




**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.

<b>MINE NAME:</b> Pikeview Quarry	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> M-1977-211	<b>MINERAL:</b> Limestone (general), granite gneiss and do	<b>COUNTY:</b> El Paso
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Monitoring	<b>WEATHER:</b> Clear	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> January 24, 2025	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 10:00
<b>OPERATOR:</b> Riverbend Industries Inc.	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b> Jerry Schnabel	<b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b> 112c - Construction Regular Operation	
<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b> Normal I&E Program	<b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b> None	<b>BOND AMOUNT:</b> \$6,805,607.00	
<b>DATE OF COMPLAINT:</b> NA	<b>POST INSP. CONTACTS:</b> None	<b>JOINT INSP. AGENCY:</b> None	
<b>INSPECTOR(S):</b> Hunter Ridley Ursula Armstrong	<b>INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:</b> 	<b>SIGNATURE DATE:</b> January 31, 2025	

**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>Y</u>	(RD) ROADS----- <u>Y</u>
(HB) HYDROLOGIC BALANCE----- <u>Y</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>N</u>	(FW) FISH & WILDLIFE----- <u>Y</u>	(RV) REVEGETATION---- <u>N</u>
(SM) SIGNS AND MARKERS----- <u>Y</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>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

## **OBSERVATIONS**

This inspection was conducted by Hunter Ridley and Ursula Armstrong with the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division) as part of the continuing monthly inspections to observe final grading and revegetation efforts. Jerry Schnabel (representing the Permittee, Riverbend Industries Inc.) and Stantec representative Paul Kos were present for the inspection. U.S. Forest Service (USFS) representatives Cullen Lapointe and Julie Spawn and City of Colorado Springs representative David Deitemeyer were also present at the inspection. Earthwork on the South Borrow bench has been completed. Therefore, the Division will now move to quarterly inspections at the site as vegetation is monitored.

On October 10, 2024 the Division received a submission for Surety Reduction 4 (SR-4). This reduction request is for tasks related to earthwork, topsoil placement, and rip rap placement. The Division approved the Surety Reduction (SR-4) on December 17, 2024. No comments or objections were received. Thus, the required bond amount became final after the close of the 30-day appeal period.

The mine sign, which included all required information pursuant to Rule 3.1.12, was located at the site's access road.

**Records:** The placement of backfill material and subsequent compaction testing has ceased at Pikeview Quarry. In total, compaction testing occurred on backfill material from March of 2022 to July of 2024. A reduction in frequency of geotechnical report submission was approved by the Division in TR-25. This reduces reporting frequency from monthly to quarterly. The next report will be due in February 2025 and include observation data from October 2024 to December 2024.

Leica prism system data continues to be collected onsite and monitored by Riverbend Industries. Inspection attendees discussed how data would be accessed remotely in the coming months as personnel leave the site and wait further vegetation establishment in final reclamation. Trends continue to show that the slope is seeing only very minor movements, which are expected and is overall showing signs that the buttress has achieved long term stability. All settlement related to construction is effectively over, although the slope may see more minor signs of movement in the spring as snowmelt and rainfall influence the slope. Review of prism data will ultimately aid the Division in its decision to approve or deny the eventual final release of the Pikeview Quarry permit.

**Backfilling and Grading:** All major earthwork is complete at the site. However, the Division has retained a portion of the bond which addresses earthwork to serve as liability in case of any minor slumps or erosional work that may be needed throughout final reclamation. No such erosional features or slumps were visible at the time of inspection.

The final two tie in areas, at the Dragon's Back and lower bench area, have received final rip rap placement (Photos 3 & 4). The south borrow area is no longer being used to source rip rap material. In this area, the size of the bench has been reduced by backfilling with topsoil material, leaving a stable, talus slope above (Photo 2). The bench and topsoiled slope have been seeded with hydro mulch. A large rock outcrop remains in this benched area of Forest Service property to enhance the natural look of the slope face, similar to how the large rock and Kiewit Cliffs have been left on the buttress slope.

