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: Yocam Pit	**MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:** M-1999-060	**MINERAL:** Gravel	**COUNTY:** Las Animas
INSPECTION TYPE: Monitoring	**WEATHER:** Windy	**INSP. DATE:** February 12, 2025	**INSP. TIME:** 10:00
OPERATOR: Las Animas County	**OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:** Brian Heguy	**TYPE OF OPERATION:** 112c - Construction Regular Operation	

REASON FOR INSPECTION: Normal I&E Program	**BOND CALCULATION TYPE:** None	**BOND AMOUNT:** $0.00
DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA	**POST INSP. CONTACTS:** None	**JOINT INSP. AGENCY:** None
INSPECTOR(S): Amber M. Gibson	**INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:** 	**SIGNATURE DATE:** February 21, 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: 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, at the entrance of the mine site, post a sign which shall be clearly visible from the access road 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. The Operator shall submit photo documentation that a proper sign has been posted by the corrective action date.

CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE: 4/11/25

OBSERVATIONS

The Yocam Pit was inspected by Amber Gibson with the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division/DRMS). The inspection was completed as part of the Division's routine monitoring inspection program. The site was previously inspected by the Division on March 19, 2019 as a routine monitoring inspection. Brian Heguy (representing the Operator Las Animas County: Road and Bridge Department) accompanied me during the inspection. The weather was windy, cold, and the sky was cloudy. The ground had a few inches of snow cover.

The Yocam Pit is located approximately 16.4 miles north, and 11.8 miles east/northeast of Kim, CO. The entrance to the site is located off the south side of County Road 70. This site is permitted under a 112c Regular Operation Construction Materials permit and is permitted for 67.30 acres, where all 67.30 are approved to be affected, and no more than 50 acres are to be disturbed at any one time. The commodity mined at this site is gravel and the approved post-mining land use is rangeland.

Availability of Records:
The annual report, map, and fee are paid and current through 6/15/2025.

The Division found that the recent annual report maps were inadequate. The topsoil locations depicted on the 2018-2023 inspection report maps appear to be inaccurate when compared with aerial imagery and field observations (see the topsoil section below). **Please update the topsoil locations on the 2025 annual report submittal for the 2024 annual reporting period.**

1. For the 2025 submittal of the annual report map please refer to the Annual Report Form. The Annual Report Form states that as required by the Colorado Land Reclamation Act for the Extraction of Construction Materials (C.R.S. 34-32.5-116), the Permittee shall attach a map to the report that accurately depicts:

   i. the permit boundary,
   ii. the current affected area boundary and;
   iii. the location of the acreages specified in Items no. 8-12 and 15.

   Items 8-12 and 15 on the Annual Report Form are listed below.
   #8. Number of acres currently affected (mining + incomplete and or unreleased reclamation).
   #9. Number of acres that were newly affected during the current report year.
   #10. Number of acres that were reclaimed during the current report year.
   #11. Estimated new acreage to be affected in the next report year.
   #12. Estimated acres to be reclaimed in the next report year.
   #15. Is adequate topsoil reserved for reclamation, based on your approved permit?

2. Please also include the following features:
   - A google earth background image
   - A north arrow and scale
   - A legend indicating the polygons and/or lines for the features identified in items 8-12 and 15 on the form OR include clear labels for each feature.

Backfilling, Grading, and Reclamation Success:
As mentioned in the Division's 2019 inspection report, the disturbed area along the northwest side of the site appears to have been partially reclaimed. The area appears to have at least been backfilled, graded, and may have been seeded (Photo 1). No recent reclamation has been conducted at this site.

Financial Warranty:
The Yocam Pit is permitted and operated by Las Animas County. The Division does not hold a financial warranty for County operations.

Hydrologic Balance and Sediment Control:
The active mining areas are surrounded by earthen barriers and berms that help prevent stormwater runoff from leaving the site. No signs of sediment leaving the site were observed during the inspection.

General Compliance with the Mine Plan:
The annual recent annual reports indicate that there is 11.3 acres of disturbance at the site, including mining, and incomplete and/or unreleased reclamation. Mining had originally begun along the northwest side of the site and moved south along the western border. The permit was converted from a 110c to a 112c operation in 2015. Since that time, mining has expanded from the southern border of the previous disturbance (partially reclaimed area mentioned in the Backfilling, Grading, and Reclamation Success section above), and has extended eastward toward the center of the permit.

