



STATE OF  
COLORADO

Cunningham - DNR, Michael <michaela.cunningham@state.co.us>

## Permit M-1994-117 Revision AM-01

bob@pinebrookwater.com <bob@pinebrookwater.com>

Wed, Jan 24, 2018 at 12:55 PM

To: "Eschberger - DNR, Amy" <amy.eschberger@state.co.us>, Dick Cole <goldhillcole@gmail.com>

Cc: michaela.cunningham@state.co.us, Contact@pinebrookwater.com, cdphe.comments.wqcd@state.co.us, waterquality@lefthandwater.org, healthinfo@bouldercounty.org, gretchendief <gretchend@mac.com>, "Carson Hatcher, Mindy" <mcarsonhatcher@bouldercounty.org>, rogerflynn@colorado.edu, abutler@bouldercounty.org, kmartinez@bouldercounty.org, Michael.Cunningham@state.co.us, dcase@bouldercounty.org, huttonk@bouldercolorado.gov, taddeucciJ@bouldercolorado.gov

To All Concerned Parties,

As the manager of the Pine Brook Water District we would like to note that our concern is definitely water quality. As Dick Cole noted almost any release of water from the mines in question or the tailings pond located at the Mill site drains down Cash Gulch and into Four Mile Creek.

Four Mile Creek is our primary source of water which we treat for potable water use to our community. The Pine Brook Water District is a special district as defined by the State of Colorado and therefore is a governmental entity. We do have a complete treatment system which removes most contaminants.

However the result is that those contaminants then end up as part of our waste sludge. If the contaminants are found to be at to high of a level in our sludge then we have to have a specialty hauler dispose of them at a cost that is 6 times the normal cost. This has actually occurred post 2013 flood as many of the tailing piles in the area were disturbed by that flood. The concentrations of those contaminants is now slowly dropping as the area is stabilized.

We have stated that while we have no objection to the mine operation per se, however we do feel that given its history and the potential to contaminate Four Mile Creek that safeguards must be imposed and strictly enforced. That full water testing at approved monitoring sites should also be part of any permit.

While this is important to our operations, it is even more important for the many, many home owners who live along the creeks below the mine and all the way down to the City of Boulder. Most of these homes have wells with limited treatment. Nor is that treatment designed to remove/treat for the types of contaminants which can occur from mining operations. These homes are not within our service area and so do not receive the treated water we produce but rather are dependent on the natural flows of the creeks.

As Dick noted, there have been past violations which have occurred while the mine was under various management companies, but the common thread has been that the owner was actively involved also.

As for the water rights issues noted the only stance we have is that there must be a proper augmentation plan to protect the flows of the creeks, streams, etc down

gradient from the mine and the water right holders who then withdraw their water under their water rights.

Sincerely,

Robert de Haas, Manager  
Pine Brook Water District  
1903 Linden Drive, Boulder, CO 80304  
303-443-5394 - Office  
303-817-8153 - Cell  
303-415-0621 - Fax