

Katie Hobbs  
Governor

# ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



Karen Peters  
Deputy Director

## Air Quality Field Inspection Report

<b>Company Name:</b> Minerals Research, Inc.	<b>Inspection Report No.:</b> 459595
<b>Place Name:</b> Minerals Research – Cottonwood Plant <b>Place ID No.:</b> 137664	<b>Inspector(s):</b> McKenna Ellicott
<b>County:</b> Yavapai	<b>Arrival Date and Time:</b> 12/10/2024 11:30 AM
<b>Physical Location:</b> 705 E Birch St., Cottonwood, AZ 86326	<b>Reason for Inspection:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Complaint Complaint No.: 21724 <input type="checkbox"/> Full Inspection <input type="checkbox"/> Partial Inspection <input type="checkbox"/> Follow-Up Original Inspection Report No.:
<b>Mailing Address:</b> 4620 S Coach Dr., Tucson, AZ 85714	
<b>Coordinates (for new locations):</b> Latitude: Longitude:	
<b>Permit No.:</b> Pending Air Permit Application LTF: 100924 <b>Permit Expiration Date:</b> N/A	<b>Was Inspection Announced?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Onsite Contact Person(s)/Title(s)/Number(s):</b> Chelsea Wagner, Plant Coordinator	<b>Operational Status:</b> Operating
	<b>Type of Source:</b> Slag Processing/Recycling Plant
<b>Other Names for Site/Facility:</b>	<b>Last Inspection:</b> 8/14/2024
<b>Inspection Report Issued:</b> Via email from ADEQ office	<b>Facility Initial:</b> <b>ADEQ Initial:</b>
<b>Results of Inspection:</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No alleged deficiencies were noted during the course of the inspection. No ADEQ action will result from this inspection. <input type="checkbox"/> Alleged deficiencies were noted during the course of the inspection and all deficiencies were corrected by the close of business on the final day of inspection. No ADEQ action will result from this inspection. <input type="checkbox"/> Alleged deficiencies were noted during the course of the inspection. Additional correspondence regarding this inspection may be forthcoming.	
If applicable, ADEQ documents its initial determination that the alleged deficiencies are:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Committed intentionally. <input type="checkbox"/> Not correctable within a reasonable period of time as determined by the agency. <input type="checkbox"/> Evidence of a pattern of noncompliance as demonstrated by alleged deficiencies previously identified in an inspection report or other written notice at the same premises. <input type="checkbox"/> A significant risk to any person, the public health, safety or welfare or the environment.	

**Comments:**

On 12/09/24, ADEQ received a complaint for Minerals Research, Inc. – Cottonwood Plant. The complainant requested that a fugitive dust inspection be performed. This facility has had a history of complaints claiming dust emissions. In response to this complaint, I travelled to Minerals Research for an unannounced inspection.

I arrived at Minerals Research at 11:30 AM, on 12/10/24. Prior to entering the site, I observations for visible emissions and odors. I did not observe any visible emissions or odors. I was met by Chelsea Wagner, Plant Coordinator. I informed Ms. Wagner of the complaint. I went over the Notice of Inspection Rights with Ms. Wagner. Ms. Wagner signed the NOIR. I then requested multiple facility records for review.

Requested records:

- Method 9 Visible Emissions Observations Certification(s)
- Visible Emissions Observations
- Daily Total Material Throughput
- Daily Water Truck Logs
- Maintenance Logs

Ms. Wagner provided all requested records. I reviewed the Method 9 certifications first. Multiple employees are certified observers. All certifications are valid and were recently obtained. I then reviewed the visible emissions observations. The observations are conducted daily. The observations exhibit that emissions are maintained at or near 0% opacity. I reviewed the daily material throughout totals. On average, the facility process roughly 200 tons of slag per day. On the day the complaint was submitted, the plant processed 177 tons of material. The plant has been operating off an on over the past couple of weeks due to maintenance and holidays. I reviewed the water truck logs and verified the facility is regularly watered, multiple times a day. The maintenance logs note and explain maintenance actions performed on the baghouse, as well as dust control actions and plant start/stop times. The baghouse differential pressures and equipment checks are also recorded on the maintenance logs.