The active mining area at this site consists of a relatively shallow pit with 1.5-2H:1V side slopes (Photos 1-8 show different areas around and within the active mining area). The height of the pit walls appeared to be around 10 feet or less. The Operator stated that the last time the material has been either crushed onsite or hauled offsite was between six to seven years ago. This site was granted intermittent operation status in 2013, and thus this activity is in compliance with the permit.

Signs and Markers:
T-posts for a mine sign were observed at the entrance to the site, but the sign was missing. The Operator stated that it is currently being repaired and will be posted shortly. The absence of the sign is being cited as a problem above per Rule 3.1.12(1). Once the sign is fixed and is re-posted, the Operator shall send the Division photo evidence of the sign by the corrective action date.

Permit boundary markers were observed around the site and appear to match the coordinates provided in the conversion application (CN1). While near the western boundary, the Operator and inspector observed markers located west of the permit boundary that appeared similar to the markers that delineate the permit boundary. The Operator and the inspector discussed the possible benefit of adding a couple line-of-site additional markers along the west boundary, as there are no markers between the west marker (W on Map 1) and the south (S on Map 1) markers. The disturbance abuts the west boundary, but appears to be within the permit boundary at this time.

Topsoil:
The topsoil pile locations have been depicted as being in both in a crescent shape around the east side of the active pit area, and in a circular pile located to the northwest of the northwest corner of the active pit area (see Figure 1). However, during the inspection, the Operator and the inspector believe that the material on the south side of the active pit is topsoil (Photo 8). Upon looking at aerial images, it also appears that there may be some topsoil placed on the north side of the active pit (Figure 1). The Operator shall update the topsoil pile locations on the 2025 annual report map submission for the 2024 annual reporting period.

Conclusion:
This concludes the Division's Inspection Report; a map and a figure displaying topics discussed in the report, and a subset of corresponding photographs that were taken during the time of the inspection, are included below. If you need additional information or have any questions, please contact me by email at amber.gibson@state.co.us or by telephone at (720) 836-0967.

Inspection Contact Address
Brian Heguy
Las Animas County
2000 N. Linden Ave.
Trinidad, CO 81082

