



Response to 110(1) Hard Rock Reclamation Permit Application

DATE: November 4, 2019
TO: Elliott R. Russell, Environmental Protection Specialist
FROM: Sarah Brucker, P.E. *SB*
RE: Blue Bee Diggins, File No. M-2019-038
Applicant/Operator: CBRG, LLC
Phone Number: (719) 836-2458
SW¼ NE¼ Section 18, Twp 12 South, Rng 75 West, 6th P.M., Park County

CONDITIONS FOR APPROVAL

- ☒ The proposed operation does not anticipate exposing groundwater. Therefore, exposure of groundwater must not occur during or after mining operations.
- ☒ If water will be used for any purpose at this site, the applicant will need to document that the water was obtained from a legal source, or was diverted in priority under a water right decreed for such mining/industrial use.
- ☒ Any stormwater runoff intercepted by this operation that is not diverted or captured in priority must be released to the stream system within 72 hours.

COMMENTS: The subject application is for a surface mining operation on 4.1 permitted acres located approximately 2 miles southwest of Hartsel, Colorado. The primary commodity to be mined at the site is barite crystals. The site is proposed to be reclaimed to its current use of rangeland upon completion of mining.

Mining will be conducted seasonally from first thaw to ground freeze each year, for an anticipated span of 15 years. The site will be open to the public as a fee digging area (tourist attraction). Trenches will be made by machinery to a depth of 3-4 feet with the public utilizing hand tools to dig in the exploration trenches. The depth to groundwater in the area was estimated at 200 feet below ground surface, therefore mining operations are not expected to expose groundwater.

The applicant has indicated that no water will be needed during the mining operation. However, due to the site being open to the public, it is anticipated that water may be needed for drinking and sanitary purposes. This office would have no opposition to the use of bottled water and portable toilets to meet these needs. If water from another source will be used at the site, it is recommended that the applicant verify with this office that the water may legally be used for such commercial/industrial purposes.

If stormwater runoff is intercepted by this operation and is not diverted or captured in priority, it must infiltrate into the ground or be released to the stream system within 72 hours; otherwise, the operator must make replacements for evaporation.

Based on the above, this office has no concerns regarding the proposed mining operation. The applicant may contact the State Engineer's Office with any questions.

