



COLORADO

**Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety**

Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street, Room 215
Denver, CO 80203

April 3, 2017

Chris Gilbreath

Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association
12050 North Pecos St. Suite 100
Westminster, CO 80234

**Re: New Horizon Mine (Permit No. C-1981-008)
Technical Revision No. 77 (TR-77)
Adequacy Review**

Dear Mr. Gilbreath:

The Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division) received your responses to the adequacy questions dated March 1, 2017.

The Division has some additional questions for the following items:

1. Item Resolved.
2. Item Resolved.
3. Item Resolved.
4. Item Resolved.
5. Item Resolved.
6. **It is proposed that monthly water levels no longer be collected but no explanation was given to support this change. Please provide a discussion and data justifying why water levels should not be collected and reported.**

NH Response: As proposed under TR-75 quarterly water levels are more than adequate to contribute additional data to an already extensive data set for the long term monitoring plan for water levels. This change also allows for alignment with the quarterly sampling that is conducted by New Horizon at all groundwater monitoring locations.

DRMS does not see the relevance of TR-75 to quarterly water level sampling. TR-75 appears to be in relation to post mine land use and interim vegetation monitoring. Additionally, MT-7 adequacy item 4.05.13(1) - Groundwater Monitoring requested a written interpretation of



monitoring data, identifying trends and including descriptions of groundwater level and annual potentiometric surface maps be included in the annual hydrology reports.

The operator provided a response in MR-97, received February 26, 2016, stating that a written interpretation of the data will be provided in the annual hydrology reports. I reviewed the 2015 and 2016 annual hydrology reports and adequate additional data or interpretation of the data has not been provided. The Division requests this additional data, written interpretation, and current potentiometric surface maps be provided before any reductions are made to the groundwater monitoring plan.

7. Item Resolved.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at (303) 866-3567 ext. 8142.

Sincerely,



Brock Bowles
Environmental Protection Specialist
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