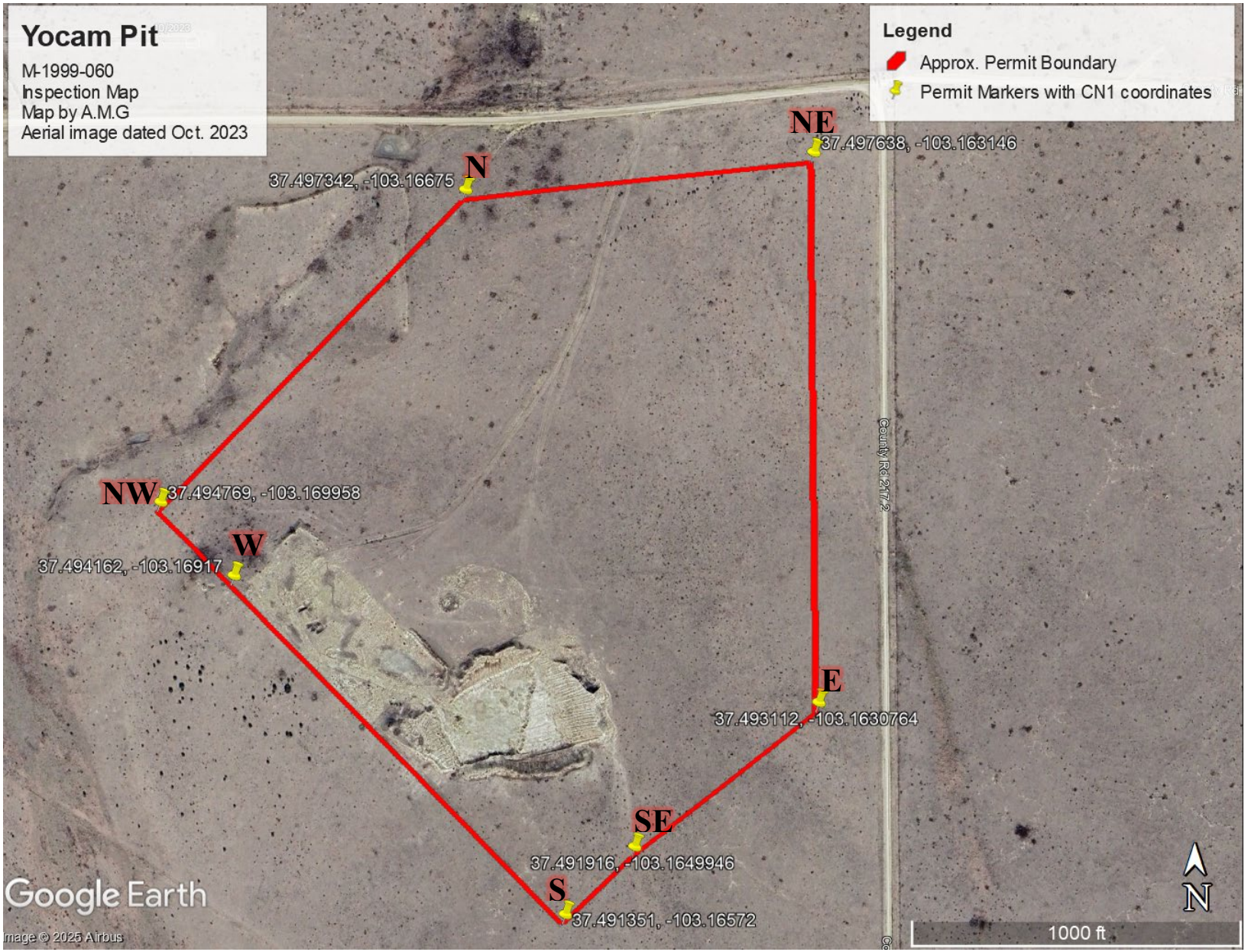
CC: Jared Ebert, DRMS

GENERAL INSPECTION TOPICS

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

(AR) RECORDS---------- Y	**(FN) FINANCIAL WARRANTY-------- Y**	**(RD) ROADS---------- N**
(HB) HYDROLOGIC BALANCE---------- Y	**(BG) BACKFILL & GRADING---------- Y**	**(EX) EXPLOSIVES--------- N**
(PW) PROCESSING WASTE/TAILING---- N	**(SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES------- N**	**(TS) TOPSOIL---------- Y**
(MP) GENL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE- Y	**(FW) FISH & WILDLIFE---------- N**	**(RV) REVEGETATION---- N**
(SM) SIGNS AND MARKERS---------- PB	**(SP) STORM WATER MGT PLAN---- N**	**(RS) RECL PLAN/COMP-- Y**
(ES) OVERBURDEN/DEV. WASTE--------- N	**(SC) EROSION/SEDIMENTATION--- Y**	**(ST) STIPULATIONS------- N**
(AT) ACID OR TOXIC MATERIALS------- N	**(OD) OFF-SITE DAMAGE----------N**	

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



Map 1: Inspection Map generated in Google Earth Pro for the 2025 Inspection Report.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Dots in aerial photo indicate approximate photo capture location, the corresponding arrows indicate the direction the photo is facing.

Photo 1: Looking at the north slopes in the partially reclaimed, previously 110c area.

Photo 2: Looking along the backside of the eastern disturbance.

Photo 3: Looking east at the portion of the material along the eastside of the active area, removed between 2016 and 2020 (see Figure 1).

Photo 4: Looking along what may be a topsoil stockpile on the north side of the active pit area.

Photo 5: Looking into the pit from where the partially reclaimed 110c area intersects with the active mining area.

