



COLORADO

Division of Water Resources

Department of Natural Resources


1313 Sherman Street, Room 821
Denver, CO 80203

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DIVISION OF RECLAMATION
MINING AND SAFETY

Response to Reclamation Permit Amendment Application Consideration

DATE: February 13, 2017
TO: Jared L. Ebert, Environmental Protection Specialist
CC: Division 1 Office, District 1 Water Commissioner
FROM: Sarah Brucker, P.E. 
RE: Westhoff Pit, File No. M-1977-094
Applicant/Operator: Morgan Sand and Gravel, Inc.
Contact: Greg Westhoff, 970-867-8074
Section 34, Twp 5 North, Rng 58 West, 6th P.M., Morgan County

CONDITIONS FOR APPROVAL

- ☒ The proposed operation does not anticipate exposing groundwater. Therefore, exposure of ground water must not occur during or after mining operations.
- ☐ The proposed operation will consume ground water by: ☐ evaporation, ☐ dust control, ☐ reclamation, ☐ water removed in the mined product, ☐ processing, ☐ other: _____.
- ☒ The applicant will need to document that any water used at the site was obtained from a legal source, or was diverted in priority under a water right decreed for such mining/industrial use.

COMMENTS: The Westhoff Pit is a surface mining operation located approximately 7 miles north of Fort Morgan. The primary commodities mined at the site are sand, gravel, and road base. The subject application seeks to add 36.4 acres to the currently permitted 40 acres, for a total of 76.4 acres within the permit area. The site is proposed to be reclaimed to its current use of rangeland upon completion of mining operations.

Mining activities at the site are not anticipated to expose ground water. Approximately 1.8 acre-feet of water will be used at the site per year for dust control and for drinking and sanitary purposes. Water for these uses will be obtained from the Operator's sources offsite and/or purchased and hauled to the site. The Operator must be able to document to the water commissioner upon request that any water used at the site is permitted or decreed for this type of industrial/commercial use.

If stormwater runoff is intercepted by this operation and is not diverted or captured in priority, it must be released to the stream system within 72 hours; otherwise the operator will need to make replacements for evaporation.

The applicant may contact the State Engineer's Office with any questions.

