



TRI-STATE GENERATION AND TRANSMISSION ASSOCIATION, INC.

HEADQUARTERS: P.O. BOX 33695 DENVER, COLORADO 80233-0695 303-452-6111

April 24, 2018

Submitted via email eric.mink@state.co.us

Mr. Eric Mink
Water Quality Control Division
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
4300 Cherry Creek Drive South
Denver, Colorado 80246-1530

RE: CDPS Permit #CO-0000213
New Horizon Mine (Outfall 013)
60-Day Status Report on Whole Effluent Toxicity Testing

Dear Mr. Mink:

As reported on March 7, 2018, Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) was identified during the first quarter 2018 sampling for Outfall 013 at the Elk Ridge Mining and Reclamation, LLC (Elk Ridge) New Horizon Mine (CDPS Permit #CO-0000213). Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc. (Tri-State) is the parent of Elk Ridge. Instead of proceeding with the accelerated testing, we moved directly to the Toxicity Identification Evaluation (TIE) commencing on March 8, 2018, in accordance with Part I.D.1.c.ii. of the permit.

SeaCrest Group is conducting the TIE on behalf of the facility. To date, SeaCrest Group is wrapping up Phase I of the TIE in accordance with EPA's 1991 *Methods for Aquatic Toxicity Identification Evaluations, Phase I Toxicity Characterization Procedures, Second Edition* (EPA/600/6-91/003) and 1992 *Toxicity Identification Evaluation: Characterization of Chronically Toxic Effluents, Phase I* (EPA/600/6-91/005F) by May 2, 2018. Initial observations indicate that total dissolved solids (TDS) is the "primary toxicant, secondary toxicant, or a mask to other toxicants." Phase II testing is commencing this week.

The current permit for this facility is implemented with a delayed effective date for chronic WET in the first and fourth quarters, beginning October 1, 2020. In these quarters, the effluent limit is "report only" for chronic WET testing until September 30, 2020; however, the automatic compliance response(s) are required to be implemented in these "report only" quarters.

The next required submittals are the 120-day Status Report (due by June 30th) and the 180-day TIE or TRE report (due by August 29th). We are committed to meeting all permit requirements, including these reporting deadlines.





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If you have any questions on this status report, please contact Chantell Johnson at 303-254-3185 (cjohnson@tristategt.org).

Sincerely,

Barbara A. Walz
Senior Vice President
Policy and Compliance
Chief Compliance Officer

BAW:CJ:der

cc: Brock Bowles, DRMS (via email brock.bowles@state.co.us)
Chantell Johnson (via email)
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