**Roads:** The site continues its work in obliterating all roads on Forest Service property, as requested by the Forest Service (Photo 1). The Forest Service has altered the heavily pocketed design of the road obliteration slightly, opting for fewer depressions in the landscape while maintaining 'pockets' here and there. This design both discourages the use of this slope as a navigable path, and creates small areas for water to collect, creating microclimates and more diverse vegetation establishment over time. Topsoil from nearby is currently being used to facilitate this road obliteration. Each portion of the road is approved by the Forest Service as Pikeview works on obliteration down the slope.

On City property, the City has opted to keep previous roadways flat, but these will be seeded to blend in with the surrounding landscape.

**Fish and Wildlife:** No negative impact on wildlife was observed. Several Bighorn were spotted on the upper levels of the buttress. Site personnel stated that there are about 16 lambs in this herd, and all appear to be healthy. Colorado Parks &

Wildlife has been active on site, tracking the heard and occasionally tagging several rams for research and management. A small camera has been set up on the lower slopes of the buttress in support (Photo 3).

**Revegetation & Topsoil:** No areas remain on site that need topsoiling or seeding aside from the areas still undergoing road obliteration. These areas will be filled in with topsoil and hydro mulched. The three peak areas, which were also hydro mulched in early 2024 are showing good signs of growth, adding to the confidence that hydro mulching in other areas will do well for vegetation establishment. Dependent on the success of vegetation growth in the spring, excess matting material may be used to supplement an area to the north, on City property, which is not seeing successful vegetation establishment.

Vegetation growth has effectively ended for the season, as trees, shrubs, and grasses enter their dormant winter period. Some erosion rills are present on these un-matted slopes, but these are not large enough to cause concern for the Division. Irrigation tanks are located on the lower buttress bench but will be removed in final reclamation. Watering of the slopes has not occurred since early 2024. No additional irrigation tanks are planned to be added anywhere onsite.

**Hydrologic Balance & Sediment Control:** The large culvert area at the eastern end of the site was noted to be diverting water successfully under the buttress as designed. Water is flowing consistently towards the eastern edge of the permit and into the adjacent open space, following natural waterways. Lay back of the western slope in this culvert area has been completed, reducing the slope grade to an ~ 2:1 – 3:1 slope (Photos 6 and 7). The Division, the site, and the City discussed plans for the installation of safety signs near the large stan pipes (Photo 5) in this area to discourage public access after the permit is released.

Coconut matting onsite continues to hold up to stormwater and general erosion. Further natural testing of the drainage channel design will occur when the spring brings heavier rain and snow melt events.

The guzzler system for the 'sheep pond' area has not yet been installed on the upper slope area.

**Post Inspection Meeting:** No problems or possible violations were observed during the inspection. Items of importance discussed during the site meeting and items which will need to be followed up on are summarized below:

- Address any concerns with the drainage channels, especially the Upper South Channel, into the Spring 2025 season
- Continue to monitor and address invasive species and weed removal across the site during the appropriate seasons

Photographs taken during the inspection have been included below. Responses to this inspection report should be directed to: Hunter Ridley at the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, 1313 Sherman St., Room 215, Denver, CO 80203. Direct contact can be made by phone at 720-868-7757 or via email at [hunter.ridley@state.co.us](mailto:hunter.ridley@state.co.us)



**PHOTOGRAPHS**



**Photo 1: Road obliteration continues on the southern, USFS area of the property.**



**Photo 2: View northwest of the graded and seeded bench in the South Borrow / South Quarry area. A talus slope remains**



**above the back sloped topsoil to the south.**



**Photo 3: The tie in area just above the Leica prism level bench. A camera has been set up by CPW for use in tracking and tagging Bighorns.**



**Photo 4: The tie in area at the lower bench and North Channel.**





**Photo 5: View of the office area and drainage area for the buttress underdrains.**



**Photo 6: The culvert area below the buttress has been extended and graded to a 2:1 / 3:1 slope.**





**Photo 7: View of the south borrow area and laid back eastern culvert area below the buttress.**

**Inspection Contact Address**

Jerry Schnabel  
Riverbend Industries Inc.  
425 South Financial Place , Suite 3100  
Chicago, IL 60605