



COLORADO

Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety

Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street, Room 215
Denver, Colorado 80203

November 13, 2014

Angela Bellantoni
Environmental Alternatives, Inc.
1107 Main Street
Canon City, CO 81212

Re: Rocky Ford South Pit, Permit No. M-1977-222, Receipt of Letter Regarding Corrective Action(s)

Ms. Bellantoni,

On November 13, 2014, the Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety (Division) received your letter regarding the Problem identified in the May 08, 2014 inspection of the Rocky Ford South Pit. The status of the Corrective Action associated with this Problem is as follows:

Corrective Action #1: The Operator shall implement the approved weed control plan and provide proof to the Division that this has been done by the corrective action due date. Photographs taken before and after weed control implementation shall be sufficient as proof.

The Operator submitted a letter from the landowner of the permit area requesting that herbicides not be used in the permit area as a weed management practice because they have cattle grazing there concurrently with mining operations.

The Division understands the landowner's concerns about using herbicides in the permit area. However, it is the Operator's responsibility to keep state-listed noxious weeds such as Tamarisk (Salt Cedar) from establishing in the permit area and/or spreading to nearby areas. Therefore, it is up to the Operator to determine what weed management methods are most agreeable with the landowner. If the methods used are significantly different than the approved weed control plan, the Operator will need to submit a Technical Revision to update this plan in the permit file.

Before this Problem can be considered abated, the Operator will need to submit photographic proof that the Tamarisk has been removed from the pit area.

If you need additional information or have any questions, please contact me at the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, 1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, CO 80203, by telephone at 303-866-3567, x8129, or by email at amy.eschberger@state.co.us.

Sincerely,

Amy Eschberger
Environmental Protection Specialist

CC: Tom Kaldenbach, DRMS

