



Response to 110(1) Hard Rock Reclamation Permit Application

DATE: February 12, 2020  
TO: Elliott R. Russell, Environmental Protection Specialist  
FROM: Javier Vargas-Johnson  
RE: D Family Jewels, File No. M-2019-055  
Applicant/Operator: James and Yvette Downing  
Phone Number: (719) 306-5609  
Pt. SW ¼ of the SW ¼, Section 24, Twp 11 South, Rng 71 West, 6th P.M., Teller County  
Water Division 1, Water District 23

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**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.

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**COMMENTS:** The subject application is for a surface mining operation on 1.15 permitted acres located approximately 9 miles north of Florissant, Colorado. The primary commodities to be mined at the site are gems, amazonite, silver, and gold. The site is proposed to be contemporaneously reclaimed as mining progresses.

Mining will be conducted seasonally from each year as weather permits, for an anticipated span of 2 to 5 years. The operator proposes to use hand tools and a jackhammer to dig ditches up to 10 feet deep on each side of a vein. Mining operations are not expected to expose groundwater.

The applicant has indicated that no water will be needed during the mining operation. This office would have no opposition to the use of bottled water and portable toilets to meet the drinking and sanitation needs of on-site workers. 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.

