



STATE OF
COLORADO

Girardi - DNR, Chris <chris.girardi@state.co.us>

Korwell Dirt, M2022034- October 2024 Inspection Report

1 message

Girardi - DNR, Chris <chris.girardi@state.co.us>

Tue, Dec 31, 2024 at 8:48 AM

To: Craig Rasmuson <rasmusoncraig@gmail.com>, Trent Korby <tkorby@korwellenergy.com>

Cc: Jared Ebert - DNR <jared.ebert@state.co.us>

Good morning,

Attached to this email is the Division's Inspection Report for the inspection conducted on October 10, 2024.

A hard copy will not be mailed unless requested.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Thanks,
Chris

Chris Girardi

Environmental Protection Specialist Intern



COLORADO
Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety
Department of Natural Resources

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KorwellDirt_2024InspectionReport.pdf


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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: Korwell Dirt | MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-2022-034 | MINERAL: Borrow material for | COUNTY: Weld |
| INSPECTION TYPE: Surety-Related Inspection | WEATHER: Clear | INSP. DATE: October 10, 2024 | INSP. TIME: 09:15am |
| OPERATOR: Korwell Land Holdings, LLC | OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Craig Rasmuson | TYPE OF OPERATION: 112c - Construction Regular Operation | |

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| REASON FOR INSPECTION: Surety-Related Inspection | BOND CALCULATION TYPE: Complete Bond | BOND AMOUNT: \$241,604.00 |
| DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA | POST INSP. CONTACTS: None | JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None |
| INSPECTOR(S): Chris Girardi Jared Ebert | INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:  | SIGNATURE DATE: December 31, 2024 |

The following inspection topics were identified as having Problems or Possible Violations. OPERATORS SHOULD READ THE FOLLOWING PAGES CAREFULLY IN ORDER TO ASSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE TERMS OF THE PERMIT AND APPLICABLE RULES AND REGULATIONS. If a Possible Violation is indicated, you will be notified under separate cover as to when the Mined Land Reclamation Board will consider possible enforcement action.

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 submit photo documentation that a proper sign has been posted as discussed above by the corrective action date.

CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE: 1/30/25

OBSERVATIONS

The Korwell Dirt permit was inspected on October 10, 2024, by Chris Girardi and Jared Ebert with the Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety (DRMS) in response to submittal of a Surety Reduction (SR-1) and an Acreage Reduction (AR-1). The site was last inspected on November 28, 2022. Craig Rasmuson represented Korwell Land Holdings, LLC (Operator) during the inspection. The weather was sunny and clear.

The Korwell Dirt permit is a 112c topsoil-removal operation with a permitted area of 162 acres and an affected area of approximately 50 acres. The site is located approximately 2 miles east of Gilcrest, CO. The land use surrounding the site is cropland and the approved post-mining land use is cropland.

There was no mine sign present. This has been cited as a problem. In accordance with Rule 3.1.12, at the entrance of the mine site a clearly visible sign must be posted that displays the Operator and operation name, a statement that a reclamation permit for the operation has been issued by the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board, and the permit number.

General Compliance With Mine Plan:

The mining plan consists of removing topsoil from the irrigated portion of the permit area. The mining operation is being conducted in four (4) phases for each quadrant of the irrigation field. Only the northeast and northwest quadrants have been affected.

According to the Operator, DCP Midstream Partners (DCP) is a prospective buyer for the northwest quadrant of the permit area. DCP intends to lease the area from the Operator in 2025 for oil and gas operations. A rectangular portion of land in the northeast and northwest quadrants, approximately 2.6 acres in size, was reseeded in August 2024 (see Photos 1-3). According to the Operator, the reseeded area has been irrigated once. Based on field observations, the reseeded and vegetated portion of the bond release area is not established enough for release from the permit area. The dominant vegetation established in the reclaimed area was annual weeds. Therefore, the Division was unable to release the 40.5 acres of land from the permit area as requested in AR-1. Given the new intended land use by DCP for the northwest quadrant, the Division directed the Operator to submit an amendment application to change the post-mine land use from cropland to industrial/commercial, as industrial/commercial post-mine land use would be better suited for oil and gas operations. The Operator submitted an amendment application (AM-1) on November 6, 2024.

In addition, the northwest quadrant contained a seeded topsoil stockpile (see Photo 4). A minor amount of ragweed (see Photo 5) was observed growing on the topsoil stockpile alongside the approved reclamation seed mix.

SR-1 and AR-1 were formally withdrawn on October 14, 2024. The amendment application (AM-1) has not been deemed complete at this time.

Photographs taken during the inspection are attached. If you need additional information or have any questions, please contact me at the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, 1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, CO 80203, by telephone at (720) 793-3041, or by email at chris.girardi@state.co.us.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1: Revegetated area in the northeast quadrant, facing south.



Photo 2: Revegetated area in the northeast quadrant, facing west.



Photo 3: Revegetated area in the northeast quadrant, facing southeast.



Photo 4: Topsoil stockpile in northwest quadrant, facing south.



Photo 5: Ragweed growing on topsoil stockpile in northwest quadrant.

GENERAL INSPECTION TOPICS

The following list identifies the environmental and permit parameters inspected and gives a categorical evaluation of each

| | | |
|--|--|---------------------------------|
| (AR) RECORDS----- <u>N</u> | (FN) FINANCIAL WARRANTY----- <u>N</u> | (RD) ROADS----- <u>N</u> |
| (HB) HYDROLOGIC BALANCE----- <u>N</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>Y</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>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

Inspection Contact Address

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Korwell Land Holdings, LLC
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