

# 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:	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:	MINERAL:	COUNTY:
Larimer Pit	M-1974-069	Sand and gravel	Larimer
INSPECTION TYPE:	WEATHER:	INSP. DATE:	INSP. TIME:
Monitoring	Clear	September 24, 2024	10:45
OPERATOR:	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:	TYPE OF OPERAT	ΓΙΟN:
Loveland Ready-Mix Concrete, Inc.	Stephanie Fancher-English	112c - Construction Regular Operation	
REASON FOR INSPECTION:	BOND CALCULATION TYPE:	<b>BOND AMOUNT:</b>	
Normal I&E Program	Complete Bond	\$583,931.00	
DATE OF COMPLAINT:	POST INSP. CONTACTS:	JOINT INSP. AGE	NCY:
NA	None	None	
INSPECTOR(S):	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:	SIGNATURE DAT	E:
Joel Renfro	0.10	November 13, 2024	
	\d/Ken/re		
	0-00		

### **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>N</u>	(BG) BACKFILL & GRADING <u>Y</u>	(EX) EXPLOSIVES <u>N</u>
(PW) PROCESSING WASTE/TAILING N	(SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES N	(TS) TOPSOIL <u>Y</u>
(MP) GENL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE- Y	(FW) FISH & WILDLIFE <u>N</u>	(RV) REVEGETATION <u>Y</u>
(SM) SIGNS AND MARKERS <u>Y</u>	(SP) STORM WATER MGT PLAN N	(RS) RECL PLAN/COMP <u>Y</u>
(ES) OVERBURDEN/DEV. WASTE <u>N</u>	(SC) EROSION/SEDIMENTATION $\underline{Y}$	(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 Larimer Pit site was inspected by Joel Renfro with the Division of Reclamation Mining and Safety (Division/DRMS) on September 24, 2024. Stephanie Francher-English with Loveland Ready-Mix Concrete, Inc. was present during the inspection. The Larimer Pit is located about 3 miles west of Loveland, CO in Larimer County. The weather was clear. **Photos 1-14** are included in this report.

This is a 112c Operation permitted for mining Sand and Gravel. The maximum approved disturbance for this site is 222.96 acres, which is the same as the permit acreage. The post-mine land use is Developed Water Resources, Industrial/Commercial, and Recreation. The site was active at the time of inspection.

The site entrance leads you into an approximately 33-acre area that includes a batch plant, material processing plant, office, scale, and material and equipment storage area.

The Big Thompson River runs through the site. Fencing protects it, and riparian plants were planted post-flood to stabilize the river and prevent erosional damage. The vegetation growth around the corridor looks diverse and successful, and this operation appears to be protecting the river from any mine disturbance.

Cell 21 is the most recent disturbance and the area currently being mined. Once excavation has ended, this cell, like most of the other mined cells, will be turned into a clay-lined water resource. This cell is being mined from east to west and is being reclaimed as they mine it out. The eastern half of the pit has had slopes graded to 3H:1V and reseeded with a native grass seed mix. A clay liner has been partially constructed as well.

Another pit observed during the inspection was pit 18, which is in reclamation. The whole pit has been graded and reseeded. The pit shows plenty of grasses growing throughout the pit. An abandoned powerline runs east to west across the pit, and the poles are supported by mounds of dirt on the pit floor. These should be removed by the time this site is requesting final release.

Areas in reclamation were observed throughout this inspection. The areas that have been in reclamation for longer such as around pits 18, 14, and 7 are showing relative success in revegetation with no noxious weeds observed. In areas that have been more recently reclaimed such as Pit 20 and the ongoing reclamation of Pit 21, some native grasses are showing up, but non-noxious nuisance annual species such as kochia are dominant at the moment. Prevalence of annual species is typical early on in reclamation, and revegetation around the site suggests that these annuals will go away as native plants move in as long as the operator continues to integrate their weed management plan.

Revegetation success struggles in the area between pit 6 and the parking area to the east of the permit area. The operator has been tending to that spot and reseeding it frequently. It appears that machinery being stored for a prolonged period of time has compacted the growth medium and is making it difficult for new grasses to reestablish. During the inspection, it does appear that native grasses are slowly establishing themselves.

In May 2020, 1.49 acres in the eastern permit area were released. The City of Loveland converted this area into a parking area for recreation. During the inspection, the fence line between the parking area and the permit boundary was observed. A fence with a locked gate separates the areas.

TR-4 was approved in February 2024, which reduced the monitoring frequency from monthly to quarterly for the three monitoring wells adjacent to Cell 21. This change is reflected in the Annual Report Monitoring Data

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submitted on August 8, 2024.

At the time of inspection, the mine entrance sign appeared to not be in compliance with Rule 3.1.12. This was discussed at the end of the inspection and the operator has since replaced the mine entrance sign. An image of the new sign is attached to this report. Since this was resolved prior to the report being sent, it is not cited as a problem.

At this time, Loveland Ready-Mix is not seeking to release any portions of the site yet. If they continue to monitor reclamation success and follow their weed management plan, the areas in reclamation should be on track for final release.

This concludes the report.

Any questions or comments regarding this inspection report should be forwarded to Joel Renfro at the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety, 1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, CO 80203, via telephone at (720) 812-2002, or email at joel.renfro@state.co.us.

## **PHOTOGRAPHS**



**Photo 1.** Mine entrance sign. The sign has been replaced since this inspection.



Photo 2. Cell 20, currently in reclamation. Looking north.



**Photo 3.** Cell 20, looking northeast.



Photo 4. Cell 21 graded and seeded pit walls, looking southeast.



Photo 5. Cell 21, looking south.



Photo 6. Cell 21 current mining disturbance, looking southwest.



**Photo 7.** Standing on top of the future mining area for Cell 21, looking north.



Photo 8. Material stockpiles and equipment storage, looking north.



Photo 9. Material stockpiles, looking north.



Photo 10. Stockpiles and shop, looking west.



**Photo 11.** Cell 7 to the right and Cell 14 to the left, both in reclamation, facing north.



Photo 12. Cell 8 in reclamation, looking east.



Photo 13. Cell 14, looking south.



Photo 14. Cell 18, looking west.

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<u>Inspection Contact Address</u> Stephanie Fancher-English Loveland Ready-Mix Concrete, Inc. P.O. Box 299 Loveland, CO 80539

Enclosure

New Permit Sign Image 2024 Annual Report Map

CC:

Amy Eschberger, DRMS



