




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: Howe Pit	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-1978-052	MINERAL: Sand and gravel	COUNTY: Adams
INSPECTION TYPE: Surety Release Inspection	WEATHER: Sunny and Clear	INSP. DATE: September 24, 2024	INSP. TIME: 07:30
OPERATOR: City & County of Denver, Board of Water Commissioners	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Brad Piede	TYPE OF OPERATION: 112c - Construction Regular Operation	
REASON FOR INSPECTION: Surety Release Requested	BOND CALCULATION TYPE: NA	BOND AMOUNT: NA	
DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA	POST INSP. CONTACTS: None	JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None	
INSPECTOR(S): Nikie Gagnon	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	SIGNATURE DATE: September 27, 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>N</u>	(FN) FINANCIAL WARRANTY----- <u>N</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>N</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>N</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>N</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

The Howe Pit was inspected by Nikie Gagnon with the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division). The mine is operated by the City and County of Denver, Board of Water Commissioners. Brad Piede, representing Denver Water (Operator), accompanied the Division during the inspection. The Howe Pit is a 112c mining operations with 629.30 permitted acres. Mining is complete at the site and two lined water storage reservoirs and one open groundwater pond remains. The site has been reclaimed for water storage, private recreation and wildlife habitat.

This inspection was completed as part of an acreage release request submitted in accordance with Rule 4.17, filed with the Division on August 8, 2024. Denver Water is requesting a full/final release of 629.30 acres. Per Rule 4.17.2, notices were sent out to the owners of record to the affected land and to Adams County on August 13, 2024. The comment period ended on August 28, 2024. No comments were received.

Reclamation Success:

The two water storage reservoirs are graded and sloped to 3H:1V or flatter, consistent with the reclamation plan and the grading requirements of Rule 3.1.5 (7) of the Construction Materials Rules and Regulations. All slopes are structurally stable with no evidence of instability noted at the time of the inspection. Dense grass is established throughout the site. Weeds are well controlled. Grasses have reestablished on the slopes of the 2013 flood repair along the western edge of both reservoirs. Denver Water recently repaired two water erosion areas on the south and west sides of Reservoir A. These areas were drill seeded and although grass is less dense in the repair areas, the vegetation is growing uniformly across the repairs. Reservoir A holds a small amount of water on the west end. Denver Water recently started filling Reservoir B with a few feet of water. The Division observed numerous birds in the water and a Golden eagle was perched on a pump shed on the north side of Reservoir B.

A public recreation path was installed on the west of the reservoirs along the South Platte. Denver water planted trees along this path. Cottonwoods, willows and wetland vegetation was observed on the east side of Reservoir B around the wetland pond. The pond was an existing feature on site due to mining that occurred at the site prior to 1981.

A groundwater mounding drain was installed west of Reservoir B to manage water during mining. The outlet to the drain is located adjacent to the site's main office. The mounding drain runs the length of the eastern side of the Howe-Haller A and B reservoirs. Water was flowing during the time of inspection through the discharge pipe into the First Creek channel that crosses the mine site to the South Platte River.

A gravel access road runs around the two reservoirs and will remain for use by Denver Water. A maintenance shed and stockpile area was observed on the east side of Reservoir B will remain continued use by the operation.

Based on observations made during this inspection the request for final/full acreage release of 629.30 acres will be approved. Notice of the Division's decision regarding the release request will be sent under a separate cover letter. A subset of the photographs taken during inspection are attached. Please contact Nikie Gagnon (303)866-3567 ext. 8126 or email at nikie.gagnon@state.co.us if you have any questions regarding this report.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1: Looking west across Reservoir A from the southeast corner.



Photo 2: Looking west along the south slope of Reservoir A.



Photo 3: Looking north across the west slope of Reservoir A from the southwest corner.



Photo 4: Looking east across Reservoir A from the northwest corner. Rundown structure on the left and intake structure on the far end.



Photo 5: Looking south along the western permit boundary.



Photo 6: Looking at 2013 flood repair area.



Photo 7: Looking east across Reservoir B from the northwest corner.



Photo 8: Looking bike path and access road on the west side of Reservoir A. Fence is installed along the bike path on the west side of the permit area.



Photo 9: Looking southeast at the west end of Reservoir B. Rip rap rundown structure connects Reservoir B to future Hazeltine Reservoir (Permit No. M-1977-153).



Photo 10: Looking southwest across Reservoir B from the north side.



Photo 11: Looking west across Reservoir B from the northeast corner.



Photo 12: Looking west across Reservoir B from the southeast corner.



Photo 13: Looking at intake structure in the southeast corner of Reservoir B.



Photo 14: Wetland pond area adjacent to groundwater drain in Reservoir B.



Photo 15: Water flowing from groundwater mounding drain.

Inspection Contact Address

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