




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: Craig Ranch Pit	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-1986-002	MINERAL: Sand and gravel	COUNTY: Mesa
INSPECTION TYPE: Monitoring	WEATHER: Clear	INSP. DATE: September 24, 2024	INSP. TIME: 10:00
OPERATOR: Oldcastle SW Group, Inc. dba United Companies of Mesa County	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Jesse Farmer	TYPE OF OPERATION: 112c - Construction Regular Operation	
REASON FOR INSPECTION: Normal I&E Program	BOND CALCULATION TYPE: Complete Bond	BOND AMOUNT: \$276,821.00	
DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA	POST INSP. CONTACTS: DRMS	JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None	
INSPECTOR(S): Amy Yeldell	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	SIGNATURE DATE: October 2, 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>Y</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>NA</u>	(TS) TOPSOIL----- <u>N</u>
(MP) GENL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE- <u>Y</u>	(FW) FISH & WILDLIFE----- <u>N</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>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>NA</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: Signs & Markers

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: 12/02/24

OBSERVATIONS

This inspection was conducted as part of the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety's (Division) normal monitoring program. The Craig Ranch Pit is a 112c permitted site that includes a total of 153.4 permitted acres with approximately 33 acres currently disturbed. This site is located approximately one mile southwest of Whitewater, Colorado in Mesa County and is accessed from Highway 141. Amy Yeldell of the Division conducted the inspection. Jesse Farmer with Oldcastle SW Group, Inc. dba United Companies of Mesa County represented the operator

Acid And Toxic Materials:

No fuel or other hazardous materials remain on site.

Backfilling and Grading:

There appears to be no changes to the highwall configurations as compared to the last inspection. The active highwall on the northeast edge is approximately 1200 LF at 20 feet tall and near vertical highwall. Mining is progressing towards the south leaving a visual berm in place till the end. Several stockpiles remain on site as well.

Once back in the office when looking at the satellite imagery from the County Accessor's website the small southern pit appears to have been mined. Evidence of this activity was not apparent during the inspection.

Explosives:

No explosives were used in conjunction with this mining operation.

Financial Warranty:

The Division currently requires a financial warranty amount of \$276,821 for this site. The bond was last updated in 2021 with SI-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 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:

No exposed groundwater was observed during the inspection.

Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan:

Based on the annual report the site has been active annually. However, the map of the annual report indicates little to no activity on site. Similarly, satellite imagery from both Google Earth and the Mesa County Accessors website indicates little to no activity within the main pit. Per Rule 1.13 Active status requires mining annually more than 180 days. If the mine ceases production for more than a year it shall go into temporary cessation or enter into final reclamation. Moving forward this operation needs to more clearly demonstrate that sufficient production levels are occurring.

Reclamation Success:

No areas were evaluated for success of final reclamation.

Given the duration of site inactivity the Division highly recommends that reclamation be completed in any areas where possible. Revegetation in Whitewater is extremely challenging and likely will take several years.

Revegetation:

There appears to be no revegetation to date.

No recent signs of grazing were observed.

A fair amount of Kochia, Russian Thistle and Halogeton were observed. For areas where revegetation will not occur in the near future a soil sterilant (bare ground) may be a useful tool in suppressing noxious weeds. Furthermore, despite the pit being dry Tamarisk was observed between the two benches. This needs to be removed as it is a state listed noxious weed.

Subsidence:

No subsidence was observed.

Support Facilities On-site:

No structures were observed on site.

Signs and Markers:

The mine identification sign was missing at the time of the inspection. This was also cited as an inspection problem in 2021, 2018 and 2015. The Operator needs to establish a more permanent means of placing a mine sign at the entrance to the permit boundary and ensure it remains in place. Previously the mine sign has been placed off of CR 141, perhaps placing the sign at the gate to the entrance of the pit will be a better location. Failure to post a mine sign as required per Rule 3.1.12 is cited as an inspection problem. By the corrective action date listed on page two of this report provide the Division with photo documentation that a mine sign has been posted at the mine entrance. The permit boundary is delineated by a wire t-post fence.

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 of Mesa County
2273 River Road
Grand Junction, CO 81505

Enclosure

CC:
Travis Marshall, Senior EPS, Grand Junction DRMS

PHOTOGRAPHS







