




**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> Pikeview Quarry	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> M-1977-211	<b>MINERAL:</b> Limestone (general), granite gneiss and do	<b>COUNTY:</b> El Paso
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Monitoring	<b>WEATHER:</b> Clear	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> July 30, 2024	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 10:00
<b>OPERATOR:</b> Riverbend Industries Inc.	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b> Jerry Schnabel	<b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b> 112c - Construction Regular Operation	
<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b> Normal I&E Program	<b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b> None	<b>BOND AMOUNT:</b> \$6,805,607.00	
<b>DATE OF COMPLAINT:</b> NA	<b>POST INSP. CONTACTS:</b> None	<b>JOINT INSP. AGENCY:</b> None	
<b>INSPECTOR(S):</b> Hunter Ridley	<b>INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:</b> 	<b>SIGNATURE DATE:</b> August 8, 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>Y</u>	(EX) EXPLOSIVES----- <u>N</u>
(PW) PROCESSING WASTE/TAILING---- <u>N</u>	(SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES----- <u>N</u>	(TS) TOPSOIL----- <u>Y</u>
(MP) GENL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE- <u>N</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>N</u>	(RS) RECL PLAN/COMP-- <u>Y</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 inspection was conducted by Hunter Ridley with the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division) as part of the continuing planned monthly inspections to observe the backfill placement for the final reclamation of the Pikeview Quarry. Jerry Schnabel (representing the Permittee, Riverbend Industries Inc.) and Stantec representatives Tim Culberson and Paul Kos were present for the inspection. USFS representatives Julie Spawn and Madison Banks were also present for the inspection.

Technical Revision No. 24 (TR24) was approved by the Division on June 10, 2024. TR24 included a redesign of the site's surface drainage channels to account for current site conditions and granite bedrock to be left in place on the upper slope. Amendment 4 (AM-4) includes a commitment to submitting as-built designs for these channels once constructed as well as submitting an as-built of final grade once all earthmoving is complete.

**Records:** Compaction testing records were reviewed back to June 7th, the last date not available during the previous inspection. All test results reviewed in this period (June 7th to July 24th) demonstrated at least 90 percent compaction in compliance with the approved specification. Highest compaction numbers were around 110%. No retests were required. Mr. Schnabel presented the Leica prism system data and trends for June and July. There has been a small amount of settling on the 7500-prism series, located just below the BFR area, but this trend has already settled out into little to no movement. Most misreads from last month's prism data were due to sheep activity on the matted and reclaimed slopes.

The previously removed BFR prisms (BR1 and BR3) have been reinstalled. Several prisms are planned to be added to the site. Two additional prisms will be installed in the tension crack area (Photo 3), perpendicular to the cracks and located above and below the crack area to monitor movement during final reclamation. No visual movement of these cracks was observed before topsoiling occurred. Should the movement of these prisms continue to be minimal in over time, the Division has no major concern for slope stability. Another rock bolted prism is planned to be added to the middle peak to monitor potential movement in final reclamation (Photo 4). Site representatives are set to meet with City officials in early August to discuss the permanency of both the prisms and the office area at the site after full and final release from the Division's jurisdiction.

The mine sign, which included all required information, was located at the site's access road.

### **Backfilling and Grading:**

All major earthwork is complete at the site. All placed backfill continues to be tested for compaction in accordance with the approved specifications. All equipment associated with the earthwork contractor has been removed from the site. Only a few, smaller pieces of equipment remain onsite for use in revegetation and minimal earth and material moving work. These activities include topsoiling slopes (Photo 3 and 7), buttressing the BFR area using material excavated from drainage channels (Photo 8), placing rip rap (Photos 11 and 12), and regrading tie-in areas on the completed slopes (Photo 9). Material has been removed from the BFR to reduce weight on the slope. This material was then transferred to the bottom of the BFR and used as an additional buttress for the rock feature (Photo 8). The 2H:1V slope along and under the BFR area has been adjusted slightly for field conditions. The southern tie-in area will require minor scaling of looser rock material to ensure stability of this area before topsoiling and matting can occur (Photo 9).

Slopes at final grade are being topsoiled, seeded, and matted and revegetation efforts are being closely monitored by staff on site (Photos 1, 2 and 12). This includes the tension crack area noted in previous inspections and in geotechnical reports (Photo 3).

**Roads:** Mr. Schnabel reiterated the Forest Service's request for no formal roads to remain on their portion of the property in final reclamation. Therefore, as obliteration of these upper road occur, there will be declining access to

the top peaks via vehicle. These areas will still be accessible on foot for a portion of final reclamation. This access will be further limited once the construction of upper drainage channels, rip rapping, and hydroseeding occurs. All other roads on site are maintained.

