




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: Solberg Pit	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-1981-044	MINERAL: Sand and gravel	COUNTY: El Paso
INSPECTION TYPE: Monitoring	WEATHER: Clear	INSP. DATE: August 13, 2024	INSP. TIME: 11:00
OPERATOR: Solberg Gravel LLC	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Jason Ulmer	TYPE OF OPERATION: 112c - Construction Regular Operation	
REASON FOR INSPECTION: Normal I&E Program	BOND CALCULATION TYPE: Complete Bond	BOND AMOUNT: \$1,467,756.00	
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	

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: Signs & Markers

PROBLEM/POSSIBLE VIOLATION: Problem: The mine identification sign was not posted at the entrance of the mine site. This is a problem for failure to post a mine identification sign as required by Section 3.1.12(1) of the rule. The Operator shall, at the entrance of the mine site post a sign, which shall be clearly visible from the access road, with a minimum size equaling one hundred and eighty-seven (187) square inches, such as eleven (11) inches in height and seventeen (17) inches in width, with appropriate font size, with the following: the name of the Operator, a statement that a reclamation permit for the operation has been issued by the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board; and the permit number.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: The operator shall, at the entrance of the mine site, post a sign which shall be clearly visible from the access road with the following: the name of the operator, a statement that a reclamation permit for the operation has been issued by the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board; and the permit number. The operator shall submit photo documentation that a proper sign has been posted by the corrective action date.

CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE: 10/14/24

OBSERVATIONS

This inspection was conducted by Hunter Ridley and Ben Hammar with the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division) as part of the normal monitoring program. The Permittee (Solberg Gravel LLC) was represented by Jason Ulmer and Kurt Thurmann during the inspection. The Solberg Pit is accessed from Curtis Rd just south of Garrett Rd, approximately 3 miles east and 1.5 miles south of Falcon. This is a 112c sand and gravel mine. It was operating at the time of the inspection.

Solberg Gravel LLC remains the landowner/Permittee of the site. In 2021 the previous Operator, Pioneer Sand, was replaced. As of January 2023, Holcim Inc. is the Operator of the Solberg Pit. A Succession of Operator revision is not required, as the Permittee company has remained Solberg Gravel LLC.

Availability of Records: Annual reports are current, having been filed through April 2024. The previous inspection was on February 4, 2022. Both the surface and minerals in the currently approved and proposed permit areas are privately owned.

Backfilling and Grading: Current excavations are concentrated in the northwestern corner of the site (Photo 1). Recent backfill activity in the northeastern corner of the site was noted during the inspection (Photo 4). Active mining into the expanded affected area boundary, approved in 2022 under Amendment 3 (AM-3), has not yet commenced. Site representative Kurt Thurmann stated that they are awaiting final El Paso County approval before breaking ground.

Fish and Wildlife: No impact to wildlife was observed.

Signs and Markers: The permit sign was not posted, pursuant to Rule 3.1.12. The Division and site representatives looked for where the downed sign may have been, but the sign could not be located during the inspection. Recent high winds and storm events likely removed the sign from its post near the front entrance gate off Curtis Road. **Therefore, the Division is citing a problem for failure to post a mine identification sign as required by Section 3.1.12(1) of the rule. The Operator shall, at the entrance of the mine site post the appropriate mine identification sign and provide proof of such to the Division by the given corrective action due date.**

Boundary markers were observed in all corners of the property. The property boundary markers delineate the permit boundary on all four corners of the site. Fencelines are currently in place to outline this permit boundary. The affected area boundary follows the northwest, northeast, and southeast corners of the permit boundary, but diverges in a diagonal line across the southwestern corner, in line with a string of utility poles. This expanded affected area boundary was approved under AM-3. AM-3 clarifies that the utility poles along the south property boundary and northwest corner will require a 75 ft setback. Other power poles along the eastern boundary have been maintained with an ~25-foot setback from topsoil stockpiling activity.

Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste: There is very little overburden at this site. Most backfill activities and final grading of slopes will be accomplished using fines from the product processing process.

Financial Warranty: The bond was increased to \$1,467,756.00 as part of the approval process for AM-3. In an effort to ensure the Financial Warranty adequately reflects the actual current cost of fulfilling the requirements of the approved reclamation plan, the Division has updated the reclamation cost estimate. The Division has found the current bond to be **adequate** for reclamation of the site.

Hydrologic Balance: Due to a recent string of heavy rainfall events, pooled stormwater was observed in the pit

(Photo 1 and 4). Stormwater is approved to infiltrate at the site with any additional runoff being directed to the northeast towards the site's approved discharge point. Site representatives state that this point does not often discharge, and all other stormwater infiltrates on site as approved. A freshwater pond is located on site (Photo 2) and is fed by a groundwater well (Well Permit No. 85276-F). This water is directed into the site's wet sand and gravel processing plants. When mixed with flocculant liquid and processed through several other smaller ponds, the groundwater can be recirculated into the freshwater pond and reused in the product washing process.

Gen. Compliance with Mine Plan: The approval of AM-3, which revised the site's permit boundary, affected area boundary, mine plan, and reclamation plan, has brought the Solberg Pit into compliance with an approved mine plan. At the time of inspection, the site was observed to be operating in accordance with all approved plans. Highwalls were estimated to vary between 20 and 40 feet in height and appeared stable. This highwall configuration adheres to the AM-3 approved statement that "The depth of mining will be consistent with current practices of approximately 40 ft."

Off-site Damage: The operation appeared to be confined to the affected area boundary, based on Google Earth review and site observations.

Processing Waste: The majority of the processing waste is wash fines, stockpiled near the processing area.

Roads: Dust control was not observed on the day of inspection. Haul and access roads did not appear to be a source of sediment that could be tracked offsite.

Right of Entry: The land is owned by the Permittee, Solberg Gravel LLC. This information was checked via the El Paso County assessor website and confirmed with the Operator.

Reclamation Success: No reclamation has been initiated. However, the northern side of the permit boundary has self-reclaimed as stated in previous inspection reports (Photo 1).

Revegetation: No noxious weeds were observed.

Sediment Control: No erosion problems were observed and no BMPs were needed at the time of the inspection.

Support Facilities On-site: Several screen plants (Photo 1), a wash plant clarifier (Photo 3), an excavator, loaders, and haul trucks were observed on site. No oil or fuel spills observed. All non-hazardous flocculation liquid and fuel were stored on site in secondary containment.

Permit Stipulations: There are no permit stipulations.

Storm Water MGT Plan: Stormwater drains to the pit and infiltrates. Perimeter berms ensure that all stormwater remains onsite.

Topsoil: Several topsoil stockpiles were observed across the site. All piles were observed to be vegetated and stable, these being mostly stabilized with volunteer vegetation. One large, L-shaped stockpile is along the eastern edge of the permit boundary. Two others are located within the active area, one being near the access road (Photo 4) and one near the active excavation area. Sufficient topsoil appears to be located onsite to accomplish reclamation and the approved replacement of at least 6 inches of topsoil across reclaimed areas.

Structures: There are powerlines within 200 feet of the affected area on the north, east and south boundaries of

the permit, as well as Curtis Road on the east and Garrett Road on the north. All approved setbacks were currently being maintained and the appropriate structure agreements have been obtained.

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: View of the current northwest corner of excavation, the vegetated slope to the north has been fully reclaimed.



Photo 2: View east of one of several approved ponds, this is a freshwater pond fed by two wells.



Photo 3: View west of flocculation containment and site processing equipment.



Photo 4: View west of a northeastern corner pit which is being actively backfilled with fines and overburden. Standing water is infiltrating form recent heavy rainfall events. A topsoil pile is visible to the north.



Photo 5" View north of one of several approved ponds, this pond is part of the water recycling system which 'washes' mined material.

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>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>PB</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

Inspection Contact Address

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