



**PLATTE RIVER
POWER AUTHORITY**

Estes Park • Fort Collins • Longmont • Loveland

February 26, 2014

Peter Hays
Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety
1313 Sherman St., #215
Denver, CO 80203

Re: Permit # M2014-001

Dear Mr. Hays,

Platte River Power Authority ("Platte River") would like to take this opportunity to comment on the Connell Resources, Inc. application for a Regular Construction Materials Operation Reclamation Permit on the proposed Connell Carr Pit mine. Platte River is a Colorado political subdivision formed under C.R.S. § 29-1-204. Platte River operates as a wholesale electric generation and transmission provider for the communities of Estes Park, Fort Collins, Longmont, and Loveland. Its generation resources include a number of natural gas turbines located at the Rawhide Energy Station in Larimer County.

Platte River operates a 16 inch underground natural gas pipeline that borders the west side of the subject property of this permit application. This natural gas pipeline is essential to the reliable operation of the Platte River system. Moreover, any damage to this pipeline could result in serious injury and significant property damage due to the high operational pressure of the line and the volatility of the natural gas.

Based on information sent to Platte River by Blue Earth Solutions (consultant for Connell Resources, Inc.), the project proposal notes a setback from the Platte River pipeline Right of Way of 25 feet. To ensure the integrity of our pipeline and to accommodate any future expansion of Platte River's pipeline system, Platte River suggests this setback be extended an additional 25 feet, effectively eliminating any mining activity within 50 feet of the boundary of the existing Right of Way. Connell Resources, Inc. has accepted this limitation on mining activity within 50 feet of the existing Right of Way.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph B. Wilson
General Counsel

Cc: Kim Ogle, Planner III

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FEB 28 2014

**Division of Reclamation,
Mining & Safety**