



## 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.

<b>MINE NAME:</b> Cottonwood Pit	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> M-1988-042	<b>MINERAL:</b> Sand and gravel	<b>COUNTY:</b> Weld
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Monitoring	<b>WEATHER:</b> Clear	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> June 10, 2025	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 11:15
<b>OPERATOR:</b> Martin Marietta Materials, Inc.	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b> Julie Mikulas	<b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b> 112c - Construction Regular Operation	
<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b> Normal I&E Program	<b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b> Complete Bond	<b>BOND AMOUNT:</b> \$421,700.00	
<b>DATE OF COMPLAINT:</b> NA	<b>POST INSP. CONTACTS:</b> None	<b>JOINT INSP. AGENCY:</b> None	
<b>INSPECTOR(S):</b> Patrick Lennberg	<b>INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:</b> 	<b>SIGNATURE DATE:</b> June 18, 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: Revegetation

**PROBLEM:** There are state-listed noxious weeds present on site. This is a problem for failure to employ weed control methods for state listed noxious weed species within the permitted area, and to reduce the spread of weeds to nearby areas as required by Section 3.1.10 (6) of the rule.

**CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:** Implement approved weed control plan and provide proof to the Division that this has been done by the corrective action date.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE:** 8/18/25

## **OBSERVATIONS**

The Cottonwood Pit (site) permit no. M-1988-042 was inspected by Patrick Lennberg with the Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety (Division/DRMS). The inspection was completed as part of the Division's routine monitoring program. The site was last inspected by the Division on June 26, 2020, as part of the routine monitoring program. Julie Mikulas representing the Operator, Martin Marietta Materials, Inc, accompanied me during the inspection. The weather was clear and mild.

The site is 112c Construction Materials permit for 393.35 acres. The permit area is in Weld County, approximately 2 miles southwest of Del Camino. The site is accessed to the south of Weld County Road (WCR) 20.5 about 0.5 miles west of the intersection of WCR 20.5 and Co Rd 7. The post-mining land use for this site is agriculture with open water ponds. The permit area and affected lands are owned by the Operator. A mine sign was posted along the primary mine entrance as required by Rule 3.1.12.

The site is divided into five (5) mining areas; CW1, CW2, CW3, CW4 and CW5. Reclaimed silt ponds for the operation are in the southwest corner of the site. Mining areas CW1 - CW4, as identified in the 2025 Annual Report, have been reclaimed or are in final reclamation. The northwest corner of the site (CW5) has been mined out except for a 2.5-acre area (Area #4 on the 2025 Annual Report Map), the remainder of the area is being backfilled or in reclamation. The processing plant and conveyors have been removed from the site. The Operator stated the office and scale buildings would be moved to allow for mining the area.

The Operator is still determining what the final configuration of the CW5 area will be. The final configuration depends on how many water shares the Operator wants consumed by the site at permit release. The Operator has an agreement with the Water Users Association of District No. 6 regarding the exposed groundwater at the site. The agreement allows for the creation of 6 lakes with a total of 420 acres of exposed groundwater. Additionally, the Operator may consider installing slurry walls around the current lakes to eliminate groundwater exposure at the site. If the slurry wall option is chosen the Operator will have to submit an amendment application pursuant to Rule 1.10 to revise the post-mining land use from general agriculture to developed water resource prior to installing slurry walls at the site.

During the inspection the Division was not able to observe CW1, 2, 3 or the silt ponds. Weather conditions in the days leading up to the inspection consisted of locally heavy rainfall and the chances of getting stuck travelling to these areas for observation was determined to be too significant. The Division did observe most portions of CW5. There was an oil and gas well that has been plugged and abandoned and the structures have also been removed. The pond area side slopes have been graded 3H:1V except where backfilling is occurring. In this area the slope is more 1H:1V and extends approximately 730 feet and is about 10 feet in height.

During the inspection the Division noted many Russian Olive trees and Tamarisk (salt cedar) trees throughout the permit area. These are Colorado List B noxious weed species. The Division is citing this as a problem for failure to implement the currently approved Weed Control and Management Plan.

The Division evaluated the financial warranty and determined the current bond amount held by the Division is sufficient at this time.

Photographs taken during the inspection are attached.

Please contact Patrick Lennberg by email at [patrick.lennberg@state.co.us](mailto:patrick.lennberg@state.co.us) if you have any questions regarding this report.

**Inspection Contact Address**

Julie Mikulas  
Martin Marietta Materials, Inc.  
1800 N. Taft Hill Road  
Fort Collins, CO 80521

cc: Jared Ebert, DRMS

ec: Julie Mikulas, Martin Marietta, [Julie.Mikulas@martinmarietta.com](mailto:Julie.Mikulas@martinmarietta.com)

## PHOTOGRAPHS



**Photo 1:** Mine sign at primary mine entrance



**Photo 2:** Portable scale and house



**Photo 3:** Established Russian Olive Trees adjacent to the scales



**Photo 4:** Looking from the CW5 backfill area across the pond to the southwest, note Russian and Salt Cedar trees



**Photo 5:** Typical bindweed infestation onsite



**Photo 6:** Typical Salt Cedar infestation onsite



**Photo 7:** The advancing backfilling face of CW5



**Photo 8:** Reclaimed CW4 area



**Photo 9:** Looking west across the CW5 area



**Photo 10:** Irrigation ditch crossing through the site

### 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>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>N</u>
(MP) GENL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE- <u>Y</u>	(FW) FISH & WILDLIFE----- <u>N</u>	<b>(RV) REVEGETATION---- <u>PB</u></b>
(SM) SIGNS AND MARKERS----- <u>Y</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>N</u>	(ST) STIPULATIONS----- <u>Y</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