




COLORADO
Division of Water Resources
Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street, Room 821
Denver, CO 80203

Response to Reclamation Permit Amendment Application Consideration

DATE: May 15, 2017
TO: Jared L. Ebert, Environmental Protection Specialist (Jared.Ebert@state.co.us)
CC: Division 1 Office, District 64 Water Commissioner
FROM: Sarah Brucker, P.E. 
RE: Rothe Pit, File No. M-1995-017
Applicant/Operator: City of Sterling, Donald Saling, 970-522-9700
Permitting Contact: Jonathan George, Bishop-Brogden Associates, Inc, 303-806-8952
SW¼ Section 33, Twp 8 North, Rng 52 West, 6th P.M., Logan 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: _____.
- ☒ Prior to initiation of the new uses of ground water, the applicant 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 an amendment for a change in property description, additional mining of materials, and change in post-mining land use for the Rothe Pit, located just south of the City of Sterling. The primary commodities to be mined at the site are sand and gravel. The site is proposed to be reclaimed for recreation use upon completion of mining operations.

The City of Sterling has obtained a substitute water supply plan that covers depletions at the site limited to the exposure of ground water in the pond(s). The mining of material below the ground water table will cause additional depletions at the site due to water removed with the mined product. Therefore, the City will need to obtain a new substitute water supply plan to replace depletions from this new use of ground water at the site.

Similarly, well permit no. 80792-F limits the use of ground water at the site to evaporation. A new well permit must be obtained prior to any other use of ground water at the site, including water removed with the mined product.

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

