

STATE OF
COLORADO

Gagnon - DNR, Nikie <nikie.gagnon@state.co.us>

Tucson South Inspection Report with Problem Cited

1 message

Gagnon - DNR, Nikie <nikie.gagnon@state.co.us>

Wed, Jan 22, 2025 at 1:15 PM

To: Wyatt Webster <wyatt.webster@holcim.com>

Hi Wyatt.

Please see the attached inspection report for the sediment pond failure in December.

Let me know if you have any questions on the problem cited and the corrective action required.

Best regards,

Nikie Gagnon
Environmental Protection Specialist**COLORADO**
Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety
Department of Natural Resources

Cell: 720.527.1640

Physical: 1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, CO 80203

Address for FedEx, UPS, or hand delivery:

DRMS Room 215, 1001 E 62nd Ave, Denver, CO 80216

nikie.gagnon@state.co.us | <https://www.drms.colorado.gov>**INSP-REPORT_M2004044_Tucson South_Complaint_20241223.pdf**

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COLORADO

Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety


Department of Natural Resources

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: Tucson South Resource	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-2004-044	MINERAL: Sand and gravel	COUNTY: Adams
INSPECTION TYPE: Monitoring	WEATHER: Clear	INSP. DATE: December 26, 2024	INSP. TIME: 10:00
OPERATOR: Holcim - WCR, Inc.	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Tom Clay and Dustin Callier	TYPE OF OPERATION: 112c - Construction Regular Operation	

REASON FOR INSPECTION: Citizen Complaint	BOND CALCULATION TYPE: None	BOND AMOUNT: \$983,310.00
DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA	POST INSP. CONTACTS: None	JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None
INSPECTOR(S): Nikie Gagnon	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	SIGNATURE DATE: January 22, 2025

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: Hydrologic Balance/Sediment Control

PROBLEM: Holcim recently started dewatering the mining pit on the east side of the permit area. A sediment basin in the northeast corner of the permit area failed and water drained into the surrounding area. The failure was caused by prairie dogs burrowing into the sides of the basin when it was dry. Rule 3.1.6(1) states, "Disturbances to the prevailing hydrologic balance of the affected land and of the surrounding area and to the quantity or quality of water in surface and groundwater systems both during and after the mining operation and during reclamation shall be minimized." Additionally, per Rule 3.1.6(2) earth dams may be constructed if the formation of such impoundments will not damage adjoining property or conflict with water pollution laws.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: The following corrective actions shall be completed by the due date:

1. Provide evidence to the Division that the sediment basin has been repaired.
2. Submit a Technical Revision to the Division updating the mining plan to discuss how the sediment basin is constructed to stay compliance with Rule 3.1.6 and monitored during dewatering to avoid future impacts to the surrounding area and prevent sediment from reaching the South Platte River.

CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE: 2/22/25

OBSERVATIONS

On Monday, December 23, 2024, the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division) received a notice from the Colorado Division of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) indicating that Todd Creek Village Metro District reported a sediment pond failure at the Tucson South mine in Adams County. Nikie Gagnon, representing the Division, contacted Walt Wright with Holcim-WCR, Inc. (Operator). Mr. Wright investigated the situation and informed the Division they had begun dewatering the mining pit in the East Area and a sediment pond failed due to prairie dogs burrowing into the basin. According to the site manager, water did not reach the South Platte River. By the afternoon on the 23rd, the containment berm was rebuilt and is functioning and holding water. During this conversation, the Division scheduled a site inspection for Thursday, December 26, 2024, to follow up on the complaint and determine if additional corrective actions would be necessary.

The Tucson South Resource mine is permitted to affect 287.60 acres in two phases, the West and East Areas. The two phases are separated by Tucson Street, which runs north/south between the mining areas. The post-mining land use is developed water resources surrounded by pasture. The site is located approximately 1 mile west of the City of Brighton on E. 106th/CO Hwy 7.

Mining is nearing completion in the West Area. The Operator stated they initiated mining operations in the East Area in the fall of 2024 and dewatering started within the last month. During this inspection, the Division observed the mining pit on the west end of the East Area. Dewatering trenches are excavated in the pit to direct water to a sump area. A pump was observed in the sump area which connects to a pipeline that runs the length of the northern boundary of the mining area to two sediment basins in the northeast corner of the permit area, adjacent to the South Platte River. The Operator was not dewatering during this inspection.

