




**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> Cooley Reservoir & Fulton Wildlife Area	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> M-1999-034	<b>MINERAL:</b> Sand and gravel	<b>COUNTY:</b> Adams
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Surety Release Inspection	<b>WEATHER:</b> Clear	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> March 28, 2025	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 10:30
<b>OPERATOR:</b> Holcim - WCR, Inc.	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b> Wyatt Webster, Holcim, and Jason Helms, City of Thornton	<b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b> 112c - Construction Regular Operation	
<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b> Surety Release Requested	<b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b> None	<b>BOND AMOUNT:</b> \$1,510,800.00	
<b>DATE OF COMPLAINT:</b> NA	<b>POST INSP. CONTACTS:</b> None	<b>JOINT INSP. AGENCY:</b> None	
<b>INSPECTOR(S):</b> Nikie Gagnon	<b>INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:</b> 	<b>SIGNATURE DATE:</b> April 11, 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>N</u>	(RD) ROADS----- <u>N</u>
(HB) HYDROLOGIC BALANCE----- <u>N</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>N</u>	(FW) FISH & WILDLIFE----- <u>N</u>	(RV) REVEGETATION---- <u>Y</u>
(SM) SIGNS AND MARKERS----- <u>N</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 completed as part of acreage release request (AR4), submitted in accordance with Rule 4.17, received by the Division on February 24, 2025. Nikie Gagnon with the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division/DRMS) conducted the inspection. Wyatt Webster, representing Holcim-WCR Inc. (Operator) along with Jason Helms, representing the City of Thornton (City), accompanied the Division during the inspection.

The Cooley Site is a 112c operation permitted for 399.17 acres. Mining is complete and the site has been in reclamation for several years. The City of Thornton recently completed the installation of flood control measures (spillways and streambank protections) to protect the reservoirs from erosion. The permit area is divided by the South Platte River. On the west side of the river, mining created three slurry walled water storage reservoirs, the South Cell, Middle Cell and North Cell. The City of Thornton operates the reservoirs. On the east side, the permitted area includes two wetland areas and the Jeronimus Lake area. The approved post mining land use is developed water resources, open space, wetlands, and wildlife habitat. The Operator is requesting a release of the three reservoirs (271.15 acres) on the west side of the permit area.

This site was last inspected in September 2024 for a release request (AR3). At that time, the Division denied the release of the reservoirs because the shoreline of the South Cell and the Middle Cell required armoring to protect the reservoir slopes from erosion and flooding of the South Platte River. In February 2025, the City of Thornton informed the Division that they installed 2400 feet of rip rap along the east side of the South Cell and 1200 feet of rip rap along the east side of the Middle cell. The Division conducted this inspection to observe the erosion control features installed on the reservoir slopes and noted rip rap placed along the eastern perimeter of the South and Middle Cells. At the time of inspection, the majority of the South Cell is now armored, and the southern and western slopes of the Middle Cell are armored. The City also improved the spillway on the Middle Cell. Additionally, the City stated they are conducting weed control via mechanical methods and will continue to observe and mitigate as necessary. Reseeding patchy areas along the access roads and shorelines will occur this spring. As noted in the previous inspection report, the shoreline above the water line around all three reservoirs is vegetated and capable of self-regeneration.

During the inspection, the Division observed a conveyor crossing the South Platte River from the east side of the permit area to the northeast corner of the Middle Cell, adjacent to the spillway. This conveyor will need to be removed prior to seeking a release of the east side of the permit area. After the inspection, the operator submitted new maps and revised the release area to leave the conveyor corridor in the remaining permit area. The acres for this release have been adjusted to 271.15 rather than the original request for 276.15 acres.

Based on the observations during this inspection, the Division will approve the request for a release of the 271.15 acres on the west side of the permit area. A notice of the decision will be sent under separate cover.

A subset of photographs taken during the inspection are included below. Please contact Nikie Gagnon (303)866-3537 ext. 8126 or email at [nikie.gagnon@state.co.us](mailto:nikie.gagnon@state.co.us) if you have any questions regarding this report.

## **PHOTOGRAPHS**



Photo 1: Looking from the northeast corner of the South Cell, rip rap placed above the water line on the eastern and northern slopes.



Photo 2: Looking from the southeast corner of the Middle Cell, rip rap placed above the water line on the southern and eastern slopes.





Photo 3: Looking across the repaired spillway on the western side of the Middle Cell.



Photo 4: Looking at the slopes and vegetation on the northern side of the South Cell.





Photo 5: Looking at the slopes and vegetation on the southern side of the Middle Cell.



Photo 6: Looking at vegetation and sloping across the Middle Cell from the west end.





Photo 7: Looking at vegetation and sloping on the west end of the North Cell.



Photo 8: Looking at vegetation and sloping along the southern bank of the North Cell.





Photo 9: Standing in the spillway on the western side of the Middle Cell looking at the conveyor structure still in place across the South Platte River. The operator will need to remove this to release the east side of the permit area.

**Inspection Contact Address**

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