




**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> Debeque Sand and Gravel Resource	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> M-2011-054	<b>MINERAL:</b> Gravel and sand	<b>COUNTY:</b> Mesa
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Monitoring	<b>WEATHER:</b> Clear	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> September 24, 2024	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 09:00
<b>OPERATOR:</b> Oldcastle SW Group, Inc. dba United Companies	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b> Jesse Farmer	<b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b> 112c - Construction Regular Operation	
<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b> Normal I&E Program	<b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b> Complete Bond	<b>BOND AMOUNT:</b> \$704,245.00	
<b>DATE OF COMPLAINT:</b> NA	<b>POST INSP. CONTACTS:</b> DRMS	<b>JOINT INSP. AGENCY:</b> None	
<b>INSPECTOR(S):</b> Amy Yeldell	<b>INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:</b> 	<b>SIGNATURE DATE:</b> September 26, 2024	

**GENERAL INSPECTION TOPICS**

The following inspection topic(s) were identified as having a **Problem (PB)**, which includes correction actions and a deadline whereby the Operator must demonstrate compliance with the conditions of the Permit and the requirements of the Act and Rules. Failure to address the corrective actions by the deadline may cause the Division to escalate the Problem to a **Possible Violation (PV)** and schedule the issue for formal hearing before the Mined Land Reclamation Board (Board).

(AR) RECORDS----- <u>N</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>NA</u>
(PW) PROCESSING WASTE/TAILING---- <u>N</u>	(SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES----- <u>N</u>	(TS) TOPSOIL----- <u>PB</u>
(MP) GENL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE- <u>Y</u>	(FW) FISH & WILDLIFE----- <u>N</u>	(RV) REVEGETATION---- <u>NA</u>
(SM) SIGNS AND MARKERS----- <u>Y</u>	(SP) STORM WATER MGT PLAN---- <u>N</u>	(RS) RECL PLAN/COMP-- <u>NA</u>
(ES) OVERBURDEN/DEV. WASTE----- <u>N</u>	(SC) EROSION/SEDIMENTATION--- <u>N</u>	(ST) STIPULATIONS----- <u>N</u>
(AT) ACID OR TOXIC MATERIALS----- <u>Y</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**

## **ENFORCEMENT**

**INSPECTION TOPIC:** Topsoil

**PROBLEM/POSSIBLE VIOLATION:** Problem: The topsoil stockpiles do not have established vegetation on them and are therefore susceptible to erosion. Rule 3.1.9(1) states if topsoil is not replaced into the backfill area within a time short enough to avoid deterioration of the topsoil, vegetative cover or other means shall be employed so that the topsoil is protected from erosion.

**CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:** The operator shall seed the stockpiles with the seed mix that was submitted as part of the approved Reclamation Plan. If no seed mix has been provided, the operator shall submit a seed mix for approval as a technical revision to the permit along with the appropriate \$216 revision fee to the Division by the corrective action date. The Operator shall demonstrate compliance by submitting seed tags, a bill of sale or photographs of seeding activities. The Operator may also request a follow up inspection.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE:** 12/31/24

## **OBSERVATIONS**

This inspection was conducted as part of the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety's (Division) normal monitoring program. Debeque Sand and Gravel Resources is a 112c permitted site that includes a total of 45.04 permitted acres. The site is located in Mesa County approximately three miles south of Debeque Colorado and is accessed from Highway 6. Amy Yeldell of the Division conducted the inspection. Jesse Farmer represented Oldcastle SW Group, Inc. dba Untied Companies of Mesa County, the Operator.

### Acid And Toxic Materials:

One large fuel tank is located adjacent to the scale and scale house (photo one). It was brought on site for the asphalt plant is anticipated to be removed. No other hazardous or toxic materials were observed on site.

### Backfilling and Grading:

Two lakes are present (photos two – four). One in phase 1 and other on the western side of phase 2 and the northwest corner of phase 3. Both ponds have near vertical slopes around the entire length with a maximum depth of 25 feet. Until water rights are secured (future TR) all exposed groundwater will be backfilled.

### Explosives:

Explosives are not used in conjunction with this mining operation.

### Financial Warranty:

The Division currently requires a financial warranty amount of \$704,245.00 for this site. The bond was last recalculated with SI-1 in 2021. 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 will be updating the reclamation cost estimate. If the current bond is found to be insufficient the Division will send a Notice of Surety Increase under a separate cover.

### Hydrologic Balance:

Approximately 10 areas of exposed groundwater is present on site.

Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan:

The site was inactive at the time of the inspection. Processing on site last occurred earlier this summer. No equipment was observed on site. Several stockpiles are located throughout the site including asphalt millings.

Currently both phases 1 and 2 are completely affected and the northwest portion of Phase 3 has also been affected by mining. The southwest corner of phase 3 continues to store jersey barriers but appears to not have been mined (photo seven). Phase 1 appears to be completely mined out. Currently there is approximate 2.4 acres of a pond that has yet to be backfilled in addition to the small sediment dewatering sump that will remain until the completion of mining.