The Division observed two sediment basins in the northeast corner of the permit area, adjacent to the South Platte River (Photos 1 and 2). The basins were less than half full. A berm on the east side of the north basin appeared to be recently repaired (Photo 4). A small excavator with a compactor attachment was observed in a containment area between the sediment basins and the river (Photo 5). The Division observed a few prairie dog burrows in the berms around the basin (Photos 10-11). According to the site manager, when they were notified of the leak, water was flowing out of a burrow on the east side and while they were getting the equipment ready to repair the berm, a section of the berm failed, and water flowed into a containment area adjacent to the basin (Photos 5-6). During the inspection, the Operator estimated approximately 15,000 gallons leaked from the north basin. The adjacent south basin did not fail. The operator stated that they plan to bring equipment over to rebuild the sediment basins before pumping more water from the mining pit.

During this inspection, the Division did not observe any standing water, however the soil was saturated on the east side of the sediment basin in an area estimated at 100 wide x 200 feet long (Photos 5-6). A thin layer of sediment settled out on top of the gravel in this area within the permit boundary. Additionally, it appeared that water drained to the north, down an existing drainage in the northeast corner of the permit area, and onto the adjoining property. Water flowed for approximately 300 feet in the drainage and fanned out in a wide low spot where it infiltrated into the ground. No evidence of water from the basin reaching the South Platte was observed during this inspection. Following the incident, the Operator submitted a 5-day report to CDPHE and provided a copy to the Division (enclosed).

This completes the inspection report. A subset of the photographs taken during the inspection are attached. Please contact Nikie Gagnon via phone at (720)527-1640 or email at nikie.gagnon@state.co.us if you have any questions regarding this report.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1: Looking at the north sediment basin in the northeast corner of the permit area. Area of berm failure marked by red star.



Photo 2: Looking at the south sediment basin. This basin did not fail.



Photo 3: Looking northeast at the saturated containment area outside the north sediment basin.



Photo 4: Looking at the repaired berm on the east side of the sediment basin.



Photo 5: Looking east at across the containment area below the sediment basin. A small excavator with compactor was observed here.



Photo 6: Looking north from the south end of the containment area. Berm surrounding the sediment basin is on the left.



Photo 7: Looking towards the South Platte River (red arrow) from the western edge of the sediment basin.



Photo 8: Looking north from the south end of the containment area at the bank of the South Platte River. No evidence of flooding or saturated soils here.



Photo 9: Looking towards the northeast corner of the permit area, along the bank of the South Platte River. No evidence of flooding or soil saturation here.



Photo 10: Looking at prairie dog burrow on the east side of the sediment basin.



Photo 11: Looking at prairie dog burrow on the west side of the sediment basin.



Photo 12: Looking at existing drainage that begins in the northeast corner of the permit area and flows to the adjacent property. Soil saturated here indicating water flowed through the drainage recently.



Photo 13: Looking north at extent of drainage/soil saturation on adjacent property



Photo 14: Looking east at northern extent of soil saturation on adjacent property.
Berms surround this low area.



Figure 1: Aerial image showing the northeast corner of the Tucson South permit area. Highlighted area depicts the area where the soil was saturated during the inspection. Star notes the approximate location of the berm failure.

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>PB</u>	(BG) BACKFILL & GRADING----- <u>N</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>Y</u>	(FW) FISH & WILDLIFE----- <u>N</u>	(RV) REVEGETATION---- <u>N</u>
(SM) SIGNS AND MARKERS----- <u>N</u>	(SP) STORM WATER MGT PLAN---- <u>N</u>	(RS) RECL PLAN/COMP-- <u>N</u>
(ES) OVERBURDEN/DEV. WASTE----- <u>N</u>	(SC) EROSION/SEDIMENTATION--- <u>Y</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

Wyatt Webster
Holcim - WCR, Inc.
1687 Cole Blvd., Suite 300
Golden, CO 80401

Enclosure: CDPHE 5-Day Incident Report

CC: Jared Ebert, Senior EPS, DRMS



Five day reporting form

Incident / spill / sanitary sewer overflow release

Use this form to report incidents impacting waters of the state

The Water Quality Control Division distinguishes between reporting requirements for incidents that occur at entities operating under a Colorado Discharge Permit System (CDPS) permit and those resulting from non-permitted activities.