After reviewing facility records, I was escorted around the plant for a physical inspection. The facility was operating at the time of inspection. I observed all crushing and screening equipment, as well as the output from the baghouse exhaust vents. I did not observe any emissions from crushers or shaker screens. There was a water spray system connected all throughout the equipment, controlling the equipment and material. I observed all the belt conveyors and witnessed minor material fall and emissions along the main belt passing through the middle of the facility. The emissions settle fairly quickly. However, dust is not out the dusting to an operator. Overall, the facility was more than adequately watered. A large puddle was observed in front of the primary crusher due to the constant water spray. The haul roads around the facility frequently watered daily by water truck. Additionally, the roadways are well compacted – with a formed crust. The water truck is equipped with a water spray that is used to water the material stock piles. I then observed the facility from outside the plant to gain a perspective of what the complainant might have. I did not observe any emissions from the facility. I was informed that Superstition Crushing, LLC was operating on site a few months ago, supplementing crushed and screened materials while the facility was under maintenance. The C&S plant was operating near the edge of the property. Superstition Crushing is no longer there. Based on a records review and a physical inspection, no deficiencies were observed.

During the Inspection, a DOCS digital opacity observation of the two baghouse output vents was collected. The observations will be uploaded and analyzed. Once the observation are analyzed and finalized, the results will be provided.

**Exit Debrief:**

- No deficiencies observed.
- When analyzed and finalized the DOCS results will be provided.

For air quality permit concerns and assistance, please contact Karla Murrieta, ADEQ, Air Permits Manager at office (602) 771-2283 or [Murrieta.Karla@azdeq.gov](mailto:Murrieta.Karla@azdeq.gov).

Air permit documents and questions can also be submitted to [airpermits@azdeq.gov](mailto:airpermits@azdeq.gov).

**Attachments:** Notice of Inspection Rights, Photograph Log, Small Business Bill of Rights



# ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NOTICE OF INSPECTION RIGHTS

FACILITY INFORMATION	ADEQ INFORMATION
<b>Facility Name (Customer):</b> Minerals Research – Cottonwood Plant	<b>Date of Inspection:</b> 12/10/2024 11:30 AM
<b>Facility Location (Place):</b> 705 E Birch St., Cottonwood, AZ 86326	<b>County:</b> Yavapai
<b>Mailing Address:</b> 4620 S Coach Dr., Tucson, AZ 85714	<b>Inspector:</b> McKenna Ellicott
	<b>Telephone:</b> (602) 390-0555
<b>Responsible Party:</b> Minerals Research, Inc.	<b>Accompanied by:</b>
<b>On-Site Representative:</b> Chelsea Wagner	<b>ADEQ Follow-up Contact:</b> Sean Sandy Manager, Air Compliance Unit
<b>Title:</b> Plant Coordinator	
<b>Telephone:</b> 928.862.0192	<b>Telephone:</b> (602) 785-3194
<b>Email:</b> chelsea.wagner@mineralsresearch.com	<b>Email:</b> sandy.sean@azdeq.gov

The ADEQ representative(s) identified above were present at the above address on the above listed date and time. Upon entry to the premises, the ADEQ representative(s) met with me, presented photo identification indicating that they are ADEQ employees and explained:

**That the purpose of the inspection is to determine:**

Compliance with Title 49 of the Arizona Revised Statutes, Title 18 of the Arizona Administrative Code\* and/or:

Arizona Revised Statutes: Title 49, Chapter 3  
 Arizona Administrative Code: Title 18, Chapter 2  
 Permit/Agreement Number: Pending Air Permit Application

Qualification for a license issued pursuant to:

Arizona Revised Statutes: Title 49, Chapter 3  
 Arizona Administrative Code: Title 18

That this inspection is conducted pursuant to granted in Arizona Revised Statutes § 49-104(B)(8) and/or:

Arizona Revised Statutes: § 41-1009  
 Arizona Administrative Code: Title 18  
 Permit/Agreement Number: Pending Air Permit Application LTF: 100924

That the state shall not be barred by the statutes of limitations of actions, according to A.R.S. § 12-510, except as provided in A.R.S. § 12-529

concerning certain claims based on navigability of watercourses. According to 28 U.S.C. § 2462, the U.S. government must commence an action within 5 years after the date the claim first accrued.

