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April 25, 2018

Michael Cunningham
Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety
1313 Sherman Street, Rm 215
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Alma Placer Mine; DRMS File No. M-1985-029; Amendment No. 6; Adequacy Review No. 2

On April 24, 2018, High Mountain Mining Co, LLC received the Division's adequacy review of AM-06 of the Alma Placer Mine DRMS permit. The following is an item by item response to each of the Division's concerns.

1. *As required by Rule 1.6.2(1)(g), please submit proof the public notice was circulated to the owners of record of all land surface within 200 feet of the boundary of affected lands. If a copy of the notice provided for in Rule 1.6.2(1)(d) was not mailed or personally served to the below listed landowners, then the decision date for Amendment No. 6 must be extended to allow for a 20 day public comment period from the date the public notice was provided to them. The mailing address for the below listed landowners matches the mailing address of Murphrey Holdings LLC, to which a copy of the public notice was provided. However, the Division must have proof that all landowners received notice of the Amendment Application, regardless of whether separate landowners have the same mailing address. Please submit proof the public notice was provided to the following landowners:*

- a. *Kelly Jet Murphrey*
- b. *Theresa Pesl*

A copy of the public notice was mailed via Certified Mail on April 25, 2018. The receipt is attached.

6.4.3 Exhibit C – Pre-mining and Mining Plan Maps of Affected Lands

2. *The Operator provided a return receipt of a Certified mailing of the newspaper publication to SKR LLC. The Division could not locate the property owned by SKR LLC on the Mining Plan Map. Please verify if the property owned by SKR LLC is located within 200 feet of the affected lands.*

The property is not located within 200 feet of affected lands.

6.4.4 Exhibit D –Mining Plan

3. *In response to Item No. 10 of the Division's Adequacy Review No. 1 letter dated March 5, 2018, the Operator indicated the Mining Plan was revised to reflect there are 3 to 9 inches of salvageable topsoil from unmined areas. The revised Mining Plan (D-2) still contains language which indicates there are 3 to 6 inches of salvageable topsoil from unmined areas. Please revise this section of the Mining Plan to be consistent with the information presented under AM05.*

Page D-2 has been revised to reflect the correct topsoil depth. It is attached.

The table below lists all of the revised permit pages and maps that are attached to this adequacy response.

Attachment Table

| Attached Page | Attached Map |
|---|--------------|
| Page D-2 | |
| Certified Mail Receipts for Murphrey and Pesl | |

Please contact our office with any further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ben Langenfeld', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ben Langenfeld, P.E.
Greg Lewicki and Associates

Gold veins in igneous rock on the south side of Hoosier Pass and in the upper basin of the South Platte drainage are the origin of the Park County placers through thousands of years of glacial activity during the last ice age and subsequent erosion. Due to the fineness of gold at the site (0.833 fine), the gold placer has been traced to gold from North Star Mountain in the Montgomery Deadwood area in the upper reach of the basin.

Past mining history shows significant gold placer deposits are found in dips or depressions in the bedrock within the permit area. Good concentrations can also be found in previous locations of the South Platte River channel. Seismic testing (2002) of the exact bedrock location shows sporadic dips and an older channel location near the west edge of the permit area. Based on seismic test results and past operations, this horizon will be targeted for placer mining. Seismic cross section locations are shown on Map C-3. Cross sections showing the bedrock to gravel contact as well as the current surface are given on Map C-3.

Topsoil, overburden, and separated waste fines will be stockpiled and used to backfill the slopes of mined out areas to a 3H:1V slope during Reclamation as shown on Map F-1. It is expected that 15 to 25 feet of overburden gravel will be excavated and placed in previous pit excavations to access the lower 5-15 feet of gravel above bedrock that is known to contain high gold concentrations. In unmined areas, topsoil will be salvaged and stockpiled as shown on Map C-2. The expected average depth of topsoil is 4.5" based on existing cuts in the permit area. To prevent erosion of topsoil and overburden stockpiles, piles will be seeded within 180 days of establishment with the rangeland seed mix or quick oats. Stockpiles will be constructed to 2.5H:1V slopes for topsoil and overburden.

Gold placer mining will occur in cuts of approximately 300 feet long by 150 feet wide with 2H:1V side slopes to access bedrock at an average maximum depth of 30 feet. Cuts will be completed within lettered mining areas shown on Map C-2 with a general mining direction from the northwest to the southeast. Mining in each area includes: topsoil and overburden stripping, placer gold mining, and backfilling.

Prior to any mining for this amendment, a berm with a minimum 8 foot height, 2H:1V side slopes will be created along the Highway 9 ROW (right of way) for at least 600 feet around the active mining area. This will visually shield the operation from the Highway/Main Street, as well

U.S. Postal Service
Certified Mail Receipt

ARTICLE NUMBER
9414 7118 9956 0941 2257 93

ARTICLE ADDRESS TO:
Kelly Jett Murphrey
1013 Francis Dr
College Station TX 77840-2314

FEES

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------------|
| Postage per piece | \$0.47 |
| Certified Fee | 3.45 |
| Return Receipt Fee | 2.75 |
| Total Postage & Fees: | \$6.67 |



U.S. Postal Service
Certified Mail Receipt

ARTICLE NUMBER
9414 7118 9956 0941 7297 96

ARTICLE ADDRESS TO:
Theresa Pesl
1013 Francis Dr
College Station TX 77840-2314

FEES

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------------|
| Postage per piece | \$0.47 |
| Certified Fee | 3.45 |
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| Total Postage & Fees: | \$6.67 |