Permitted activities - Reporting and management of non-compliance incidents that occur as a result of permitted activities should be performed in accordance with the notification requirements in your permit. You may use this form to submit the information requested in the permit.

Non-permitted activities - In the case of an incident where you do not have a CDPS permit, please use this form to submit a written summary of the event **within five working days** of the date of the event. If you have any questions, please contact the division's field services staff person assigned to your spill case or the Field Services Spill Administrator.

Please send the completed form or report with signature to the division's field services section at cdphe_wqcd_spills@state.co.us

1. Incident background information

Incident/spill number (division provided)	2024-1252	Date of event	12/23/2024	County	Adams
Type of incident / spill / SSO (check one)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Sanitary sewer overflow		<input type="checkbox"/> Potable water/reuse water/reclaimed water		<input type="checkbox"/> Permit Exceedance	
<input type="checkbox"/> Wastewater treatment plant bypass or upset (authorized outfall point)		<input type="checkbox"/> Petroleum product		<input type="checkbox"/> Oil or gas field production spill	
<input type="checkbox"/> Wastewater treatment plant spill or overflow (other than outfall)		<input type="checkbox"/> Chemical		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Sand & Gravel Groundwater	
Estimated volume released	~15,000 - 20,000 gallons				
Size and depth of area affected	~0.5 acre				
Contact information					
Potentially responsible party contact name		Wyatt Webster			
Potentially responsible party company/agency name		Holcim - WCR, Inc.			
CDPHE Permit number and facility name (if applicable)		COG502182			
Email address		Wyatt.webster@holcim.com		Phone	702-379-4623

2. Incident information: Please provide the following information.

A. Describe incident including source, cause, and location (e.g. address, latitude/longitude).

Around 12:27 pm on 12/23/2024, the settling basin berm blew out due to prairie dogs tunneling through the earthen berm. Location is adjacent to outfall 004 associated with the Tucson South Mine. Lat: 39.993592, Long: -104.828292

B. Material released, e.g. untreated wastewater, petroleum product, specific chemical or product. Please attach the OSHA Material Safety Data Sheets for any and all chemicals or products in spill or release.


15,000 - 20,000 gallons of sand and gravel pit groundwater dewatering.

C. Actual or estimated duration of the event and time spill was fully controlled/stopped. If release is still occurring, the date and time the release is expected to be stopped.

10-20 minutes around 12:27 pm.

D. Describe measures taken or planned to contain, reduce, and clean up spill or release.

Shut the pump off and rebuilt berm.

E. Describe steps taken or planned to prevent reoccurrence. Rebuilt the settling basin berm.			
3. Incident impact to state waters (As defined in § 25-8-103(19), C.R.S.). Examples of state waters include: stormwater conveyances (when they discharge to surface water), perennial streams, intermittent or ephemeral gulches, ditches, ponds, lakes, reservoirs, irrigation canals, wetlands and groundwater.			
A. Did flow or materials reach surface water of the state? If so, identify the water body or bodies and describe the path of flow. What quantity of material reached the surface waters and what was the resulting impact?			
No. All water and sediment remained onsite.			
B. Did flow or materials reach groundwater of the state? If so, identify the water body or bodies and describe the path of flow. If yes, what quantity of material reached the ground or groundwater and what was the resulting impact?			
No. All water and sediment remained onsite.			
C. Did the incident include any of the following? If so, please include additional details below.			
<input type="checkbox"/> Chemical release	<input type="checkbox"/> Fish kill	<input type="checkbox"/> Sheen on water	
No.			
D. Were any water quality samples or other samples taken? If so, please describe sampling process, sampling location(s) in relationship to the incident, i.e. up/down stream and attach results.			
No.			
4. Incident impact to areas or water users			
A. Describe the potential impact of the incident/spill/SSO to public use areas or downstream water users. This includes parks and swim beaches or public water system sources and irrigation diversions.			
None.			
B. Were the impacted area users and downstream water users notified and describe the method of notification, e.g. signs posted, via phone.			
No.			
C. List any downstream users who were notified.			
No.			
"I certify under penalty of law that I have personally examined and am familiar with the information submitted in this document and all attachments and that, based on my inquiry of those individuals immediately responsible for obtaining the information, I believe that the information is true, accurate and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine or imprisonment."			
Signature	Name and title	Company, organization	Date
	Env. & Land Manager	Holcim - WCR, Inc.	1/2/2025