




**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><br>Tallahassee Pit                                  | <b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b><br>M-1999-003  | <b>MINERAL:</b><br>Sand and gravel                              | <b>COUNTY:</b><br>Fremont   |
| <b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b><br>Monitoring                                 | <b>WEATHER:</b> Clear   | <b>INSP. DATE:</b><br>April 29, 2024                            | <b>INSP. TIME:</b><br>10:10 |
| <b>OPERATOR:</b><br>Seifert Construction dba Seifert Enterprises, LLC | <b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b><br>Shane Cooper and Brooke Cooper, Landowners                                       | <b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b><br>110c - Construction Limited Impact |                             |
| <b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b><br>Normal I&E Program                   | <b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b><br>None   | <b>BOND AMOUNT:</b><br>\$0.00                                   |                             |
| <b>DATE OF COMPLAINT:</b><br>NA                                       | <b>POST INSP. CONTACTS:</b><br>None   | <b>JOINT INSP. AGENCY:</b><br>None                              |                             |
| <b>INSPECTOR(S):</b><br>Jocelyn Carter<br>Amy Eschberger              | <b>INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:</b><br> | <b>SIGNATURE DATE:</b><br>May 28, 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>Y</u>    |
| (PW) PROCESSING WASTE/TAILING---- <u>NA</u> | (SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES----- <u>Y</u> | (TS) TOPSOIL----- <u>Y</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>NA</u>  | (RS) RECL PLAN/COMP-- <u>NA</u>  |
| (ES) OVERBURDEN/DEV. WASTE----- <u>NA</u>   | (SC) EROSION/SEDIMENTATION--- <u>N</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 inspection of the Tallahassee Pit was completed by me, Jocelyn Carter, and Amy Eschberger with the Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety (Division/DRMS) on April 29, 2024. The operator, Seifert Construction, LLC. was contacted about the inspection but did not attend the inspection. The landowners, Shane Cooper and Brooke Cooper, did attend the inspection as they intend to take over the mining operation at the site as Dirt Guys, LLC. The weather was breezy and clear with warm temperatures at the time of the inspection.

To access the Tallahassee Pit from the intersection of Colorado Highway 9 and U.S. Highway 50, travel north on CO Hwy 9 about 11 miles, then travel west on County Road 2 for 2.3 miles, the pit access road is to the north of the road. There is a sign for the current permittee and an additional sign for the landowner, see photos #1 & #2 below.

At the time of the inspection, there was no mining activity occurring. There was a skid steer, a dozer, a dump truck, and two wheel loaders with some implements observed on site. There was a highwall that was approximately 110 feet in length and 20 feet high, based on Google Earth imaging from October of 2019. There is also a scale and scale house located in the southeast area of the affected area. The permit boundary markers were verified to be in place.

Mr. Cooper discussed upcoming changes that he is considering for the permit. Once the Successor of Operations application is submitted and approved, the future operator is advised to review the processes for technical revisions and permit amendments to make the best decision on how the purposed changes should be made to the permit.

Photographs taken during the inspection are included at the end of this report.

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

## **Records**

Annual fee, report, and maps have been submitted and there are no open infractions for this permit at the time of inspection. The approved post mine land use is residential. The land is privately owned. The landowner, Shane Cooper, was present during the time of the inspection. The current operator, Seifert Construction dba Seifert Enterprises, LLC and Mr. Cooper are working on completing a Succession of Operator application to submit to the Division.

## **Hydrological Balance**

There was no apparent disruption to the hydrologic balance to the area of the permitted area.

## **General Mine Plan Compliance**

The mining plan was being followed, there did not appear to be any issues with the current approved mining plan. Mr. Cooper did discuss making a few changes to the plan, including moving the topsoil stockpile from downhill of the mining area to the upgradient side of the excavation operations. He did mention that topsoil was being imported in from the San Luis Valley, which is not currently part of the approved permit. There is also an issue with the haul road becoming impassable during times of heavy precipitation, he would like to install a stormwater management drainage structure to address this issue. Mr. Cooper is also interested in constructing a shop on the property, but not within the permit area. The purpose of the shop would not be exclusive to mining

operations.