Possible applicability of Small Business Bill of Rights pursuant to Arizona Revised Statutes § 41-1001(21)

**That the fee for this inspection is:** No fee for the inspection

\*The Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S.) can be found on the internet: [www.azleg.state.az.us/ArizonaRevisedStatutes.asp](http://www.azleg.state.az.us/ArizonaRevisedStatutes.asp) while the Arizona Administrative Code (A.A.C.) can be found at [www.azsosaz.gov/public\\_services/Table\\_of\\_Contents.htm](http://www.azsosaz.gov/public_services/Table_of_Contents.htm)

While I have the right to refuse to sign this form, the ADEQ representatives may still proceed with the inspection

I have read this notice and discussed any questions or concerns with the ADEQ representatives and I have received the Small Business Bill of Rights

12/10/2024

Signature of Regulated Person or Authorized On-Site Representative

The regulated person or authorized on-site representative refused to sign.

Name of Regulated Person or Authorized On-Site Representative

Title

The regulated person or an authorized on-site representative was not present at the facility.

12/10/2024

Signature of ADEQ Representative

## INSPECTION RIGHTS

- I understand that I can accompany the ADEQ representative(s) on the premises, except during confidential interviews.
- I understand that I have right to, on request:
  - Copies of any original documents taken during the inspection, and that ADEQ will provide copies of those documents at ADEQ's expense;
  - A split of any samples taken during the inspection, if the split of the samples would not prohibit an analysis from being conducted or render an analysis inconclusive;
  - Copies of any analysis performed on samples taken during the inspection and that ADEQ would provide copies of this analysis at ADEQ's expense;
  - Copies of any documents to be relied on to determine compliance with licensure or regulatory requirements if the agency is otherwise permitted by law to do so.
- I also understand that:
  - Each person who is interviewed by an ADEQ inspector during the inspection must be informed that:
  - participation in an interview is voluntary, unless legally compelled to participate;
  - they have the right to have an attorney or other experts in their field present during the interview to represent or advise the regulated person;
  - the ADEQ inspector may not take any adverse action or treat less favorably or draw any inference as a result of the regulated person's decision to be represented by an attorney or advised by any other experts in their field;
  - statements made by the person may be included in the inspection report; and
  - they have the right to 24 hours to review and revise any written witness statement drafted by the ADEQ inspector on which the ADEQ inspector requests that person's signature.
  - If the information and documents provided to the ADEQ inspector become a public record, trade secrets and proprietary and confidential information may be redacted, unless the information and documents are not confidential pursuant to statute.
  - Each person interviewed during the inspection must be informed that statements made by the person may be included in the inspection report;
  - Each person whose conversation is tape recorded during the inspection must be informed that the conversation is being tape recorded;
  - If an administrative order is issued or a permit decision is made based on the results of the inspection, I have the right to appeal that administrative order or permit decision. I understand that my administrative hearing rights are set forth in Arizona Revised Statutes § 41-1092 et seq. and my rights relating to an appeal of a final agency decision are found in Arizona Revised Statutes § 12-901 et seq;
  - If I have any questions or concerns about this inspection, I may contact the person listed as the ADEQ Follow-up Contact on the front of this form; ADEQ's Ombudsman at (602) 771-4322 (toll free inside Arizona at (800) 234-5677, extension, 771-4322); or the Arizona Ombudsman-Citizens' Aid office at (602) 277-7292 (toll free at (800) 872-2879);
  - If I have any questions concerning my rights to appeal an administrative order or permit decision, I may contact Edwin Slade, ADEQ's Office of Administrative Counsel at (602) 771-2212 (toll free inside Arizona at (800) 234-5677, extension 771-2212).

41-1001.01. Regulatory bill of rights; small businesses

A. To ensure fair and open regulation by state agencies, a person:


1. Is eligible for reimbursement of fees and other expenses if the person prevails by adjudication on the merits against an agency in a court proceeding regarding an agency decision as provided in section 12-348.
2. Is eligible for reimbursement of the person's costs and fees if the person prevails against any agency in an administrative hearing as provided in section 41-1007.
3. Is entitled to have an agency not charge the person a fee unless the fee for the specific activity is expressly authorized as provided in section 41-1008.
4. Is entitled to receive the information and notice regarding inspections and audits prescribed in section 41-1009.
5. May review the full text or summary of all rulemaking activity, the summary of substantive policy statements and the full text of executive orders in the register as provided in article 2 of this chapter.
6. May participate in the rulemaking process as provided in articles 3, 4, 4.1 and 5 of this chapter, including:
  - (a) Providing written comments or testimony on proposed rules to an agency as provided in section 41-1023 and having the agency adequately address those comments as provided in section 41-1052, subsection D, including comments or testimony concerning the information contained in the economic, small business and consumer impact statement.
  - (b) Filing an early review petition with the governor's regulatory review council as provided in article 5 of this chapter.
  - (c) Providing written comments or testimony on rules to the governor's regulatory review council during the mandatory sixty-day comment period as provided in article 5 of this chapter.
7. Is entitled to have an agency not base a licensing decision in whole or in part on licensing conditions or requirements that are not specifically authorized by statute, rule or state tribal gaming compact as provided in section 41-1030, subsection B.
8. Is entitled to have an agency not make a rule under a specific grant of rulemaking authority that exceeds the subject matter areas listed in the specific statute or not make a rule under a general grant of rulemaking authority to supplement a more specific grant of rulemaking authority as provided in section 41-1030, subsection C.
9. May allege that an existing agency practice or substantive policy statement constitutes a rule and have that agency practice or substantive policy statement declared void because the practice or substantive policy statement constitutes a rule as provided in section 41-1033.
10. May file a complaint with the administrative rules oversight committee concerning:
  - (a) A rule's, practice's or substantive policy statement's lack of conformity with statute or legislative intent as provided in section 41-1047.
  - (b) An existing statute, rule, practice alleged to constitute a rule or substantive policy statement that is alleged to be duplicative or onerous as provided in section 41-1048.
11. May have the person's administrative hearing on contested cases and appealable agency actions heard by an independent administrative law judge as provided in articles 6 and 10 of this chapter.
12. May have administrative hearings governed by uniform administrative appeal procedures as provided in articles 6 and 10 of this chapter and may appeal a final administrative decision by filing a notice of appeal pursuant to title 12, chapter 7, article 6.
13. May have an agency approve or deny the person's license application within a predetermined period of time as provided in article 7.1 of this chapter.
14. Is entitled to receive written notice from an agency on de
  - (a) That justifies the denial with references to the statutes or
  - (b) That explains the applicant's right to appeal the denial as
15. Is entitled to receive information regarding the license ap

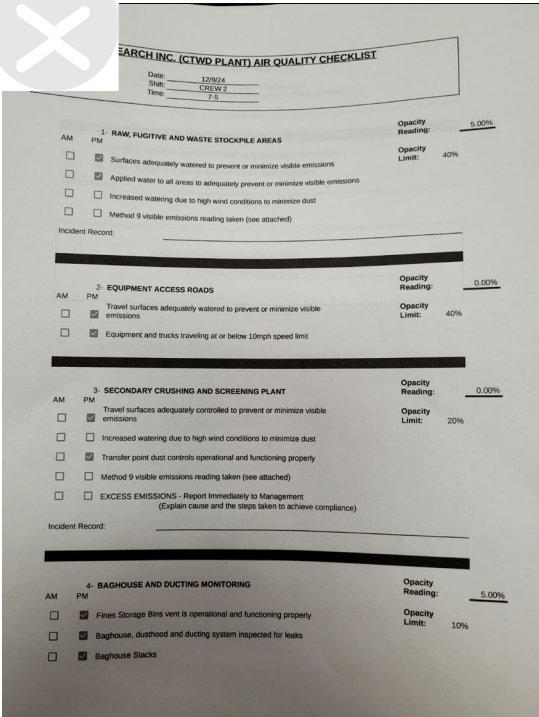


application:  
the denial is based as provided in section 41-1076.  
tion 41-1076.  
ss before or at the time the person obtains an application for a license