The phase 2 and 3 pond is approximate 7.7 ac. The majority of process stockpiles are located on the east side of phase 2 (Photos five and six). Highwalls of the lakes appear to be near vertical. The ponds were inundated at the time of the inspection so slopes could not be verified. Between both lakes approximately 10 acres of water is exposed. Under TR-1 eventually only one lake in phase 3 will remain with a surface area of 10.6 acres.

According to the 2024 Annual Reclamation Report 32 acres are currently affected. TR-1 approved a maximum of 20.5 ac disturbance/lands requiring topsoiling and seeding. Unless areas are reclaimed, no more land can be disturbed since no additional groundwater can be exposed.

Oldcastle is reminded that under TR-1 Phase 3 lake will not be exposed until long-term water rights are provided to the Division in the form of a Technical Revision. The additional bond necessary to dewater and shape the final lake will be addressed under a future TR.

Right of Entry:

Division staff verified that Oldcastle SW Group Inc. remains the landowner of all affected lands and therefore is in compliance with Rule 6.3.7 by maintaining its Legal Right of Entry.

Reclamation Success:

No reclamation has occurred to date.

Revegetation:

No seeding has occurred. A fair amount of Kochia and Russian Thistle were observed in addition to the anticipated Tamarisk and Russian Olive around the pond and ditch areas. Noxious weeds should be more aggressively treated to avoid creating a seedbank, especially in the topsoil stockpile.

Support Facilities On-site:

The boathouse on the western side of the permit area has been removed. The bathroom building remains in place.

Signs and Markers:

A mine sign was posted at the entrance to the mine site as required by Rule 3.1.12(1). The information depicted was correct/ up to date and the sign was of sufficient size. The permit boundary of the affected land was clearly delineated primarily by a wire fence pursuant to Rule 3.1.12(2).

Topsoil:

Most topsoil is located in a long stockpile that acts as a visual berm between the pit and Highway 6. There is one other smaller pile located on the west side of phase 3.

The main topsoil stockpile remains void of a temporary cover and is bare or undesirable plants (photo eight). This is cited as a problem. Similar observations were noted in 2021, and the Division recommended additional seeding and vigilant noxious weed management of stockpiles. There appears to have been no further efforts to protect salvaged topsoil. The operator shall reseed the topsoil stockpiles this fall unless stockpiles will be reapplied in fall of 2024. Indicate to the Division which option was perused and provide photo documentation by the corrective action date

Responses to this inspection report should be directed to: Amy Yeldell at the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, Rm 215, 1001 E 62nd Ave, Denver Co 80216. Direct contact can be made by phone at 303-866-3567 Ext 8183 or via email at amy.yeldell@state.co.us

### **Inspection Contact Address**

Jesse Farmer  
Oldcastle SW Group, Inc. dba United Companies  
2273 River Road  
Grand Junction, CO 81505

EC:  
Travis Marshall, Senior EPS, Grand Junction DRMS

### **PHOTOGRAPHS**













Photo 6: Phase 2 stockpiles.

