

June 27, 2016

Jeff Simonson
Puckett Land Company
118 W Sixth St, Suite 200
Glenwood Springs, CO 81601



COLORADO
Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety
Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street, Room 215
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Nolte Pit #1, File No. M-2012-016, Technical Revision (TR-1) Adequacy Review

Dear Mr. Simonson:

The Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division) is in the process of reviewing the above referenced Technical Revision in order to ensure that it adequately satisfies the requirements of the Colorado Land Reclamation Act (Act) and the associated Mineral Rules and Regulations for the Extraction of Construction Materials (Rules). During review of the material submitted, the Division determined that the following issue(s) of concern shall be adequately addressed before the Technical Revision can be considered for approval. Please provide the following:

1. Division staff is required to follow the standards outlined in CRS 34-32.5 116(4)(f) and (n) and Rules 3.1.10(1) and (3). Therefore, the Division cannot accept barren hillsides as adequately meeting the reclamation requirements for the approved post mine land use. The approved post mining land use of rangeland requires vegetation which is essential for grazing and erosion control. One area of particularly low vegetation density cannot be used to set the threshold of vegetation success for the entire site. The lack of vegetation is also an erosion and soil stability liability. Undisturbed photos show significant erosion which further proves the need for establishment of some vegetation to ensure stability of areas affected by mining. Division staff recommends the use of pocking to help encourage reclamation success and resist to erosion.
2. Please describe changes to the reclamation in the narrative of the TR. The attached map provides some of this information but the narrative does not address the specifics in sufficient detail. The Division recommends that you describe conditions in which methodologies may change rather than specific areas. Also provide ranges of applications when appropriate rather than a set value.
 - a. Please describe surface roughening/seed bed preparations with regards to different areas/ slopes.
 - b. Please specify if a fertilizer is to be use. If so please clarify the type, rate of application and method. Clarify if areas differ in application rate or method.
 - c. Please describe the various methods of seeding to be employed. If several methods are to be used please clarify which instances each will be used. * Please note that for all methods other than drill seeding the seeding rate shall be doubled.
 - d. The seed mix depicted in on the map is different than the currently approved mix. Is it the operator's intention to revise the seed mix? If so please state the new seed mix in the TR narrative.



- e. Please clarify if mulching will be used. Also if various applications types will be employed describe where or under what conditions the various methods will be used.
- f. Please be reminded that the maximum slopes shall be 3:1 or less, with the exception of one central area which was approved for 2:1.
- g. The map indicates that areas will not undergo reclamation within the permit boundary. Please provide some sort information that the disturbances associated with Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission activities are covered under another permit and that are no lapses in reclamation liability.

Please submit your response(s) to the above listed issue(s) **by Friday, July 15, 2016** in order to allow the Division sufficient time for review. A decision due date of July 25, 2016 has been set.

The Division will continue to review your Technical Revision and will contact you if additional information is needed.

If you require additional information, or have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me. Amy Yeldell at the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, 1313 Sherman St., Room 215, Denver, CO 80203. Direct contact can be made by phone at 970-254-8511 or via email at amy.yeldell@state.co.us

Sincerely,



Amy Yeldell

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Ec: Russ Means, Senior EPS / Field Office Supervisor, Grand Junction DRMS