



COLORADO

Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety


Department of Natural Resources

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: Mica Lode	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-1977-144	MINERAL: Quartz (quartzite/qua sandstone)	COUNTY: Fremont
INSPECTION TYPE: Monitoring	WEATHER: Clear	INSP. DATE: April 29, 2024	INSP. TIME: 12:00
OPERATOR: Colorado Quarries Inc	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Aaron Tezak	TYPE OF OPERATION: 112c - Construction Regular Operation	

REASON FOR INSPECTION: Normal I&E Program	BOND CALCULATION TYPE: None	BOND AMOUNT: \$79,590.00
DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA	POST INSP. CONTACTS: None	JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None
INSPECTOR(S): Jocelyn Carter Amy Eschberger	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	SIGNATURE DATE: May 29, 2024

The following inspection topics were identified as having Problems or Possible Violations. OPERATORS SHOULD READ THE FOLLOWING PAGES CAREFULLY IN ORDER TO ASSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE TERMS OF THE PERMIT AND APPLICABLE RULES AND REGULATIONS. If a Possible Violation is indicated, you will be notified under separate cover as to when the Mined Land Reclamation Board will consider possible enforcement action.

INSPECTION TOPIC: Backfilling & Grading

PROBLEM: Lumber was being used as backfill material. This is cited as a problem because wood material does not meet the definition of an inert material, per Rule 1.1(22). According to Rule 3.1.5(9), any material generated off-site that is intended to be used as backfill must be inert.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: Remove the lumber from the backfill in area MQED-4 and provide photos to the Division of the cleaned up backfilled area.

CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE: 6/28/24

OBSERVATIONS

The inspection of the Mica Lode was conducted on April 29, 2024, by me, Jocelyn Carter, and Amy Eschberger with the Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety (Division/DRMS). The Operator, Colorado Quarries Inc, was represented by Aaron Tezak. The weather was breezy and clear with warm temperatures.

To access the Mica Lode location, travel south on County Road 3A from U.S. Highway 50 for 2.2 miles. At that point, County Road 3A splits into two roads, a paved road, and an unpaved road, stay to the north on the unpaved road. The entrance gate is 0.1 miles from the split and the mine sign is posted on the north side of the road.

At the time of the inspection, there was no mining activity taking place. There was a crusher, a conveyor belt, an excavator, a skid steer, and two wheel loaders view on site at the time of the inspection. There are two primary areas that are currently being mined, the Mica/Rosa Pit and the Ruby Pit. The Mica Pit has exposed water that pre-dates 1981 and has a bench that is being removed according to the Operator. The Ruby Pit was most recently blasted at the east end. According to the Operator, mining in the Ruby Pit will continue towards the east.

Photographs taken during this inspection are included at the end of this report followed by a map for reference.

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

Records

A records review shows that the permittee is up to date on annual reports, maps, and fees. The approved post mine land use is wildlife habitat. The land is privately owned by Melodi Tezak (north) and Royal Gorge Buckaroos LLC (south). There are no open infractions for the permit.

According to the annual report submitted December 19, 2023, there is a total of 17.0 acres affected by the mining operation and reclamation has not begun.

Hydrological Balance

There is exposed water in the Mica/Rosa Pit, the exposure predates 1981 and does not require an augmentation plan. See Photo #2. There are no other indications of the hydrologic balance being negatively affected by the operation.

Processing Waste/Tailings

A crusher was observed on site and Mr. Tezak confirmed that blasting had recently occurred. There was not a large volume of processed material observed at the time of inspection. Two stockpiles were observed, one near the crusher located south of the Mica/Rosa Pit (see Photo #4) and large boulders located in the Ruby Pit (see Photo #7) where blasting occurred. The stockpiles were stable with no erosion issues.

There is stockpile located south of the Ruby Pit, in area IMC-3 that appeared to be product material. The stockpile appeared to be stable with no erosion issues; see Photo #8. A product stockpile was also observed in the southwest portion of the area labeled MQD-1 Dump on the map below, see Photo #13.

General Mine Plan Compliance

The mining operation appears to be following the approved mining plan. There is some lumber that was observed to be used as backfill material in the east dump area. This issue is discussed more in the Backfill & Grading section.

Signs and Markers

The required posted sign was observed at the mine entrance, see Photo #1. The permit boundary markers were not verified during this inspection.

Financial Warranty

The current Financial Warranty is \$79,590.00; this amount was calculated during the TR-1 application process in 2021. A new bond calculation was not completed for this inspection.

Backfill & Grading

Area IMC-3 is a pre-law pit that the operator has backfilled. The backfilling and grading in this area looks stable and is being used to stockpile product material, see Photo #8.

