



REALtime Aquifer Services

October 18, 2019

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Mr. Elliott Russell
Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety
1313 Sherman Street, Room 215
Denver, Colorado 80203

Subject: Request to continue corrective action, reclamation and material stockpile removal at the Gillette Sand & Gravel Inc.; File No, M-1992-009

Dear Mr. Russell:

On behalf of Mr. Chris Pyles, owner and operator of the Gillette Sand and Gravel Mine (the Site), Realtime Aquifer Services (RAS, Inc.) has prepared this formal request for permission to continue corrective action work, mine reclamation activities, and material stockpile removal at the Site. On October 9, 2019, the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (the Division) issued a Cease and Desist order directing that all mining, prospecting, milling, exploration and other mining operations be suspended.

Mr. Pyles has fully complied with this order. His request is based on the need to continue corrective action and reclamation activities to mitigate harm to persons, property and the environment. Removing stored material stockpiles is necessary to finance the required improvements. Mining-related activities will not be conducted until the Site returns to compliance under the Division's regulations.

Subsequent to the October 4 Site inspection and with your consent, Mr. Pyles has taken the following corrective measures to mitigate potential future releases:

1. Reinforcement and significant enlargement of the west berm of the sediment retention pond that had overtopped.
2. Sediment that had been released beyond the western permit boundary was graded back onto the Site and the off-permit area was regraded to approximate pre-release conditions.
3. Regrading and reinforcement of sediment retention pond berms in other parts of the Site to mitigate potential future releases to the central stockpile area.
4. Excavation of a sediment retention pond in the southeast roadbase area to prevent sediment release from this part of the Site.

As a proactive measure to address the concerns cited by the Division, Mr. Pyles has contracted RAS to assist with engineering and permitting tasks, including:

1. Recommendations for corrective measures to bring the operation back to compliance.



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2. Review of mining permit issues and provide recommendations for amendments (if necessary).
3. Engineering assistance for pond and outlet structure design.
4. Sediment management and best management practices for sediment control at design discharge points.
5. Preparation of a comprehensive inspection plan to ensure that the designed systems are performing as required and to make adjustments as necessary.

Additional work is required to improve the retention pond system performance and integrity, as discussed by you, Mr. Pyles and his staff during the two-hour October 16, 2019 meeting at the Site. Mr. Pyles requests your permission to continue work on these important corrective tasks.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at 303-808-6133 or at bren.shine@q.com. To avoid potential layoffs of Mr. Pyles' staff, your prompt response to this matter is appreciated.

Regards,

Realtime Aquifer Services

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'B. Shine', is written over a light blue grid background.

Brendan Shine, P.E.

Senior Geological Engineer