



IMP Site Visit Memo

Date: August 15, 2025

Project: Brighton Pit

DRMS File No.: M-1982-160

Contacts: Denis Clanahan and Harrison Broda

Inspected by: Peter Hays

Observations:

The former Brighton Pit, M1982160, was observed by Peter Hays with the Inactive Mines Program (IMP) with the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (DRMS).

Mr. Denis Clanahan, the landowner, and Mr. Harrison Broda with Broda's Inc. were present during the site visit.

An amended USR with Weld County was approved in 2014 for Broda to backfill the exposed groundwater at the site. Based on Google Earth images, backfilling of the eastern shoreline started between October 2014 and October 2015. The backfill operations appear to continue until 2020 with fill placed along the eastern and southern shorelines. Operations appear to stop between 2020 to 2023, due to the vegetation growth along the shoreline in the Google Earth images.

In 2023, the Division estimated the southern shoreline backfill distance at 132 feet from the southern mining extent and 177 feet along the eastern shoreline from the eastern mining extent during the site visit. In 2024, the southern and eastern shorelines backfill distances were estimated at 300 feet each. During today's visit, the southern shoreline backfill distances were estimated at 425 feet in the southwestern corner and 550 feet at the middle of the shoreline. The eastern shoreline was unchanged from the 2024 measurement. The Division estimates 2.1 acres were backfilled along the southern shoreline since the 2024 visit. A map of the estimated area is attached.

The site is Broda's main backfill operation since July 1, 2023. The groundwater is estimated at 25-30 feet in depth. The site was being backfilled to the original grade, which is approx. 15-20 feet above the current water surface elevation. The backfill operator was expected to take 5-10 years. The Operator confirmed the approximate 5-year timeframe today.

All import materials are visually inspected by Broda prior to placement at the site. No oil stains were observed on the backfilled surfaces and no oil slicks were observed in the water during the visit.

The landowner anticipates the site being reclaimed as industrial/commercial. The site would require rezoning by Weld County if converted to industrial/commercial.



Mark Molen, consultant for the landowner, was emailed on 8/21/23 for a copy of the Weld County grading plan.

There is currently no SWSP or well permit for the site. The landowner explored the possibility of installing a slurry wall or clay liner and purchasing water rights. All three options were considered cost prohibitive, so the decision to backfill the exposed groundwater as made by the landowner.

The Division recommends a continued annual inspection of the site to elevate the progress of the backfilling operation.

Broda stated weed control spraying measures were conducted at the site annually. The site vegetation consisted of volunteered cottonwoods, willows and Russian olives along the shoreline and wheatgrass (western side) and annual weeds (sweet clover, kochia) throughout the site.

The landowner, Mr. Clanahan, stated his goal was to reclaim the site and have the forfeited bond money returned to the trust.

On August 24, 2023, Chris Gathman with Weld County provided a copy of the USR and flood hazard development permit for the site. The documents are in LF.

Contact Information

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View of the eastern shoreline from the northeast corner looking south



View of the site from the northeast corner looking south



View of the site from the north shoreline looking south



View of north portion of the site from the western shoreline looking east



View of the backfilled southern shoreline from the southwest corner looking east



View of the backfilled southern shoreline looking west





View of the backfilled southern shoreline looking northeast

Brighton Pit BF

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Legend

 2024 Backfilled Area - 2.1 Acres

 Brighton Pit

South Platte River

CanAm Hwy

 Berkenkotter Motors

County Rd 2 1/2

Google Earth

1000 ft