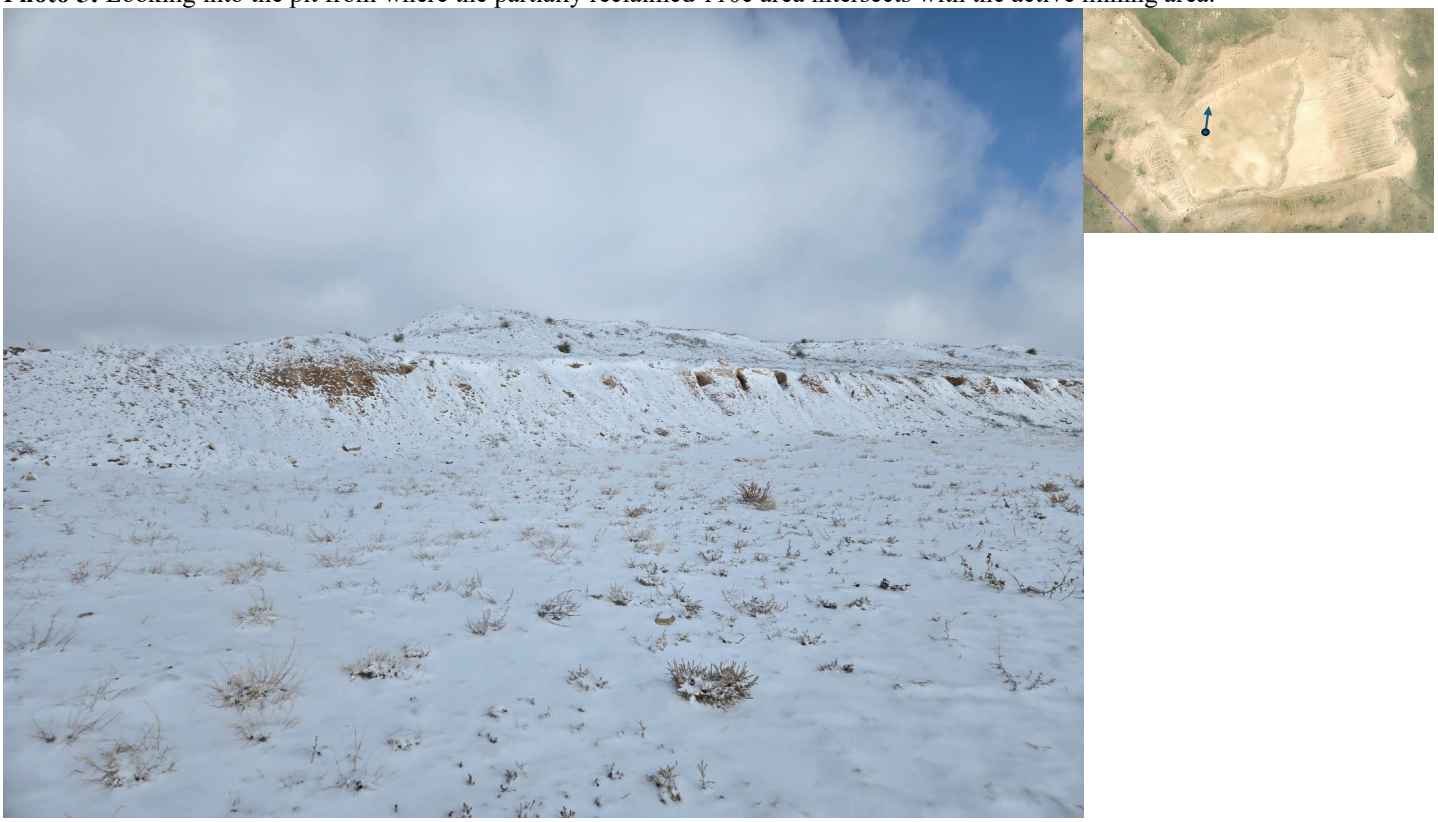


Photo 6: Looking at the north side slopes within the pit.


Photo 7: Looking east at the eastern pit slopes, and the material pushed and piled above and back from the pit walls.


Photo 8: Looking west along what appears to be topsoil on the south side of the pit.

