



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

1313 Sherman Street, Room 215  
Denver, CO 80203

March 10, 2017

Lance Baller  
High Speed Mining, LLC  
8480 East Orchard Rd, Suite 3600  
Greenwood Village, CO 80111

RE: Katuska Pit; DRMS File No. M-1991-037; Notice of Citizen Complaint

Dear Mr. Baller,

The Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division) received a complaint against the above referenced operation on March 6, 2017. A copy of the complaint letter has been enclosed for your records. The Division is currently reviewing the permit and will contact you if it is determined that an inspection is warranted.

If you have any questions, you may call me at (303)866-3567 x8116.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Cunningham  
Environmental Protection Specialist

Enclosure (1)

CC: Wally Erickson, DRMS





STATE OF  
COLORADO

Cunningham - DNR, Michael <michaela.cunningham@state.co.us>

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## Complaint- Katuska Pit M1991037

1 message

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rrindsig@mchsi.com <rrindsig@mchsi.com>

Mon, Mar 6, 2017 at 8:28 PM

To: "Cunningham - DNR, Michael" <michaela.cunningham@state.co.us>

Mr. Cunningham,

As I believe you are aware, the television series 'Gold Rush' was filmed at the Katuska Pit near Fairplay during summer/fall of 2016.

An episode filmed there during that time aired Friday evening March 3, 2017 on the Discovery Channel.

In this episode, explosives were shown being used to blast boulders in the pit.

Mark Mayer, of Precision Drilling and Blasting of Aspen, CO was prominently featured performing the blasting.

I have reviewed the mining permit, and it appears there is no mention, and thus no plan for, the use of explosives in this mine.

Therefore, I believe the blasting was not permitted.

Also, in the same episode, the mining crew is shown cutting a road down the bank to the Middle Fork of the South Platte River to place a large pump to pump water to their holding pond.

The placement was near (perhaps beyond) the northwest corner of the mined area, with the pipe running south along the west boundary of the mined area towards the Westerman Ditch (Platte City Mining Ditch). This pipe, or one used previously, can be clearly seen in the September 8, 2016 Google Earth aerial photograph of the area.

My concern here is that the permit only allows for 4 CFS of water for mining operations to be obtained from the Platte City Mining Ditch. There is no other water source permitted, so it appears that the water may have been pumped illegally from the river.

Regards,  
Robin Rindsig