There appears to be discarded pallets at the south end of the IMC-1 area, just north of the MQED-4 region, see Photo #10. The IMC-1 area is designated as a pre-law pit that has been re-disturbed by the operation and is "limited to clean-up of certain dumped items" according to TR-1. There did not appear to be any hazardous materials and the situation is not high risk at this time. The Division will address this in more detail and reach out to the Operator if any action needs to be taken.

In the area labeled as MQED-4 on the map given below, there was some sheet metal and lumber observed in the backfilled area, see Photo #9. According to Mr. Tezak, there was a pre-law structure in the area that was demolished and disposed of in the dump area. This was cited as a problem as the wood material does not meet the definition of an inert material, per Rule 1.1(22). A review of the approved permit plan did not show indicate that this structure was going to be demolished and disposed of as backfill material. The corrective action is given above.

Processing Facilities

A crusher was viewed on site, but it is not a permanent structure; see Photo #4. There are no permanent structures on site.

Fish & Wildlife

A pair of large predatory birds (hawks or eagles) were viewed to be nesting in the highwalls above the Mica/Rosa Pit pond area. There did not appear to be a negative impact on the wildlife because of mining activities in the area.

Erosion/Sedimentation

Stockpiles, benches, and recently worked areas appeared to be stable with no erosion issues or sedimentation occurring.

Off-site Damage

There was no off-site damage observed.

Roads

The permit site includes a section of Road 383B, this road is used as the primary site to travel between various areas of the mine. The road is located along the south permit boundary and travels generally north-south in the eastern portion of the permit area. There did not appear to be any damage to the road during the inspection; see Photo #5. Internal haul roads also appeared to be maintained and stable.

Explosives

Blasting does occur at the mine site. The most recent blasting event occurred March of this year, according to Mr. Tezak; see Photo #6. No explosives are stored on site.

Topsoil

There was no topsoil stockpile on site at the time of inspection. The natural topsoil layer is thin and sparse on the mine site. The Operator has committed to salvage topsoil whenever possible.

Revegetation

The East Dump Area, labeled as MQED-4 on map below, did have some areas of revegetation that appeared to be established well. There were occasional Common Mullein observed, a list C noxious weed. The Operator stated that the county was scheduled for weed management within the upcoming weeks.

Stipulations

There are no permit stipulations.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo #1: Mine sign at entrance of site on County Road 383B.



Photo #2: Exposed water in Mica/Rosa Pit, predatory large birds' nest is located near the tree on the cliff seen in the left of the photo.



Photo #3: In area labeled MQHW-1, the line shows the top of a bench that will be removed; work has begun on the process. Taken from the south of MQHW-1, looking north.



Photo #4: Crusher setup in the MQD-1 Dump area, the small stockpile of processed material can be seen; looking northwest.



Photo #5: Road 383B along the south end of the permit area. Taken from the southeast end of MQD-1 Dump area, north of Area A, looking east northeast.



Phot #6: Recently blasted area on the east end of the Ruby Pit; looking east.



Photo #7: Boulder stockpile located in southwest area of the Ruby Pit; looking south.



Photo #8: IMC-3 area, southeast of the Ruby Pit, looking north. The area is backfilled and graded; the stockpile of product material can be seen.



Photo #9: Sheet metal and lumber debris from an old pre-law structure that was demolished being used as backfill material. The lumber needs to be removed per the corrective action given at the beginning of this report.



Photo #10: Discarded pallets located in the area labeled MQED-4, circled in orange; taken from the east central area looking north northeast.



Photo #11, courtesy of Amy Eschberger: View of MQD-1 and processing area from the west end of MQED-4.



Photo #12, courtesy of Amy Eschberger: View of MQD-1 processing area from the upper bench area.



Photo #13, courtesy of Amy Eschberger: View of western end of MQD-1 Dump area looking southwest, a product stockpile can be seen with pre-law disturbance beyond. Road 383B can be seen in the background on the left side of photo.



Map of April 29, 2024, inspection, and observations. Feature 1 items indicate stockpiles viewed during the inspection, Feature 2 items indicate the areas where problems were identified, and Feature 3 items indicate active areas.

GENERAL INSPECTION TOPICS

The following list identifies the environmental and permit parameters inspected and gives a categorical evaluation of each

(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>PB</u>	(EX) EXPLOSIVES----- <u>Y</u>
(PW) PROCESSING WASTE/TAILING---- <u>Y</u>	(SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES----- <u>Y</u>	(TS) TOPSOIL----- <u>NA</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>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

Inspection Contact Address

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Enclosure

CC: Amy Eschberger, DRMS