at the front of the excavation.



Photo 3: View showing the size of the excavation from across the road.



Photo 4: View of the north side of the excavation. Soil and vegetation pushed to the sides during excavation that will be pushed back and used for reclamation.



Photo 5: Boundary marker on the north side.



Photo 6: Boundary marker on the south side.

Inspection Contact Address

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