

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

1313 Sherman Street, Room 215 Denver, CO 80203

March 14, 2017

Mark Balderston Rock-N-Pine LLC 503 Wise St. Hamlet, NE 69040

RE: Rock-N-Pine; DRMS File M-2003-074; Adequacy Review No. 1 (TR01)

Dear Mr. Balderston,

The Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division) received Technical Revision No. 1 for the above referenced site on March 2, 2017. The decision date for this Technical Revision is April 3, 2017. The Division has reviewed the Technical Revision Application and has the following comments:

- 1. The Weed Control Plan which was submitted only addresses the control of canada thistle. During the inspection conducted on August 15, 2016, the Division also observed chamomile at the Rock-N-Pine site. Please revise the Weed Control Plan to include control measures for chamomile.
- 2. The Operator has proposed to use Milestone to control canada thistle, which is not approved for use in aquatic sites. The south side of the Rock-N-Pine operation is bounded by the Middle Fork of the South Platte River (river). Please consult with the local weed control district office to determine the appropriate buffer between the river and the application areas. The Operator shall specify the prescribed buffer and provide a commitment to not apply Milestone within the buffer area.
- 3. Single herbicide applications do not typically eliminate noxious weeds and post-treatment monitoring is a critical component of a weed control plan. Please describe how the Operator will conduct post-treatment monitoring of noxious weeds at the Rock-N-Pine operation.

This concludes the Division's preliminary adequacy review of this Technical Revision. Please remember that the decision date for this Technical Revision is April 3, 2017. If you are unable to provide satisfactory responses to any inadequacies prior to this date, **it will be your responsibility to request an extension of time to allow for continued review of this Technical Revision.** If there are still unresolved issues when the decision date arrives and no extension has been requested, the Technical Revision will be denied.



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

Sincerely,

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Michael A. Cunningham Environmental Protection Specialist

CC: Wally Erickson, DRMS