I informed Mr. Cooper that after the Succession of Operator application is complete, these items could be dealt with individually through Technical Revision applications or together with an amendment application. Mr. Cooper is advised to contact me with any questions about the application processes for technical revisions versus amendments.

## Signs and Markers

There is a sign posted at the entrance of the mine site off County Rd. 2 and all permit boundary markers were verified; see photos #1 and #3 - #8 at the end of this report. Note: Not all markers were photographed during the inspection.

## Financial Warranty

The Division currently holds a bond of \$34,685.00, a reclamation calculation will be completed after receiving the Succession of Operator application.

## Processing Facilities

A scale and scale house are installed on the southeast side of the permit area. There were no issues with the structures observed.

## Fish & Wildlife

Mule deer were observed crossing the permit area at the time of the inspection. There does not appear to be a negative impact on the wildlife in the area.

## Stormwater Management Plan

There is not currently a stormwater management system or structures in place for this site, the location is relatively high and dry with shallow soil the slope to the southeast. The incoming operator is considering improving drainage of the haul roads.

## Roads

Access road and internal haul roads appeared to be stable. However, Mr. Cooper is considering improving haul roads to allow for better drainage.

## Explosives

Blasting does occur on site; it is contracted out.

## Topsoil

The topsoil appeared to be segregated and preserved with good slope stability. The operator would like to relocate the topsoil stockpile from the current location, below the excavated pit and to the east, to above the excavated pit to the north. Woody material is segregated and stockpiled on the east side of the pit area.

Mr. Cooper informed me that topsoil material is imported to the site from the San Luis Valley. Importing topsoil is not apart of the current approved mining or reclamation plan. This will need to be addressed either as a Technical Revision or as a part of an Amendment after the SO application is completed and approved by the Division.

## Revegetation

Common mullein, a List C noxious weed, was observed west of the highwall, the occurrence was sparse, and the operator was advised to reach out to Fremont County to inform them of the presence of the List C noxious weed.



## PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo #1: Permit sign at site entrance.



Photo #2: Landowner's sign at the mine entrance.





Photo #3: Permit boundary marker, east of access road and on south end of pit area; looking northwest.



Photo # 4: Permit boundary marker, northeast corner of permit; looking southeast. Woody material stockpile can be seen to the left.





Photo #5: Permit boundary marker located at north corner of permit area, north of the highwall; looking south.





Photo #6: Permit boundary marker located at west corner of permit area; looking south southeast.



Photo #7: Permit boundary marker located at south end of permit area, looking north.





Photo #8: Permit boundary marker located west of the access road; looking north northwest. Equipment and implements can be seen in the background of the photo. The highwall can be seen in the far background on the right and a material stockpile can be seen in the central far background.





Photo #9: Scale with the scale house behind it can be seen in the center. Equipment and implements seen on the right with the material stockpile seen in the background. An internal haul road can be seen in the foreground.



Photo #10: View from the south corner of the permit area, looking to the northeast. A Dozer can be seen in from of the material stockpile on the right, the west end of the highwall and internal access road on the left of the photo.





Photo #11: View of affected area from the south, looking to the northeast. An internal haul road can be seen in the foreground, the scale access road is at a higher grade. Above the scale access road, the material stockpile can be seen in the background just left of the center of the photo. The highwall can be seen on the left side in the background.



Photo #12: Access road viewed from the southeast of the pit area, looking south.





Photo #13: View of the affected area from the north side of the permit area, above the highwall, looking southwest. In the foreground, the pit area can be seen. The material stockpile can be seen and the access road to the left of it in the background.



Photo #14: Highwall located in the northwest of the affected area, viewed from the pit floor; looking north.





Photo #15: Highwall viewed from the east, looking west.



Photo #16: Highwall viewed from the west, looking east. Common mullein can be seen in this photo.

**Inspection Contact Address**

Shane Cooper and Brooke Cooper, Landowners  
Seifert Construction dba Seifert Enterprises, LLC  
198 Range View Loop  
Westcliffe, CO 81252

CC: Amy Eschberger, DRMS  
Eric Seifert, Seifert Construction dba Seifert Enterprises, LLC.