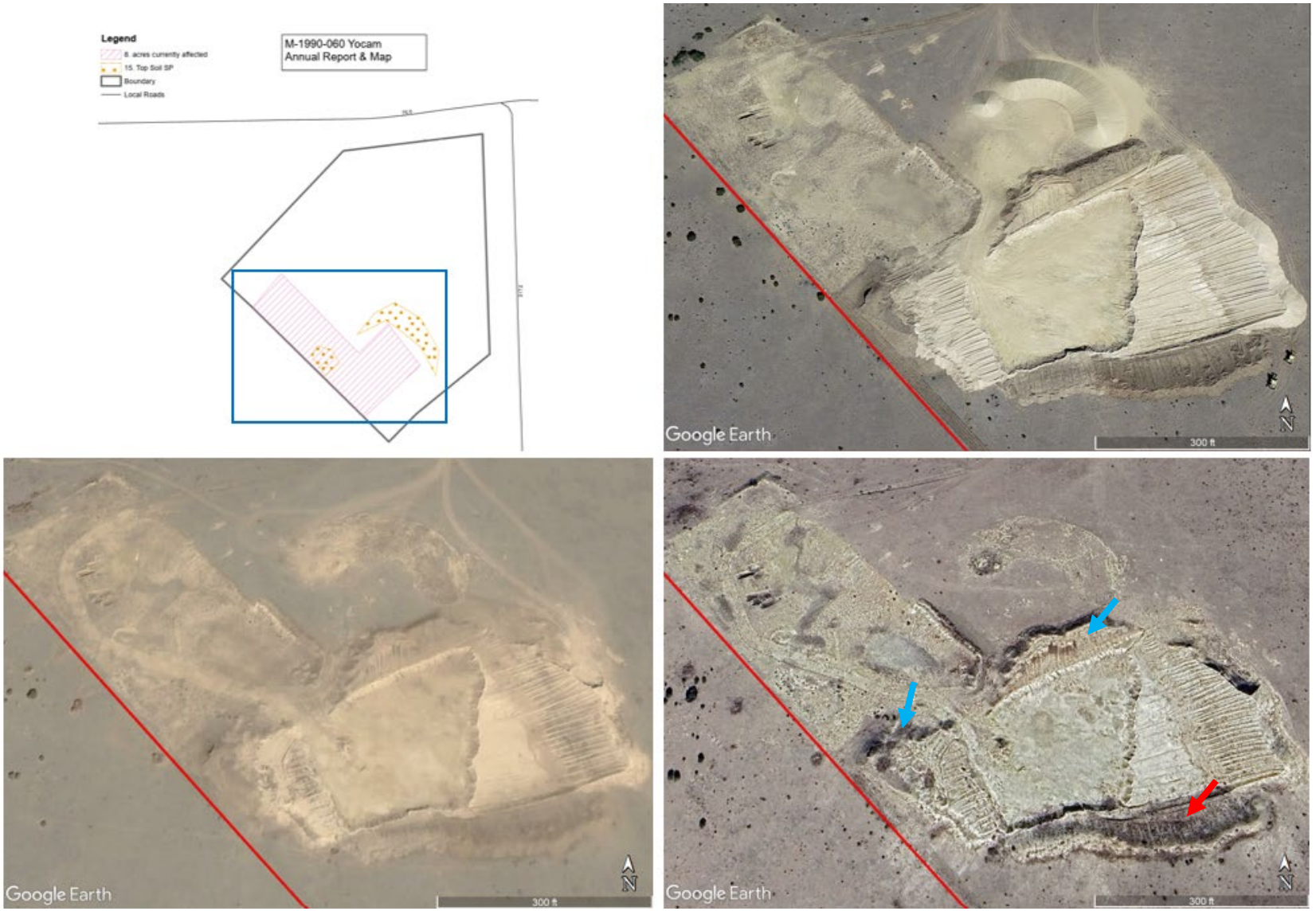


Figure 1: Figure highlighting discrepancies between the annual map submissions and field observations. (Top Left): Photo from the Operator's annual report map, submitted for the 2023 annual reporting period. The blue box indicates the approximate location focused on in the rest of the images. (Top Right): Aerial image dated March 2016. Product material appears to be placed to the north of the pit, and along the east side. (Bottom Left): Image taken March 2020. Some of the material on the east side, and all the material in the north has been removed. (Bottom Right): Image taken October 2023. Material onsite appears unchanged since the 2020 image was taken. The red arrow indicates where the Inspector and the Operator believed the topsoil to be in the field. The blue arrows indicate where, after reviewing aerial imagery, the inspector believes additional topsoil may be.