



## **Teller County Community Development Services**

**P.O. Box 1886 ■ Woodland Park, Colorado 80866 ■ (719) 687-3048 ■ FAX (719) 687-5256**

---

January 8, 2018

Meg Burt  
Senior Environmental Manager  
Cripple Creek and Victor Gold Mining Company (CC&V)  
Box 191, Victor, CO 80860  
Woodland Park, CO 80863

**SUBJECT: Planning Review: Re. No Impact Technical Revision (Appendix A-Section 8.B) of Cripple Creek and Victor Gold Mining (CCV) Permit No. M-1980-244-Mine Development Plan (MDP); WHEX Backfill Increase – TR#96**

Dear Ms. Burt:

The Teller County Planning Department has completed its review of the Department of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (DRMS) required Technical Revision (TR-96 – WHEX Backfill Increase).

1. Teller County understands that this request pertains to a proposal to increase the height of the backfill of the Wild Horse Extension (WHEX) pit. This request is consistent with and pursuant to Section 8.A.2, CCMOD Appendix A of the Teller County Land Use Regulations.
2. Currently the WHEX pit is approved to a backfill height of 10, 145 above mean sea level (AMSL). While the increases throughout the WHEX Pit will vary in order to direct surface storm water flows away from Grassy Valley while still achieving a 1.5% grade, the maximum height being requested will be an additional 280 feet or 10, 425 (AMSL).
3. In the Cresson Project Mine Life Extension 2 (MLE2) narrative presented to Teller County in its submittal February 28, 2012, section 4.2, page 4-1 it was presented that, *"The site topography has been locally changed by mining activities over the last 100 years or more. The approximate elevation of the Cresson Project is from a minimum of 9000 feet above mean sea level ("AMSL") near the toe of the AGVLF to a maximum of 10,450 feet AMSL at the crest of the hill east of the East Cresson Mine area and west of CR 831 and CR 82."* In section 5.7.2, page 5-20, the ECOSA approved for construction as part of MLE which accepts overburden from the WHEX stated, *"...the maximum elevation of the ECOSA will be approximately 10,565 feet AMSL once completed."* Therefore the requested 10,425 feet AMSL is less than described and approved in MLE 2 and would not require an amendment making a Technical Revision request appropriate.

4. In this request, it has been presented that there is a business need for short haul options and expanded overburden storage and that CC&V is proposing an increase in the height of the backfill in portions of the WHEX Pit, which will bring it to close to the approximate original contour (AOC). Additionally, it is also understood that backfilling of the WHEX pit is already ongoing as approved in previous Amendments, to include Amendment 11. Backfilling to this request design would ideally be authorized and in place by the first quarter of 2018.
5. In its submittal materials for Amendment 11 and in its presentation, the Newmont Corporation was transparent with regards to the flexibility needed in backfilling and mining operations, stating, "*the sequence and timing of operations for active mining, ore placement, continued recovery, neutralization, reclamation, and other activities are approximations only based on anticipated production rates, mining fleet, crusher availability, gold price, gold recovery, and many other factors*".
6. In terms of reclamation, final reclamation will not be impacted in terms of approved methods and the increased height to 10,425 (AMSL) is the approximate original contour prior to mining operations.
7. Teller County has no objections to TR-96 as written and appreciates the opportunity to comment subject to the following conditions:
  - a) All other terms and conditions as contained in Amendment 11 with regards to the WHEX pit remain in place.
  - b) No increase in lighting will result from the 280-foot increase.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (719) 686-5414 or email [williamsd@co.teller.co.us](mailto:williamsd@co.teller.co.us).

Respectfully,



Dan Williams, Teller County Planning Official

Cc: Lynda Morgan, CDSD Director  
Camille Krochta, Planning Assistant  
Tim Cazier, DRMS