



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: Valco T Pit	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-2004-043	MINERAL: Sand and gravel	COUNTY: Las Animas
INSPECTION TYPE: Surety Release Inspection	WEATHER: Cloudy	INSP. DATE: September 12, 2025	INSP. TIME: 08:15
OPERATOR: Larry and Christine Tortorice	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Larry and Christine Tortorice	TYPE OF OPERATION: 112c - Construction Regular Operation	
REASON FOR INSPECTION: Normal I&E Program	BOND CALCULATION TYPE: Complete Bond	BOND AMOUNT: \$48,000.00	
DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA	POST INSP. CONTACTS: None	JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None	
INSPECTOR(S): Amber M. Gibson	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	SIGNATURE DATE: September 23, 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>Y</u>	(FN) FINANCIAL WARRANTY----- <u>N</u>	(RD) ROADS----- <u>N</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>N</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 Valco T Pit was inspected by Amber Gibson with the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division/DRMS). The inspection was initially conducted as part of the Division's routine monitoring inspection program and subsequently as a surety release inspection. The site was previously inspected by the Division on October 12, 2021 as a follow-up to a second period of temporary cessation (TC2) inspection. Larry and Christine Tortorice (the Permittees/Operators), accompanied me during the inspection. Two of Larry and Christine's daughters were also present during the inspection. The sky was partly cloudy and the weather was warm.

The Valco T Pit is located in Las Animas County and is approximately six miles northeast of Trinidad, Colorado. The entrance to the pit is on the southside of Highway 160. The pit is a 32.62-acre 112c Construction Materials Reclamation Permit. The primary commodity mined at the site was sand and gravel. The approved post-mining land use is rangeland. The permit is surrounded by a mix of residential and rangeland areas.

Availability of Records:

The annual report, map, and fee are paid and current through October 19, 2025. The Valco T Pit entered a second period of temporary cessation (TC2) on March 28, 2020. On September 22, 2025, the Division received a Surety Release request (SL1). The SL1 application was deemed complete on September 22, 2025.

Backfilling and Grading, Revegetation, and Reclamation Success:

The end date for TC2 was on March 28, 2025. Per Rule 1.13.9, in no case shall Temporary Cessation be continued for more than 10 years without terminating the mining operation and fully complying with the Reclamation Plan requirements of the Act and Rules. At the time of the Division's previous inspection, a vertical highwall and pit floor were still present within the northwest portion of the permit. The Division had also observed that only 6.3 acres of the 32.62-acre permit area had been affected by mining.

Since the Division's last inspection, the site has been fully reclaimed. The highwall has been backfilled, graded, topsoiled, and revegetated. All slopes onsite have been graded to a 3H:1V slope or shallower. No stockpiles, nor equipment, remain on the site. The pit floor had also been topsoiled and revegetated. During this 2025 inspection, the extent of the affected area was walked. The Inspector observed a diverse establishment of vegetation across the affected area. The vegetation observed included a variety of grasses and bunch grasses, as well as native plants that have volunteered into the area such as sunflowers, gumweed, and Winterfat. No noxious weeds were observed during the inspection. The Inspector and Permittee also walked around the unaffected areas and verified that they were undisturbed. Across the native slopes at the site, it was evident that topsoil is shallow sitewide, and that the amount of topsoil salvaged and applied on the affected areas appears to be consistent with the native conditions.

The topic of the permit's full and final release was discussed during the inspection. The Inspector stated that the site appeared to be eligible for release and that a follow up review of the reclamation plan would be required. Post-inspection, the Permittee applied for a surety release. After reviewing the site conditions and the approved permit plan, the Division will approve the SL1 request. The decision document will be sent via separate correspondence.

Hydrologic Balance and Sediment Control:

The area had experienced rain the day before the inspection. Within the affected area, there were no signs of erosion, nor any standing water. The pit area is slightly depressed compared to the slope on the east side, therefore any stormwater run-off from the reclaimed highwall would be contained within the previously affected area.

Signs and Markers:

A permit sign was posted at the entrance to the site in compliance with Rule 3.1.12(1). T-posts with red tops marked the permit boundary and were posted at each corner of the site. The site is marked in compliance with Rule 3.1.12(2).

Conclusion:

This concludes the Division's Inspection Report; a map and a figure displaying topics discussed during the inspection, and a subset of corresponding photographs that were taken during the time of the inspection, are included below. If you need additional information or have any questions, please contact me by email at amber.gibson@state.co.us or by telephone at (720) 836-0967.

Inspection Contact Address

Larry and Christine Tortorice
17512 County Road 83
Trinidad, CO 81082

CC: Jared Ebert, DRMS

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1: Looking south across the reclaimed pit floor and western highwall.



Photo 2: Looking south from the top of the reclaimed highwall at the reclaimed slopes.



Photo 3: Looking west at a portion of the reclaimed western slopes and the reclaimed pit floor.