**Fish and Wildlife:** No negative impact on wildlife was observed. Mr. Schnabel indicated that several Bighorn sheep had been observed onsite throughout the last month. The fifth bench will include a large, rocky area (the BFR area) to accommodate the sheep in the area and to provide additional wildlife habitat.

**Revegetation & Topsoil:** Only the fifth and sixth benches remain to be topsoiled, seeded and matted. The site is aiming for this to be completed in the next 2-3 weeks. Matted areas are showing vegetative growth which is outperforming areas which have only been mulched and seeded. Some of these mulched areas may require additional overseeding in the fall. Shrubs are planted in clusters throughout the slopes and vary in cluster design to encourage more natural growing conditions. Sufficient topsoil is onsite to complete the rest of reclamation and adhere to the 6-inch depth of topsoil reclamation requirement. Topsoil has been placed thicker in some areas. No leftover topsoil piles will remain in final reclamation.

Hydroseeding of the upper peaks is planned to begin shortly. The Forest Service will be assisting the site in invasive and noxious weed species identification / removal in these areas before final seeding occurs. Irrigation tanks are being installed along several of the bench slopes on the main buttress. Irrigation continues for the slopes to the north, on City property. Mr. Schnabel stated their intent to apply for release of the site sometime in early 2026. Pursuant to Rule 3.1.10(1), land shall be revegetated in such a way as to establish a diverse, effective, and long-lasting vegetative cover that is capable of self-regeneration without continued dependence on irrigation, soil amendments or fertilizer, and is at least equal in extent of cover to the natural vegetation of the surrounding area. If the site were to meet the above reclamation timeline, revegetated slopes would only be allowed irrigation for this summer season, as the Division requires that vegetation be able to thrive on its own for a minimum of two growing seasons before final release.

Recent vegetation growth was observed across the main buttress portion of the site (Photos 1 and 12). Growth in this area appeared to be supporting multiple species of grasses and transplanted shrubs. Vegetation in the northern portion of the property continues to green, though may require additional seeding as stated above (Photos 2 and 3). Weeds currently being treated at the site include a List A noxious weed species, Myrtle spurge along with common knapweed, thistle, toadflax, and mullein.

### **Sediment Control**

Extra coconut matting blankets were being installed at the time of inspection to address erosional features occurring to the north of the BFR area. Matting procedures onsite are usually reserved for 2H:1V or greater slopes.

**Hydrologic Balance:** Preliminary cuts for the final configuration of the surface water drainage channels continue to be constructed onsite. As final reclamation progresses, rip rap will be used to construct and stabilize these channels. Minimal work placing the rip rap for these channels has already begun but was recently impacted by a storm event which silted in a portion of the channel (Photos 11 and 12). Matting will be placed along the edge of the channel to provide sediment control while vegetation is being established. All rip rap needed for construction is already stored on site and has been largely sourced from onsite areas like the Dragon's Back area and three peaks areas.

**Post Inspection Meeting:** No problems or possible violations were observed during the inspection. Items of importance discussed during the site meeting are summarized below:

- Monitoring of the tension crack area after installation of prisms
- Future reduction of monthly inspection and report requirements to begin after when only monitoring of revegetation efforts remain

- Action will need to be taken to address the small impoundment of water near the western peaks

Photographs taken during the inspection have been included below. Responses to this inspection report should be directed to: Hunter Ridley at the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, 1313 Sherman St., Room 215, Denver, CO 80203. Direct contact can be made by phone at 720-868-7757 or via email at [hunter.ridley@state.co.us](mailto:hunter.ridley@state.co.us).

### **PHOTOGRAPHS**



**Photo 1: Overview of progress on main, east facing slope.**





**Photo 2: View northeast of shop area, Colorado Springs owned property, and Dragons Back area.**



**Photo 3: View of tension crack area, recently topsoiled.**





**Photo 4: View west of the upper middle peak area, trees will be used as erosion control.**



**Photo 5: View southeast of backfilled BFR area.**





**Photo 6: View north of the 'sheep pond' area, if this feature remains it will be moved off Forest Service property.**



**Photo 7: BFR tie-in area and 2H:1V slope above the 7500 prism series.**





**Photo 8: View of the bottom buttress for the BFR area, material will continue to be added to buttress this large rock feature.**



**Photo 9: Area of new slope tie-in to old reclamation benches, minimal scaling will be done to improve structural integrity at the edges of this tie in.**





**Photo 10: View south of a peak located at the southern end of the permit boundary, this peak will remain and carry a natural drainage channel to a designed plunge pool.**



**Photo 11: Rip rapping of channels has begun on the lower bench.**





**Photo 12: View north of new growth on matted slopes on both City and private property.**

**Inspection Contact Address**

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