




COLORADO
Division of Water Resources
Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street, Room 821
Denver, CO 80203

Response to Reclamation Permit Conversion Application Consideration

DATE: April 14, 2017
TO: Michael A. Cunningham, Environmental Protection Specialist
(michaela.cunningham@state.co.us)
CC: Division 1 Office, District 23 Water Commissioner
FROM: Sarah Brucker, P.E. 
RE: Fairplay Au Pit, File No. M-1991-037
Applicant/Operator: High Speed Mining, LLC
Contact: Lance Baller, 303-470-0055
Sections 32 & 33, Twp 9 South, Rng 77 West, 6th P.M., Park 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 water by: ☐ evaporation, ☒ dust control, ☐ reclamation, ☐ water removed in the mined product, ☒ processing, ☐ other: _____.
The operator will need to document that any such water was obtained from a legal source or diverted in priority under a water right decreed for such mining/industrial use.
- ☒ The proposed operation *may* consume ground water by: ☒ evaporation, ☐ dust control, ☐ reclamation, ☒ water removed in the mined product, ☐ processing, ☐ other: _____.
Prior to initiation of these uses of ground water, the operator will need to obtain either a gravel pit or other type of well permit, as applicable. However, prior to obtaining a permit, an approved substitute water supply plan or decreed plan for augmentation is required.
- ☒ Any storm water runoff intercepted by this operation that is not diverted or captured in priority must infiltrate into the ground or be released to the stream system within 72 hours. Otherwise, the operator will be required to make replacements for evaporation.

COMMENTS: The subject application seeks to convert M-1991-037 from a 110(c) Limited Impact Construction Materials Permit to a 112 Hard Rock Permit. The application also seeks to increase the permitted area from 8 acres to 41.4 acres.

The Fairplay Au Pit is a surface mining operation located approximately half a mile northwest of Fairplay, Colorado. The primary commodity to be mined at the site is gold. Sand and gravel will be mined as a secondary commodity. The site is proposed to be reclaimed to rangeland upon completion of mining operations.

Approximately 2.5 acre-feet of water per year will be required for dust control purposes at the site and an additional 2.5 acre-feet of water per year will be required for processing, for a total annual water requirement



of 5.0 acre-feet. Water for these purposes will either be obtained via the placer rights the operator has on Sacramento Creek or leased from a local reservoir. The operator must be able to document to the water commissioner upon request that any water used for dust control, processing, or any other purpose at the site, decreed for such use.

Mining at the site could potentially occur below the ground water table. The only location where ground water may be exposed is in the active excavation pit. If ground water is encountered during mining, it is proposed to be pumped to the South Platte River. If ground water is exposed to the atmosphere for longer than 72 hours, the operator will be required to obtain a well permit and make replacements for evaporation. Additionally, if material is removed from below the ground water table, the operator will need to make replacements for the water removed with the mined material.

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