Photo 4: Looking northwest at the outer edge of the reclaimed slopes on the east side of the pit area.



Photo 5: Looking west at native slopes within the southern portion of the permitted area.



Photo 6: Looking east at the undisturbed arroyo and native slopes in the southwest side of the permit area.



Photo 7: Looking north at undisturbed areas within the center of the permit area.



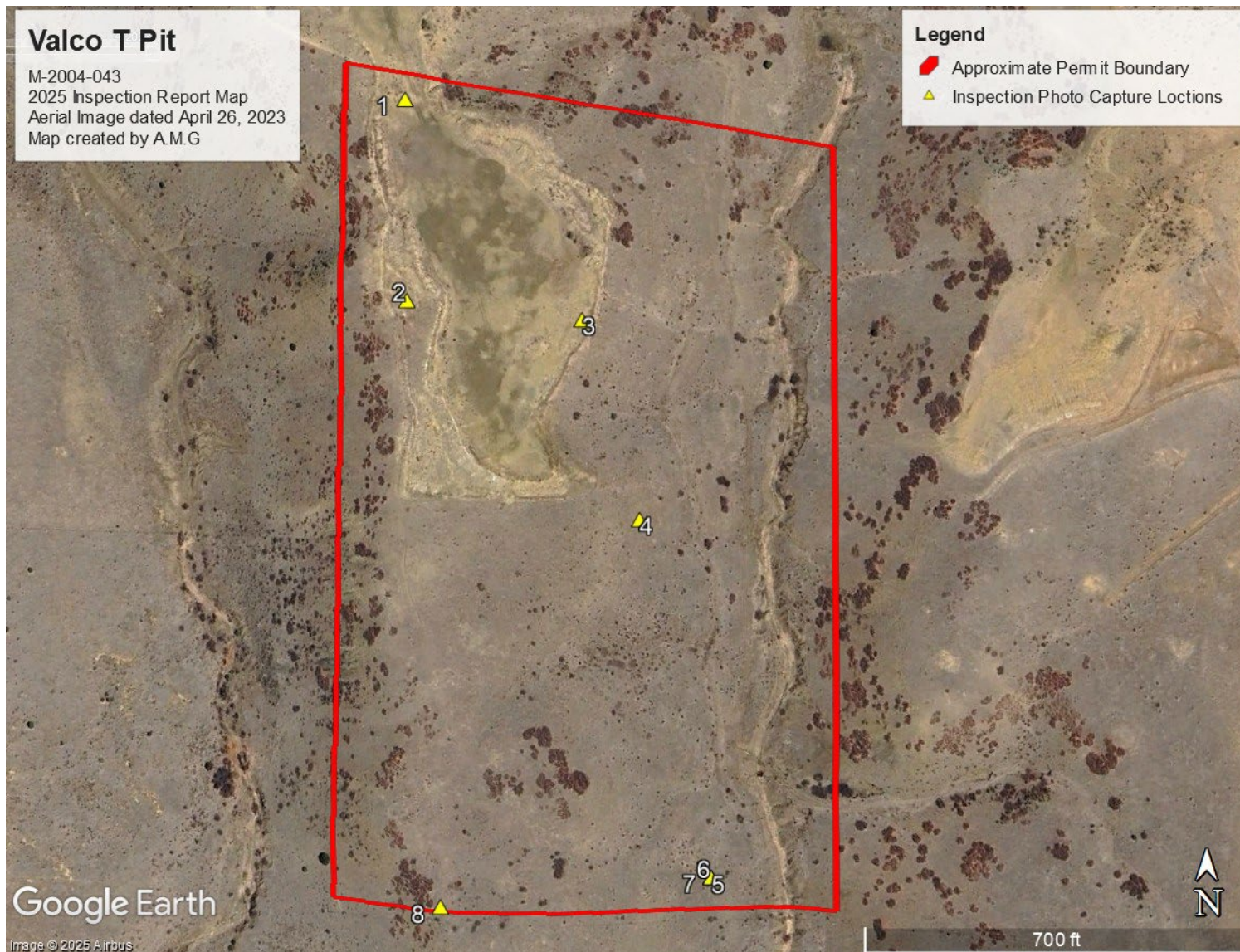
Photo 8: Looking southwest at the southwest permit boundary marker.



Photo 9: Mine sign posted at the access road to the site, located on the south side of Highway 160.



Figure 1: The photos above highlight some of the diverse established vegetation within the previously affected area.



Map 1: Inspection Report Map generated using Google Earth Pro. The aerial image is dated April 16, 2023. The highwall appears to have still been present at that time. However, as seen in the inspection report photos, the highwall and pit floor have been reclaimed since this photo was taken. The yellow triangle icons correspond with the photos in this report with the same numbers. The thin image on the right shows the access location for the pit, and the location where the mine sign is posted.