



COLORADO

**Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety**

Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street, Room 215
Denver, CO 80203

October 6, 2017

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

**Re: New Horizon North Mine (Permit No. C-2010-089)
Permit Revision 2 (PR-2)
Adequacy Review**

Dear Mr. Gilbreath:

The Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division) received your application for PR-2 for the New Horizon North Mine on August 10, 2017. The application was deemed complete on August 18, 2017. PR-2 is proposing to change the post mining land use configuration on the Garvey & Co Property. The topsoil handling plan, revegetation plan and irrigation design will also be changed to accommodate the new post mining land use.

The Division finished its review of the PR-2 application has the following questions and comments:

Section 2.05.4(2)(d)

A letter from Mr. Garvey was included in the PR-2 application outlining his reclamation plan requests. Bullet item 3 of the letter addresses the configuration, depth and order for the replacement of Mr. Garvey's topsoil. These items should be described in the text with a reference to the letter for consistency.

Section 2.05.4(2)(e)

It is being proposed that the irrigated pasture reference area (located by the NH2 facilities area) be used as the reclamation standard for the reclaimed irrigated pasture on the Garvey property. While the post mining land use and proposed management practices for both areas is the same, the plant species composition of the two areas is quite different. The irrigated pasture reference area is dominated by grasses (75.4% cover as shown in the SL-19 application) and the Garvey property is proposed to be planted with all alfalfa and no grasses. According to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, Colorado lands produce 35% more alfalfa by tons/acre than grass hay. Please provide additional discussion demonstrating why the irrigated pasture reference area is a representative plant community of the disturbed area and meets the requirements of Rule 4.15.7(3).

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



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brock Bowles". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Brock" and last name "Bowles" clearly distinguishable.

Brock Bowles
Environmental Protection Specialist
brock.bowles@state.co.us

cc: