




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: 15 Road Gravel Pit	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-2002-114	MINERAL: Sand and gravel	COUNTY: Mesa
INSPECTION TYPE: Monitoring	WEATHER: Clear	INSP. DATE: September 24, 2024	INSP. TIME: 13:00
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: \$854,778.31	
DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA	POST INSP. CONTACTS: None	JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None	
INSPECTOR(S): Amy Yeldell	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	SIGNATURE DATE: October 9, 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>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>Y</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>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>Y</u>	(ST) STIPULATIONS----- <u>Y</u>
(AT) ACID OR TOXIC MATERIALS----- <u>Y</u>	(OD) OFF-SITE DAMAGE----- <u>NA</u>	

Y = Inspected / N = Not inspected / NA = Not applicable to this operation / PB = Problem cited / PV = Possible violation cited

OBSERVATIONS

This inspection was conducted as part of the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety's (Division) normal monitoring program. The 15 Road Gravel Pit is a 112c permitted site that includes a total of 188.54 permitted acres with 138 acres have been affected by mining. This site located approximately two mile northwest of Fruita, Colorado in Mesa County and is accessed from Highway 6 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:

There are several fuel tanks located throughout the site for the pumps and heavy equipment. The primary fuel tank for equipment is located near the pit entrance and scale house (Photo One). All observed tanks were in secondary containment. No other hydrocarbons or other hazardous materials were observed.

Backfilling and Grading:

Both excavations and backfilling are occurring within Pit 3. The excavated pit area of Pit 3 is approximately 27 acres. Backfilling is taking place in the northwest corner adjacent to the quanset structure. The overburden being transported is coming from the stripping of the western center highwall within Pit 3. The pit is excavated to a depth of approximately 20 feet. Most highwalls are near vertical to 1H: 1V except along the ramps. All slopes aside from the northing bank can be cut/fill. The northern slope requires backfill. Note that the Mine Plan states that slopes while mining will only be a 2H: 1V. Some benching is present where overburden is being stripped, approximately 10 feet. Staff estimates that there is approximately 5,000 LF of highwall within Pit 3. (Photos 2-5)

The southern portion of Pit 4 is a lake being used for the wash plant. Given that the lake is inundated the Division cannot confirm highwall configurations. Per the 2024 Annual Report, the operator indicated that this pond is reclaimed. Likely some minimal grading will be required in the areas adjacent to the wash plant. The Division will assume 5007 LF of 2H: 1V to a 3H: 1V at 20 ft H cut/fill per Exhibit L for bonding. (photos 5 and 6)

Explosives:

No explosives were used in conjunction with this mining operation.

Financial Warranty:

The Division currently requires a financial warranty amount of \$854,778 for this site. The bond was last reviewed 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.

The worst-case scenario for bonding was completed in 2014 under TR-5. Since then, Lake 2 has been released. No changes have occurred to Lake 1 in over 10 years however the site does not match the final land configuration The Division will bond for the conditions of the approved Reclamation Plan, current site conditions or a combination of both. The Division will provide an estimate. The Operator may wish to complete a Technical Revision to update the Reclamation Plan or Worst-Case Cost Estimate.

Hydrologic Balance:

Currently there are two lakes present onsite. Lake 1 is approximately 26 surface acres. The southern portion of Lake 4 is approximately 25 surface acres. Lake 3 is kept dewatered using trenches and active pumping.

Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan:

The site was active at the time of inspection. Excavations are taking place in Phase 3 and the entire phase has been affected. A crusher was also operating within Pit 3. Material is then transported to Pit/Lake 4 to the wash plant. Material is stockpiled between the two phases. Dewatering of Pit 4 Lake will be required to continue mining towards the north.

No hot asphalt plant was located on site at the time of the inspection but there was residual stockpiles of recycled asphalt millings on site.

Right of Entry:

Division staff verified that Oldcastle 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 areas were evaluated for success of final reclamation.

Lake 1 appears to be in final reclamation given that no changes have occurred in 10 or more years. It is unclear if this pond was ever seeded or if vegetation has volunteered. Per the most recent annual report it was not indicated as being reclaimed. Previous notes regarding bonding state that wetlands bench and seeding is complete. While only a portion of the rangeland areas has been seeded. The general lake configuration of Lake 1 does not match the approved reclamation plan. The wetlands shelf on the northwestern end of the lake does not appear to be installed nor has the southwestern shelf. Overall, a lake of approximately 26 ac is present while the reclamation plan calls for 17.6 ac. Final reclamation shall be completed or the Reclamation Plan should be updated to reflect site conditions. (Photos 7 & 8)

Revegetation:

The southern portion of Lake 4 has been reclaimed. A road goes around the entire lake and will need to be removed. Lots of Tamarisk and Russian Olive surround this pond. Reclamation was completed after 2005 and therefore these noxious weeds must be managed.

The undisturbed portions of Pit 4 have excessive amounts of Knapweed. If possible, the operator may wish to begin treating this area prior to mining. Adjacent areas that are reclaimed should be closely monitored and treated as necessary to avoid creating a seed bank in the reclaimed areas. Similarly Kochia and Russian Thistle were observed throughout the site. The Operator is encouraged to ore aggressively manage noxious weeds.

Subsidence:

No subsidence was observed.

Support Facilities On-site:

There is a scale and scale house located near the entrance of the pit. There is also an office building and Quanset Storage structure on the northwest side of Pit 3. (photos 9 & 10)

Signs and Markers:

The mine identification sign and affected area boundary markers remain in place and in compliance with Rule 3.1.12. The mine identification sign is fastened to the gate at the site entrance. A fence delineates the permit.

No problems or violations were noted during this inspection.

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 970-210-1272 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





Photo 2: Pit 3 overview



Photo 3: Pit 3 overview





Photo 6: Pit 4 overview.



Photo 7: Lake 1 and surrounding areas.





Photo 10: Structures within Pit 3