



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: Rother Pit No. 1	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-1999-083	MINERAL: Gravel	COUNTY: Cheyenne
INSPECTION TYPE: Surety Release Inspection	WEATHER: Cloudy	INSP. DATE: June 25, 2025	INSP. TIME: 09:00
OPERATOR: Cheyenne County	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Travis Watson	TYPE OF OPERATION: 110c - Construction Limited Impact	

REASON FOR INSPECTION: Surety Release Requested	BOND CALCULATION TYPE:	BOND AMOUNT: \$0.00
DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA	POST INSP. CONTACTS: None	JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None
INSPECTOR(S): Joel Renfro	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	SIGNATURE DATE: July 28, 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: Right of Entry

PROBLEM/POSSIBLE VIOLATION: Problem: Failure to maintain legal right of entry per Rule 6.3.7.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: The permittee/operator must provide proof of legal right to enter and conduct mining and reclamation operations.

CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE: 8/27/25

OBSERVATIONS

The Rother Pit No. 1 Site was inspected by Joel Renfro with the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division/DRMS) on June 25, 2025, in response to a full/final release request (SL-1) filed on May 5, 2025. Travis Watson with Cheyenne County was present during the inspection. **Photos 1-7** taken during the inspection are included with this report.

This is a 110c operation permitted for 9.9 acres to extract gravel used in County Road maintenance. The approved post-mine land use for this site is rangeland. This site is located approximately 14 miles north and 6 miles east of Kit Carson, CO in Cheyenne County. This site can be accessed from the west of Co Rd 28.

On site, it was explained that the previous landowner sold the land that the Rother Pit No. 1 is on, and the County has not been able to obtain legal right of entry from the new landowner. Due to Cheyenne County not maintaining the legal right of entry, this site has remained largely untouched for at least a year. Very little reclamation work has been completed. Most of the site still needs to be graded and seeded. While some volunteer vegetation has established within the site, the slopes remain relatively bare, and the vegetation on the pit floor is sparse. The vegetation that has established appears to be a mix of perennial grasses and annual forbs. Very few noxious weeds were observed during the inspection, mostly scotch thistles near the edge of the permit boundary.

The earth work that still needs to be completed includes grading the mined slope to 3H:1V and removing or spreading out some material stockpiles on the pit floor. There were some concrete barricades on the pit floor that would need to be removed as well.

The failure to maintain legal right of entry is resulting in a problem citation in this report, in accordance with Rule 6.3.7. The permittee/operator must provide proof of legal right to enter and conduct mining and reclamation operations. If legal right of entry is not obtained by the corrective action due date, this matter may escalate to a hearing with the Mined Land Reclamation Board (MLRB) so a resolution for the matter may be achieved.

The lack of completed reclamation, particularly regarding grading and seeding, means the site does not meet the requirements for release. Although not a problem citation in this report, the revegetation issues observed, where the site has not yet established a diverse, effective, and long-lasting vegetative cover capable of self-regeneration as required by Rule 3.1.10(1), are a primary reason for the denial of the full/final release request.

This concludes the report.

Any questions or comments regarding this inspection report should be forwarded to Joel Renfro at the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety, 1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, CO 80203, via telephone at (720) 812-2002, or email at joel.renfro@state.co.us.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1. Mine Entrance sign, looking west.



Photo 2. The northeast corner of the permit area looking in, looking southwest.



Photo 3. The pit floor, looking northeast.



Photo 4. The southwest corner of the permit area, looking northeast.



Photo 5. The northwest corner of the permit area, looking east.



Photo 6. The pit floor, looking south.



Photo 7. A material stockpile remaining on the pit floor.

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>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>Y</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>	(RE) RIGHT OF ENTRY PB

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

Inspection Contact Address

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