

# Grand Junction Concrete Pipe Company

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

2311 River Road • Grand Junction, Colorado 81505 • 970/245-9301 • FAX 970/243-6703

October 3, 2013

Mr Travis Marshall  
Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining & Safety  
101 S 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Suite 301  
Grand Junction, CO

**RE: 23 Road Gravel Pit, Permit # M-1979-089, AR-01**  
**Response to Division of Water Resources Comments**

**RECEIVED**

OCT 08 2013

GRAND JUNCTION FIELD OFFICE  
DIVISION OF  
RECLAMATION MINING & SAFETY

Travis,

This letter is in response to comments provided by the Division of Water Resources (DWR) in their letter dated September 26, 2013. In this letter, Mr. Ivan Franco, Water Resources Engineer, stated that a review of the DWR records revealed no permitting history for this site. Grand Junction Pipe utilized our consultant, Western Water and Land to evaluate and compile a summary of well permits associated with the 23 Road Gravel pit.

I have attached Western Water and Land's analysis of the well permits for your consideration.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call me at 970.245.9301.

Respectfully,



Gayle Lyman  
Compliance Director

Xc: Mr Ivan Franco, Water Resources Engineer, Division of Water Resources

Enclosure



October 1, 2013

Mr. Gayle Lyman  
Elam Construction, Inc. / Grand Junction Pipe & Supply  
2311 River Road  
Grand Junction, CO 81505

**RE: Well Permits Associated with 23 Road Gravel Pit**

Dear Gayle:

As you requested, Western Water & Land, Inc. (WWL) has completed an evaluation of the well permits issued by the Colorado Division of Water Resources (DWR) for gravel mining operations conducted under Mine Permit No. M-1979-089 at the 23 Road Pit in Mesa County, Colorado. WWL's evaluation was performed to ensure compliance with DWR requirements and provide the information requested in a September 26, 2013 letter from Mr. Ivan Franco (DWR) to Mr. Travis Marshall (Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety [DRMS]) regarding Grand Junction Pipe and Supply Company's (GJPS's) request for a partial release from the mine permit. The letter provided DWR's response to a reclamation permit release consideration and specified DWR's Conditions for Approval for GJPS's request, requiring submittal of information to support the GJPS's claim that a pond associated with former operations at the 23 Road Pit was in existence prior to January 1, 1981. It was also stated in DWR's letter that there should not be any enlarging of the existing pond without prior approval by DWR.

Mining at the 23 Road Pit was originally performed under Permit No. 14 in accordance with a June 17, 1974 Land Stabilization and Reclamation Agreement between the State of Colorado and Corn Construction Company. By 1977, mining conducted under this original permit resulted in the formation of the approximately 14-acre pond shown in Figure 1 (1977 aerial photograph downloaded from the Mesa County Geographical Information System (GIS) website). As Mr. Franco indicated in his letter to Mr. Marshall, a well permit is not required for areas exposing groundwater prior to January 1, 1981; a plan for augmentation or substitute water supply plan to replace out-of-priority depletions attributed to evaporation is also not required for such areas. Therefore, no well permit was required for the exposed groundwater area shown in Figure 1.

In 1979, Mine Permit No. M-1979-089 was issued to Corn Construction Company for the 23 Road Pit. In 1987, the mine permit was transferred to Grand Junction Concrete Pipe Company. Mining conducted by Grand Junction Concrete Pipe Company under the 1979 permit involved expansion of operations in the areas immediately north, west, and east of the pre-1981 pond. Well permits were obtained from DWR for exposed groundwater resulting from the expanded mine operations. The mining areas and associated well permits are shown in Figure 2 and discussed in further detail below.

Well Permit No. 36276-F was issued to Grand Junction Concrete Pipe Company on February 28, 1991. The permit allowed construction of a gravel pit well in the mine area located immediately northwest of the pre-1981 pond. The mine area was initially referred to as the Terry Gravel Pit, but ultimately

incorporated into the 23 Road Pit through the DRMS mine permit amendment process. Upon completion of mining and reclamation in 2000, Grand Junction Concrete Pipe Company sold the mine area property to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

Well Permit No. 49434-F was issued on January 28, 1998 to allow expansion of the 23 Road pit in the eastern portion of the mine permit area as shown in Figure 2. The well permit application identified Ronald E. and Marie E. Tipping (the property owners) as the Applicants and Grand Junction Concrete Pipe Company as the Operator.

Well Permit No. 57389-F was issued on May 3, 2002 to allow expansion of the 23 Road Pit in the northern portion of the mine permit area as shown in Figure 2. The well permit application identified Ronald E. and Marie E. Tipping (the property owners) as the Applicants and Grand Junction Concrete Pipe Company as the Operator.

The results of our evaluation indicate that well permits have been obtained for each of the mining areas in which groundwater has been exposed in response to mine operations conducted after January 1, 1981. The 1977 aerial photograph shown in Figure 1 demonstrates that mining operations conducted at the 23 Road Pit prior to January 1, 1981 resulted in the exposure of groundwater in the approximately 14-acre pond located within the southern portion of the current mine permit area. Comparison of Figures 1 and 2 shows that with the exception of minor backfilling in the eastern portion of the pond, the current configuration of the pre-1981 pond is consistent with the pond configuration in 1977.

If you have any questions or need any additional information regarding our well permit evaluation for the 23 Road Pit, please contact me at (970) 242-0170 or [bmerrill@westernwaterandland.com](mailto:bmerrill@westernwaterandland.com).

Sincerely,

**Western Water & Land, Inc.**



William G. Merrill  
Principal Hydrogeologist

Attachments



**Legend**

 Current DRMS Mine Permit Boundary



**Figure 1: Aerial Photograph (1977) Showing Pre-1981 Pond**

Mesa County, Colorado



**Western Water & Land, Inc.**  
Applying Science to Earth Science

