



COLORADO
Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety
Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street, Room 215
Denver, Colorado 80203

June 14, 2019

Tom Brubaker
VALCO, Inc.
9121 Sunshine Meadow Pl
Parker, CO 80134

**Re: Rocky Ford East Pit, Permit No. M-1977-560, Technical Revision No. 3 (TR-03),
Adequacy Review No. 1**

Mr. Brubaker:

On May 29, 2019, the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division) received your Technical Revision application (TR-03) for the Rocky Ford East Pit, Permit No. M-1977-560. The revision requested addresses the following items:

Update the reclamation plan and reclamation plan map to reflect backfilling of existing lakes.

After reviewing the materials submitted, the Division has identified the following adequacy items that must be addressed before an approval of TR-03 can be issued:

- 1) The revised reclamation plan map submitted does not meet the requirements of Rule 6.2.1(2), which requires all maps and exhibits (except the index map) to conform to the following criteria:
 - a. Show the name of the applicant;
 - b. Must be prepared and signed by a registered land surveyor, professional engineer, or other qualified person;
 - c. Give date prepared;
 - d. Identify and outline the area which corresponds with the application; (The red outline on the map submitted is not labeled).
 - e. Shall be prepared at a scale that is appropriate to clearly show all elements that are required to be delineated by the Act and Rules. The acceptable range of map scales shall not be larger than 1 inch = 50 feet nor smaller than 1 inch = 660 feet. (The map submitted has a scale of 1 inch = 640 feet; however it does not clearly show all elements required by Rule 6.4.6 – see below) Also, that a map scale, appropriate legend, map title, date and a north arrow shall be included.

Please be sure the revised reclamation plan map meets the requirements described above.



- 2) The revised reclamation plan map submitted also does not meet the requirements of Rule 6.4.6, which requires the map indicate the following:
- a. The expected physical appearance of the area of the affected land, correlated to the proposed mining and reclamation timetables. The map must show proposed topography of the area with contour lines of sufficient detail to portray the direction and rate of slope of all reclaimed lands; and
 - b. Portrayal of the proposed final land use for each portion of the affected lands.

Please be sure the revised reclamation plan map meets the requirements described above.

- 3) The revised bond estimate does not fully meet the requirements of Rule 6.4.12. which requires all information necessary to calculate the costs of reclamation be submitted and broken down into the various major phases of reclamation. The information provided by the operator must be sufficient to calculate the cost of reclamation that would be incurred by the state.

In order for the Division to calculate the cost of reclamation for the site, please provide the following:

- a. Please include information for all reclamation tasks required for final reclamation of the site, including ripping compacted areas (the Division estimates 50 acres will require ripping), replacing topsoil (the Division estimates 81 acres will require retopsoiling after backfilling the ponds as proposed), and revegetating the site (also 81 acres).
- b. Please list the anticipated type and number of equipment to be used for each reclamation task. For example, you could say “two Cat D8 dozers” or “two mid-sized dozers”.
- c. Please provide more details for the dewatering task including:
 - i. Type of pump (i.e., portable diesel powered heavy duty centrifugal pump 90M, 6 in., electric submersible pump 460v, 6 in.), suction hose diameter and length, discharge hose diameter and length, and required labor (i.e., pump operator, mechanic, welder).
 - ii. Number of each type of equipment required (i.e., pump, suction hose, discharge hose, workers).
 - iii. Initial pond volume and total pond inflow surface area.
 - iv. Estimated suction head (in feet) and estimated discharge head (in feet).

Alternatively, the operator may provide a line item cost estimate from an independent contractor that includes the appropriate information for the dewatering task.



This completes the Division's adequacy review of the materials submitted for TR-03. The decision date for TR-03 is currently set for **June 28, 2019**. If additional time is needed to address the adequacy items, an extension request must be received by our Office prior to the decision date.

If you have any questions, you may contact me by telephone at (303) 866-3567, ext. 8129, or by email at amy.eschberger@state.co.us.

Sincerely,



Amy Eschberger
Environmental Protection Specialist

Cc: Michael Cunningham, DRMS