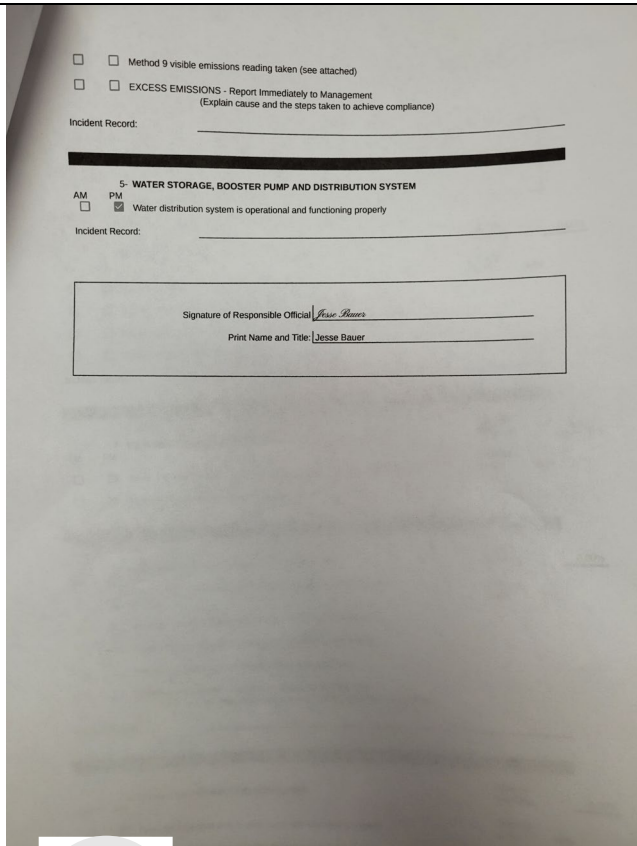
16. May receive public notice and participate in the adoption or amendment of agreements to delegate agency functions, powers or duties to political subdivisions as provided in section 41-1026.01 and article 8 of this chapter.
  17. May inspect all rules and substantive policy statements of an agency, including a directory of documents, in the office of the agency director as provided in section 41-1091.
  18. May file a complaint with the office of the ombudsman-citizens aide to investigate administrative acts of agencies as provided in chapter 8, article 5 of this title.
  19. Unless specifically authorized by statute, may expect state agencies to avoid duplication of other laws that do not enhance regulatory clarity and to avoid dual permitting to the extent practicable as prescribed in section 41-1002.
  20. May have the person's administrative hearing on contested cases pursuant to title 23, chapter 2 or 4 heard by an independent administrative law judge as prescribed by title 23, chapter 2 or 4.
- B. The enumeration of the rights listed in subsection A of this section does not grant any additional rights that are not prescribed in the sections referenced in subsection A of this section.
- C. Each state agency that conducts audits, inspections or other regulatory enforcement actions pursuant to section 41-1009 shall create and clearly post on the agency's website a small business bill of rights. The agency shall create the small business bill of rights by selecting the applicable rights prescribed in this section and section 41-1009 and any other agency-specific statutes and rules. At the request of an authorized on-site representative of the regulated small business, the agency shall provide a written document of the small business bill of rights. In addition to the rights listed in this section and section 41-1009, the agency notice of the small business bill of rights shall include the process by which a small business may file a complaint with the agency employees who are designated to assist members of the public or regulated community pursuant to section 41-1006. The notice must provide the contact information of the agency's designated employees. The agency notice must also state that if the regulated person has already made a reasonable effort with the agency to resolve the problem and still has not been successful, the regulated person may contact the office of ombudsman-citizens aide.

# Air Quality Field Inspection Photograph Log

<b>Site Location:</b> Minerals Research – Cottonwood Plant - 705 E Birch St., Cottonwood, AZ 86326		<b>Photographer:</b> McKenna Ellicott	<b>Camera:</b> Samsung Cell Phone
<b>Weather:</b> Clear Skies			
<b>Photo No.</b> 1	<b>Date:</b> 12/10/2024		
<b>Direction Photo Taken:</b> Down			
<b>Photo Description:</b> Method 9 Certifications.			

