



COLORADO

Division of Water Resources

Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman St., Room 821
Denver, CO 80203

Response to Consideration of 112c Construction Materials Reclamation Permit Application

To: Lucas J. West, Environmental Protection Specialist
From: Justina P. Mickelson, Physical Science Researcher/Scientist
Date: February 13, 2020
Re: Permit No. M-2020-008, Rifle Gravel Pit #1
Operator: Scott Contracting, Inc.
Section 8, Twp 6 S, Rng 92 W, 6th P.M.; Garfield County

CONDITIONS FOR APPROVAL

The proposed operation anticipates exposing groundwater. The proposed site is located in an over-appropriated stream system. If water were stored or evaporates out of priority, then a plan for augmentation would be required. Groundwater encountered at the pond, would then be considered a well and a plan for augmentation would be required, unless a liner were installed to prevent surface water from contacting groundwater.

With the anticipation of exposing groundwater, the applicant intends to contract with West Divide Water Conservancy District for augmentation water, apply for a substitute water supply plan (SWSP) with this office and apply for a decreed augmentation plan through water court.

According to the mining plan, the applicant will apply for a dewatering well permit. The dewatering activity will lower the groundwater during Phase 1 and will support aggregate mining preparation during Phase 2. The applicant will also apply for a pond well permit for exposure of groundwater in the pit. Water depletions occurring during mining operations will be from mined aggregate and dust control. After mining is completed, water depletions from the pit will be from evaporation of ground water from the gravel pit pond.

Prior to approving a well permit, the applicant must conduct a field inspection of the site and document the locations of all wells within 600 feet of the permit area. The applicant must then obtain a waiver of objection from all well owners with wells within 600 feet of the permit area. The applicant must then obtain a waiver of objection from all well owners within 600 feet of the permit area or request a hearing before the State Engineer.

The applicant is planning to truck potable water onto the site to supply employees with potable water. The applicant will need to document that the water was obtained from a legal source that allows such commercial use.

If storm water is not diverted or captured in priority, Colorado Water Law requires it to be released, or replacement for evaporation will be required of the impounder/operator/owner of the gravel pit. The State Engineer's current policy requires that all impounded water be released to the stream system within a maximum of 72 hours after impoundment. Unless captured in priority, impounded water may not be used for any purpose except as approved under a water supply plan or decreed plan for augmentation.



COMMENTS:

This office has no objections to the Consideration of 112c Construction Materials Reclamation Permit Application so long as the site operates under a valid well permit(s) for any ground water exposure or use.

The applicant may contact the State Engineer's Office with any questions.

Cc: Division 5 Engineer
District 45 Water Commissioner