




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: Houchin Gravel Pit	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-1980-249	MINERAL: Sand and gravel	COUNTY: El Paso
INSPECTION TYPE: Surety-Related Inspection	WEATHER: Cloudy	INSP. DATE: August 13, 2024	INSP. TIME: 09:30
OPERATOR: Houchin Inc	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Curt Houchin	TYPE OF OPERATION: 110c - Construction Limited Impact	
REASON FOR INSPECTION: Surety Related	BOND CALCULATION TYPE: Complete Bond	BOND AMOUNT: \$7,177.00	
DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA	POST INSP. CONTACTS: None	JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None	
INSPECTOR(S): Hunter Ridley Ben Hammar	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	SIGNATURE DATE: August 15, 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>N</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>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>Y</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 following the approval of a Succession of Operator application transferring the permit from Charles W. Houchin to Houchin Inc. The Permittee (Houchin Inc) was represented during the inspection by Mr. Curt Houchin. The Houchin Gravel Pit is accessed from Hwy 24 approximately 8.5 miles southeast of Woodland Park. This is a 110c sand & gravel mine. The site was not active at the time of inspection.

Availability of Records: Annual reports are current, having been filed through February 2024. The previous inspection was on December 14, 2022. The approved post-mine land use is primarily industrial/commercial. There are no open infractions. Both the surface and minerals are privately owned.

Acid And Toxic Materials: An above ground diesel fuel tank was observed and had adequate secondary containment.

Backfilling and Grading: The approved final grading plan for the site was updated with the approval of TR-2 in March of 2024. The new grading plan includes a mix of 2H:1V and 3H:1V slopes and one benched area, approved at approximately 25 ft wide and 250 ft long. At the inspection, most slopes were already graded to their approved slope angle. However, sufficient backfill material appeared to be available on site for finish grading of the site in final reclamation.

Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste: No overburden piles were observed.

Financial Warranty: The Division currently holds a financial warranty amount of \$7,177.00 for this site. The bond was updated in January of 2024 to account for updated unit costs. Based on observations from this inspection, the Division has found the current bond to be **adequate** for the minimal reclamation still required of the site.

Fish and Wildlife: No impact to wildlife was observed.

Hydrologic Balance: Small puddles of standing water were observed in the pit due to recent heavy rainfall events. No exposed groundwater was observed.

Gen. Compliance with Mine Plan: The operation appeared to be in compliance with the approved mine plan. Anomalies in the approved permit, as referenced in the last inspection report, have been rectified.

Administrative Revision 1 (AD-1) revised the site acreage to account for a discrepancy in the original permit application, approved in 1980. The total permit acreage was corrected to 4.21 acres.

The approved industrial / commercial post mining land use acreage was clarified under TR-2 to be 'up to 2 acres' with the rest of the area still being approved for industrial / commercial use but with final reclamation topographies which will be be sloped, topsoiled, and seeded. The mine area is currently zoned by El Paso County for residential use. Mr. Houchin restated that the post-mine land use could be residential in the future. The revised Mining and Reclamation plan maps approved under TR-2 give a clear delineation between the post-mine industrial/commercial area and other areas. All current topsoil piles have also been outlined on these maps.

Off-site Damage: The operation appeared to be confined to the permit boundary, based on Google Earth review and site observations. The thin strip of sloped, unvegetated area along the NW boundary outside the permit boundary was determined to be pre-law mine disturbance. It should not be re-disturbed as part of the current operation. Please see the previous inspection report for more details. **If the Operator wants or needs to disturb this strip on the NW side, an amendment to the permit will be required prior to any disturbance.**

Processing Waste: No processing waste was observed. Mr. Houchin does import offsite material for processing. A stockpile of offsite material was observed during this inspection (Photo 2).

Roads: No problems were observed relative to haul and access roads.

Right of Entry: The previous inspection report cited a problem for failure to maintain legal right of entry. Prior to January 2024, the land was owned by Carolyn E. Houchin who is the mother of the Operator, Curt Houchin. The previous landowner is now deceased. There was no lease or other formal document confirming the legal right of entry. Therefore, Mr. Houchin submitted proof to the Division via probate documents that the Permittee, Curt Houchin, is the personal representative of the estate of Carolyn E. Houchin, which includes the land on which the Houchin Pit is located. The site is now in compliance with the legal right of entry requirements.

Reclamation Success: No reclamation has been initiated.

Revegetation: No revegetation had been initiated. Minor populations of annual weeds, including knapweed, were observed. The Operator should implement a weed control program to reduce the spread of knapweed on site.

Sediment Control: Some erosion rills were observed above the upper bench (Photos 4 and 7). Slightly larger rills were noted to be forming below the benched area (Photo 8) but did not appear to be leading to any offsite impacts. No BMPs were needed at the time of the inspection.

Support Facilities On-site: A screen plant, loader, and two grizzly screens were observed on site (Photos 2, 3, and 7).

Signs and Markers: The permit sign was properly posted pursuant to Rule 3.1.12 (Photo 1) and boundary markers were noted at the permit boundary corners (Photos 5 and 8).

Permit Stipulations: The approval of TR-1 requires final bench and highwall designs be submitted as a technical revision, along with documentation of supporting geotechnical observations. The designs must be approved by the Division prior to topsoiling and revegetation operations on the benches.

Storm Water MGT Plan: No oil or fuel spills observed. Stormwater drains to the pit and infiltrates.

Topsoil: All salvaged growth media was stripped many years ago and was stockpiled on the east side (Photo 4), as the site's disturbed footprint has not changed in quite some time. Other, smaller piles of what appears to be growth media have been stockpiled onsite (Photo 6).

Structures: No new structures were observed within 200 feet of the affected area. Structure agreements have been obtained for the residence and utility lines located to the southeast of the permit boundary.

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

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1: The permit sign was appropriately posted at the site entrance.



Photo 2: View northwest of processing equipment onsite, stockpiles are located behind this equipment.



Photo 3: View southeast of the site from the top of the site's sloped area, the one benched area is visible in this photo.



Photo 4: A topsoil pile, vegetated with volunteer vegetation is located on the northeastern side of the permit, just above the benched area.



Photo 5: A northwestern permit boundary corner marker was observed.



Photo 6: Another pile of what appears to be topsoil is located on the eastern edge of the benched area.



Photo 7: View east of the benched area, a grizzly screen and small stockpiles are located here.



Photo 8: Erosion rills are noted on the ~2H:1V slope below the benched area.



Photo 9: A permit boundary marker was observed in the southeast corner of the site.

Inspection Contact Address

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