




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: Orton Borrow Pit	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-2022-031	MINERAL: Borrow material for	COUNTY: El Paso
INSPECTION TYPE: Monitoring	WEATHER: Clear	INSP. DATE: July 21, 2025	INSP. TIME: 12:00
OPERATOR: Castle Rock Construction Company of Colorado	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Travis Bell	TYPE OF OPERATION: 111 - Construction by Government Agency	
REASON FOR INSPECTION: Normal I&E Program	BOND CALCULATION TYPE: Complete Bond	BOND AMOUNT: \$45,417.00	
DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA	POST INSP. CONTACTS: None	JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None	
INSPECTOR(S): Hunter Ridley	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	SIGNATURE DATE: July 29, 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>N</u>
(MP) GENL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE- <u>N</u>	(FW) FISH & WILDLIFE----- <u>Y</u>	(RV) REVEGETATION---- <u>Y</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

The Orton Borrow Pit was inspected by Hunter Ridley with the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division) in response to Surety Release Request 1 (SL1) submitted to the Division on July 24, 2025. The required notices were sent out on July 28, 2025. To-date, no objections to the release have been received. Orton Borrow Pit is 111 borrow material operation permitted for 10.24 acres with a post-mining land use of rangeland. Travis Bell with Castle Rock Construction Company of Colorado, LLC was present for the inspection. The Orton Borrow Pit is accessed from Highway 115 and is about 12.5 miles north of Penrose and about a half mile from the El Paso/Fremont County line. The site was previously inspected by the Division on January 23, 2024.

Availability of Records: Annual reports are current, having been filed through August 2024. The Annual Report due date is August 2, 2025. There are no open infractions related to previous inspections.

Acid And Toxic Materials: No acid or toxic materials are involved in this operation.

Backfilling and Grading: Site grading is complete and conforms to the Division's backfilling and grading requirements outlined in Rule 3 of the Construction Materials Rules and Regulations and outlined in the permit's approved Reclamation Plan (Photos 2 and 4). Slopes were graded at 3H:1V or gentler throughout the site. No leftover overburden or topsoil piles were observed on site.

Financial Warranty: The Division holds a financial warranty in the amount of \$45,417.00. This amount will be subject to release back to the Operator with the approval of SL1.

Fish and Wildlife: No negative impacts to wildlife were observed.

Hydrologic Balance: No exposed groundwater was observed onsite, nor were there any damp / wet areas observed within the pit floor, suggesting that final grading has achieved its aim to direct stormwater drainage towards its natural southeasterly direction.

Roads: The non-paved dirt access road and turn-around point had been graded and seeded, with sufficient vegetation present in these areas (Photo 1). Neither appeared to be a source of sediment that could be tracked offsite.

Reclamation Success: Revegetation efforts across the site appeared to be very successful. The full 10.24 acres were observed to be supporting established vegetation, made up of predominantly native and desirable species such as wheatgrasses, bromes, sunflowers, alfalfa and clover (Photo 2-4).

Some weed species were present on site, but the ratio of native and desirable species to weeds was such that the Division has determined that as native vegetation continues to mature, these weedy species will not be maintained across the majority of the site. No large patches of one particular weed species were observed, suggesting that native vegetation was already successfully outcompeting weedy species.

Sediment Control: A silt fence is currently in place at the eastern, downgradient edge of the site to help with any erosion (Photo 5). No erosional issues were noted anywhere at the site. Mr. Bell stated that the silt fence would be removed after approval of final release.

Signs and Markers: A permit sign (Photo 1) and boundary markers (Photo 2) were posted in accordance with Rule 3.1.12. Both the sign and permit boundary markers can be removed after final release.

Permit Stipulations: There are no permit stipulations.

Based on observations from this inspection, the Division is satisfied with the status of the vegetative cover onsite and believes that the reclamation implemented at the site meets the requirements of Rule 3.1. The Division will **approve** the full and final release of Permit M-2022-031, Orton Borrow Pit. Notice of approval will be sent as separate correspondence at the conclusion of the public comment period.

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

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1: View east of the reclaimed access road.



Photo 2: View east of the reclaimed pit slopes.



Photo 3: Example of native grass vegetation seen throughout the site.



Photo 4: View southwest of the reclaimed pit slopes, standing on the pit floor.



Photo 5: View south of the silt fence installed at the eastern end of the pit floor, towards the site's natural drainage.

Inspection Contact Address

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