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RECEIVED
SEP 16 2014
GRAND JUNCTION FIELD OFFICE
DIVISION OF
RECLAMATION MINING & SAFETY

RE: Submittal of responses to Amendment questions for Western Slope Aggregates, Inc.
Blue Pit M-1981-207

This letter addresses 3 comment letters for the amendment to expand the existing Blue Pit, Permit Number M-1981-207, operated by Western Slope Aggregates, Inc. These letters are as follows:

- 1- From Colo. Div. of Parks and Wildlife, dated August 25, 2014
- 2- From Colo. Div. of Water Resources, dated August 8, 2014
- 3- From History Colorado

The attached pages addresses these comments and are binding commitments for the operator of the Blue Pit.

Sincerely,

Greg Lewicki, P.E.
Greg Lewicki and Associates

Cc: Sean Mello

Responses to Comment Letters for Blue Pit Amendment 2014

Parks and Wildlife Issues

- a- Bear proof dumpsters will be utilized on site and best attempts possible will be made to empty dumpsters and other trash containers on a daily basis. Very few trash containers will be maintained on site.
- b- All rangeland areas in the reclamation plan will receive big sagebrush seed in the amount of 0.5 lbs per acre with seed that has been collected in the general vicinity. This seed will be additional to the seed mix in the current permit application and will be applied at the same time of year and with the same mulching requirements as already specified in the reclamation plan. Four wing saltbush and rubber rabbitbrush will also be applied at the rate specified per acre in the permit application.
- c- Company safety and policy requirements will be posted in the office which state that dogs should not be allowed on site. All employees will be instructed in this policy.
- d- BMPs that will be used to protect microbial activity in the topsoil will be to place as much soil directly from areas in advance of the pit to areas behind the pit that have been permanently graded. The topsoil stockpile which exists east of the current pit area will be seeded and mulched until it can be used in reclamation. Weed control will also be employed on this stockpile. No new stockpiles are envisioned for the mine operation.
- e- The final reclamation plan is based on a rangeland slopes at 3H:1V at all locations with some additional benches for collection ditches. A ramp at a much milder slope will be in place to access all pit area. For this reason, animals will always be able to exit the pit. Upon final reclamation, irrigation will be restored in the western pit bottom, thus providing winter forage for game animals.
- f- The general hours of operation of the pit are from 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM. For certain jobs, it may be necessary to extend these hours to meet job requirements. Also, occasionally, repair of equipment must take place after hours to continue operation the following day.

Water Resources Issues

- a- Storm water captured by the pit will be released into the groundwater system since the pit floor is generally porous.
- b- No groundwater will be exposed as part of the operation. If any is exposed, it will be immediately covered by 2 feet of fill from the pit and no further excavation will take place in the area.

- c- All water used in the operation will come from approved water supplies such as the water rights on the property and the lease, which has been in place and functioning well for years.

History Colorado Issues

- a- If any human remains are encountered, the operation will cease in this area and all requirements under CRS 24-80 (part 13) will be followed.