<b>Photo No.</b> 2	<b>Date:</b> 12/10/2024		
<b>Direction Photo Taken:</b> Down			
<b>Photo Description:</b> Daily Visible Emissions Observations.			

<b>Photo No.</b> 3	<b>Date:</b> 12/10/2024
<b>Direction Photo Taken:</b> Down	
<b>Photo Description:</b> Daily Visible Emissions Observations Cont.	



<b>Photo No.</b> 4	<b>Date:</b> 12/10/2024
<b>Direction Photo Taken:</b> Down	
<b>Photo Description:</b> Daily Material Throughout Totals.	

	A	B	C
3	11/01/24- MAINT	0	0
4	11/02/24	94	3
5	11/03/24- CLOSED	0	0
6	11/04/24	109	4
7	11/05/24	236	8
8	11/06/24	186	6
9	11/07/24	240	8
10	11/08/24- NO RUN	0	0
11	11/09/24	230	7
12	11/10/24- CLOSED	0	0
13	11/11/24- NO RUN	0	0
14	11/12/24	198	7
15	11/13/24	240	7
16	11/14/24	238	7
17	11/15/24	235	7
18	11/16/24- NO RUN	0	0
19	11/17/24- CLOSED	0	0
20	11/18/24	209	7
21	11/19/24- NO RUN	0	0
22	11/20/24	238	8
23	11/21/24	237	7
24	11/22/24- NO RUN	0	0
25	11/23/24	215	6
26	11/24/24- CLOSED	0	0
27	11/25/24- MAINT	0	0
28	11/26/24- MAINT	0	0
29	11/27/24- MAINT	0	0
30	11/28/24- HOLIDAY	0	0
31	11/29/24- HOLIDAY	0	0
32	11/30/24- CLOSED	0	0
33			
34			
35			
36			
37	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>Total Tons Produced</b> 2965	<b>Total Hours Ran</b> 92

**Photo No.**  
5

**Date:**  
12/10/2024

**Direction Photo Taken:**  
Down

**Photo Description:**  
Daily Material Throughout Totals Cont.

	A	B	C
3	12/01/24: CLOSED	0	0
4	12/02/24: NO RUN	0	0
5	12/03/24: NO RUN	0	0
6	12/04/24	182	6
7	12/05/24	238	8
8	12/06/24	87	2
9	12/07/24	55	2
10	12/08/24: CLOSED	0	0
11	12/09/24	177	8
12			
13			
14			
15			
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22			
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24			
25			
26			
27			
28			
29			
30			
31			
Total Tons Produced		739	
Total Hours Ran			26

