



**COLORADO**  
**Division of Water Resources**  
Department of Natural Resources  
Dam Safety Branch

July 19, 2021

Robert Phillips, Superintendent  
San Luis Valley Irrigation District  
296 Miles St.; P.O. Box 637  
Center, CO 81125  
also via email: [roberet@slvid.org](mailto:roberet@slvid.org)

When replying, please refer to:  
**RIO GRANDE DAM, DAMID 200137**  
**Water Division 3, Water District 20**  
**Construction File No. C-0899G**

**SUBJECT:** Final Acceptance of Construction

Dear Robert,

Our office performed a final construction inspection of the dam rehabilitation project at Rio Grande Dam on July 21, 2020. Following the inspection, on June 12, 2021, our office received the final project completion documents in accordance with Rule 8.3 of the State's Rules and Regulations for Dam Safety and Dam Construction (Rules). Presently, we have completed our review of the completion documents and find them acceptable for archiving.

The project involved rehabilitation of the outlet tunnel and outlet works valves and controls as well as improvements to the embankment including filtered seepage collection and buttressing. In addition, robust remote operation and monitoring capabilities were installed. Based on observations during construction inspections, oversight and certification by the Engineer, and our review of the construction completion documents, we believe the project has been satisfactorily completed in general accordance with the approved plans and specifications. **Therefore the project is accepted for full storage when water is physically and legally available.**

The project did not alter the dam height or storage capacity of the reservoir. The embankment retains a height of 111 feet and a crest length of 980 feet. The reservoir created by the dam covers approximately 1080 acres and has full storage capacity of 54,082 acre-feet at the emergency spillway crest elevation.

The State Engineer, by providing this construction acceptance does not assume responsibility for any unsafe condition of the subject dam. The sole responsibility for the safety of this dam rests with the reservoir owner and operator, who should take every step necessary to prevent damages caused by leakage or overflow of waters from the reservoir or floods resulting from a failure of the dam. Therefore, it is in the owner's best interest to operate and maintain the facility in a manner such that the safety of the dam and the general public are not jeopardized.

We are enclosing a copy of Rules 11 and 13 of the Rules for your reference and use. These rules pertain to general maintenance items and the owner's responsibilities, respectively.

We appreciate your efforts on behalf of the San Luis Valley Irrigation District, and we would like to congratulate Deere & Ault and the District on the successful completion of this project. Thanks to all parties involved for their attention to dam safety as related to this project.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 719-338-6124 or Dam Safety Engineer Matt Gavin at 970-317-4147.



Mr. Robert Phillips  
Rio Grande Dam - Final Project acceptance Letter  
DAMID 200137, C-0899G  
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'William T. McCormick, III', with a stylized flourish at the end.

William T. McCormick, III, P.E., P.G.  
Chief, Colorado Dam Safety Branch

Enc. Copy of Rules 11 and 13 of the "Rules and Regulations for Dam Safety and Dam Construction"

cc: Craig Cotten, Division Engineer, Water Division 3  
Luis Heredia, WD 20 Water Commissioner  
Matt Gavin, Dam Safety Engineer  
Jeremy Franz, Design Review Engineer  
Glen Church, Deere & Ault Consultants Inc., [glen.church@deereault.com](mailto:glen.church@deereault.com)  
Don Deere, Deere & Ault Consultants Inc., [don.deere@deereault.com](mailto:don.deere@deereault.com)