



COLORADO
Division of Water Resources
Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street, Room 821
Denver, CO 80203

Response to 110(2) Hard Rock/Metal Mining Materials Reclamation Permit Amendment Application

DATE: January 25, 2018
TO: Michael A. Cunningham, Environmental Protection Specialist
(michaela.cunningham@state.co.us)
CC: Division 1 Office, District 5 & 6 Water Commissioners
FROM: Sarah Brucker, P.E. *SB*
RE: Gold Hill Mill, File No. M-1994-117 - AM01
Applicant/Operator: Colorado Milling Company, (303) 588-1119
Sections 2, 11 & 12, Twp 1 North, Rng 72 West, 6th P.M., Boulder 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 surface water by: ☐ evaporation, ☐ dust control, ☐ reclamation, ☐ water removed in the mined product, ☒ processing, ☐ other: _____.
- ☒ **Prior to initiation of these uses, the applicant will need to obtain either an approved substitute water supply plan or decreed plan for augmentation allowing for such commercial/industrial use of the water.**
- ☒ If stormwater runoff is intercepted by this operation and is not diverted or captured in priority, it must be released to the stream system within 72 hours. This may require a discharge permit from CDPHE-WQCD. Otherwise, the operator must make replacements for evaporation.

COMMENTS: The Gold Hill Mill is a mineral processing facility located just outside the settlement of Gold Hill, Colorado. The subject application seeks an amendment to add 0.797 acres to the currently permitted 8.390 acres, for a total permitted area of 9.187 acres in order to ensure that all lands affected by the mining reclamation activities are located within the permit boundary. The site is proposed to be reclaimed to its pre-mining use of forestry/open space.

Water for operations at the site is to be provided by 20 shares of stock in the Left Hand Ditch Company purchased by the Colorado Milling Company. The anticipated yield from the subject shares varies from approximately 10.4 acre-feet in a dry year to 22.5 acre-feet in a wet year. The subject shares will be diverted at a point on the south bank of Left Hand Creek. Water will be pumped via the Left Hand Creek Pump Station and conveyed to the site via the Gold Hill Mill Pipeline. The proposed maximum diversion rate is 50 gallons per minute, and diversions will be limited to the irrigation season of April 1 to October 31. A continuous measuring device is proposed to be installed at the point of diversion.

The Left Hand Ditch Company obtained a decree in case no. CA-1284 for a total of 726 cfs in the Left Hand Ditch for irrigation purposes. The Applicant has provided no evidence that the 20 shares they purchased have been changed from the originally decreed irrigation use to allow for the proposed mining/milling use. Unless



previously changed by a decree of the water court, the Applicant will need to obtain either an approved substitute water supply plan or decreed plan for augmentation allowing for such commercial/industrial use of the water.

Based on the lack of evidence that the subject water supply is decreed for mining/milling use, this office objects to the proposed amendment. The applicant may contact the State Engineer's Office with any questions.