**Photo No.**  
6

**Date:**  
12/10/2024

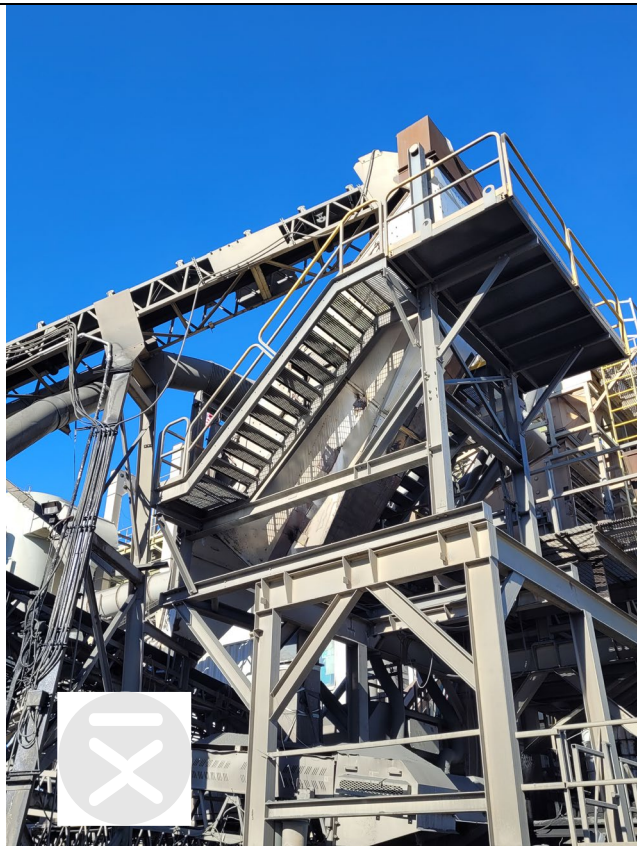
**Direction Photo Taken:**  
Down

**Photo Description:**  
Water Truck Log.

Date	Time	Driver	Date	Time	Driver
10/14	1:30pm	Justin	11/12/24	9:30am	Justin
10/14	6:30pm	Justin	11/12	9:30am	Justin
	10:00	Justin	11/13	9:30am	Justin
	2:00pm	Justin		1:00	Justin
10/15	3:10am	Justin	11/14	8:30am	Justin
	12pm	Justin		12:20	Justin
10/16	7:15am	Justin	11/15	10:30	Justin
	12pm	Justin		12:15	Justin
	1:30pm	Justin	11/18	10:30	Justin
10/17	8:00am	Justin	11/18	2:00pm	Justin
	9:10am	Justin	11/19	9:00am	Justin
	12:20pm	Justin	11/20	10:30	Justin
	2:00pm	Justin	11/21	10:30	Justin
	3:20pm	Justin	11/22	1:49	Justin
10/21	1:00pm	Justin	11/23	11:30	Justin
	3:00pm	Justin	11/23	1:30	Justin
10/22	8:20am	Justin	11/25	11:15am	Justin
10/23	10:00am	Justin	12/3	10:30am	Justin
10/24	7:30am	Justin	12/4	8:30	Justin
	10:30	Justin	12/5	9:30am	Justin
10/25	9:30am	Justin		1pm	Justin
	1:30pm	Justin	12/6	1pm	Justin
	2:10pm	Justin		4:00	Justin
10/26	9:30am	Justin	12/9	10:20am	Justin
10/28	8:30am	Justin		5:30pm	Justin
	10:45	Justin	12/10	9:00am	Justin
	3:20	Justin		11:22	Justin
10-29	11:00	Justin			
10-30	15:30	Justin			
	9:30	Justin			
	1:45	Justin			
10/31	12:16	Justin			
11/1	12:20	Justin			
11/4	2:00pm	Justin			
11/6	10:00	Justin			
11/6	3:20	Justin			
11/7	10:15	Justin			
11/9	9:00am	Justin			




<b>Photo No.</b> 9	<b>Date:</b> 12/10/2024
<b>Direction Photo Taken:</b> Up	
<b>Photo Description:</b> Shaker Screen.	




<b>Photo No.</b> 10	<b>Date:</b> 12/10/2024
<b>Direction Photo Taken:</b> Northwest	
<b>Photo Description:</b> Primary Crusher – Water Mist.	



<b>Photo No.</b> 11	<b>Date:</b> 12/10/2024	
<b>Direction Photo Taken:</b> Southwest		
<b>Photo Description:</b> Material Stock Pile, Haul Road.		

<b>Photo No.</b> 12	<b>Date:</b> 12/10/2024	
<b>Direction Photo Taken:</b> East		
<b>Photo Description:</b> Material Stock Pile, Haul Road.		

<b>Photo No.</b> 13	<b>Date:</b> 12/10/2024	
<b>Direction Photo Taken:</b> Down		
<b>Photo Description:</b> Plant Roadway – Very Compacted, Built Up Crust.		

<b>Photo No.</b> 14	<b>Date:</b> 12/10/2024	
<b>Direction Photo Taken:</b> North		
<b>Photo Description:</b> Baghouses.		

<b>Photo No.</b> 15	<b>Date:</b> 12/10/2024
<b>Direction Photo Taken:</b> North	
<b>Photo Description:</b> Baghouse Exhaust Vents.	



<b>Photo No.</b> 16	<b>Date:</b> 12/10/2024
<b>Direction Photo Taken:</b> Southeast	
<b>Photo Description:</b> Plant Overview.	