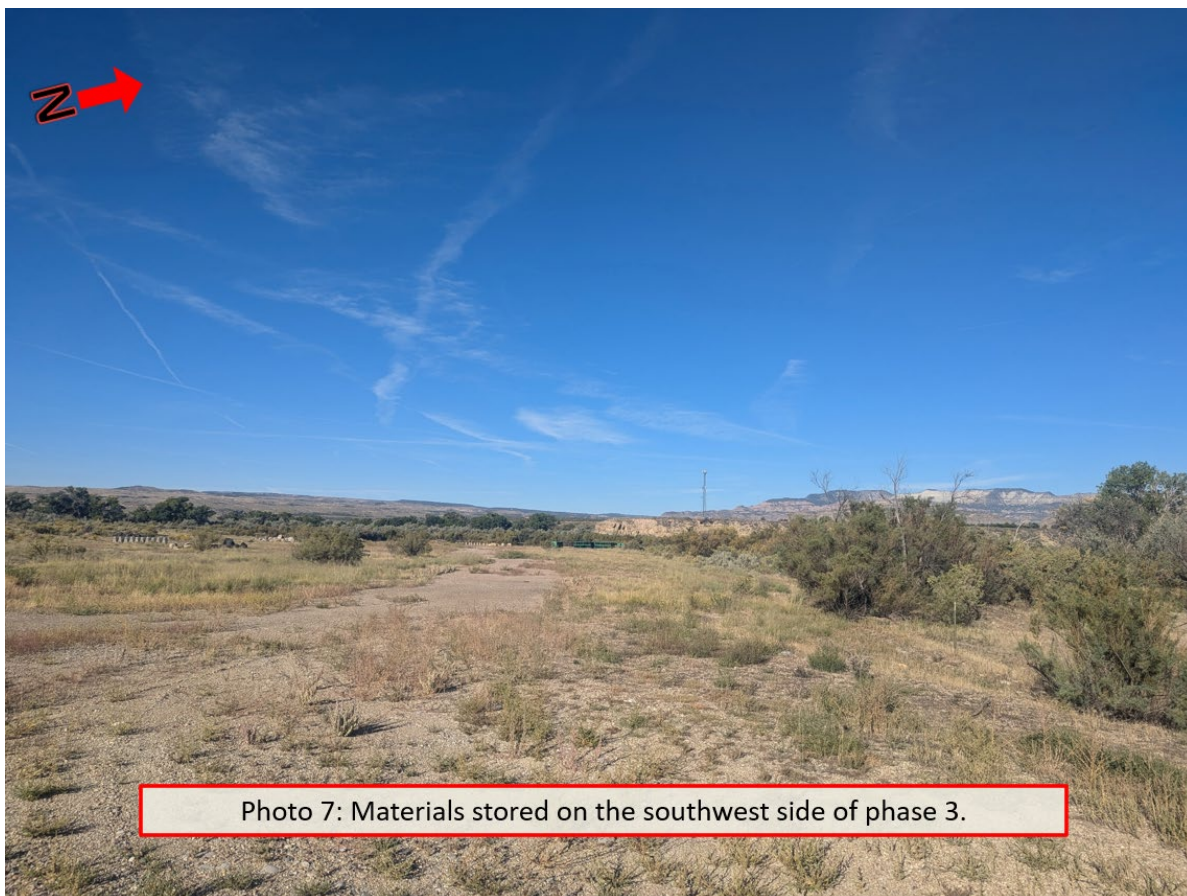


Photo 7: Materials stored on the southwest side of phase 3.



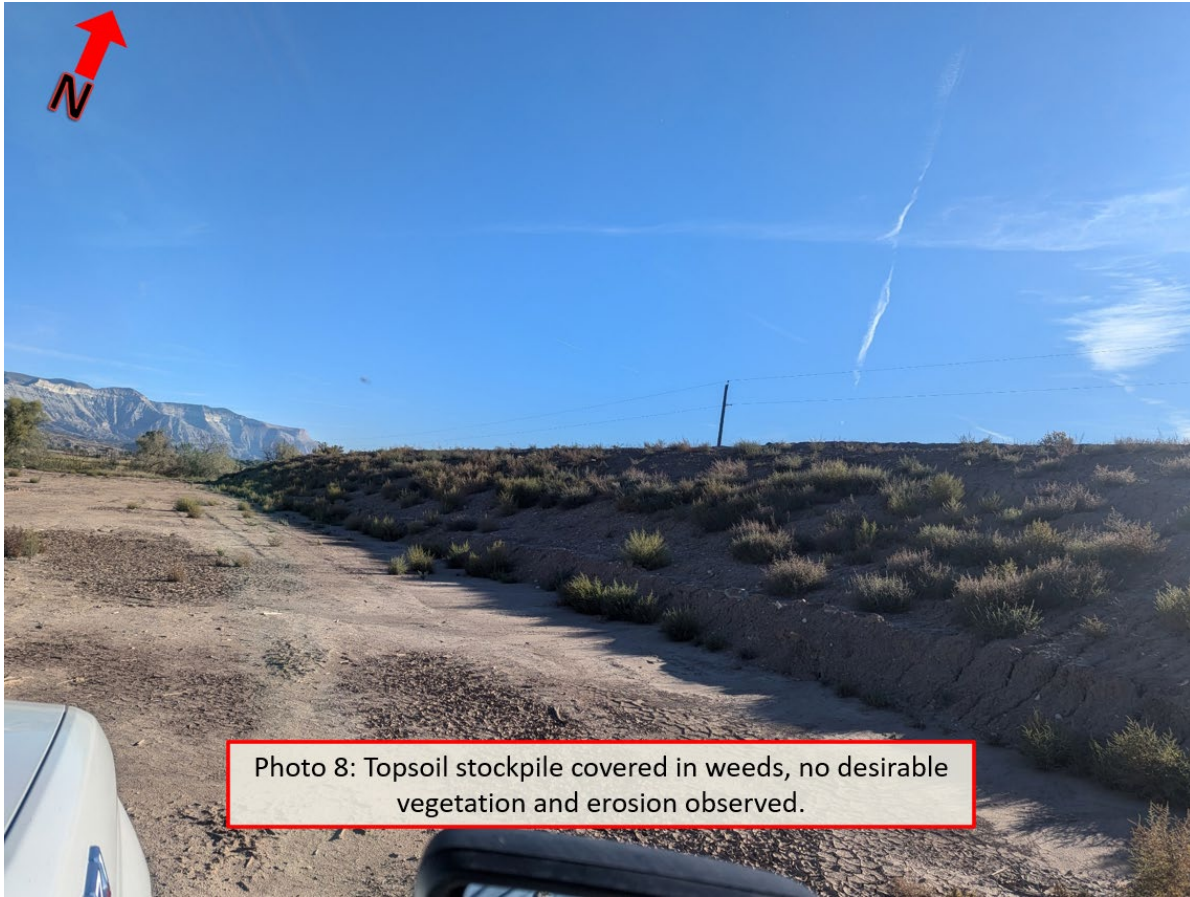


Photo 8: Topsoil stockpile covered in weeds, no desirable vegetation and erosion observed.