



Response to Consideration of Construction Materials Reclamation Permit Conversion Application

DATE: February 26, 2020
TO: Brock Bowles, Environmental Protection Specialist
CC: Keith Vander Horst, P.E., Chief of Water Supply - Inside Basins
FROM: Javier Vargas-Johnson
RE: State Land-Jensen Pit, Permit No. M-1983-050
Applicant/Operator: Phillips County
Phone Number: (970) 466-0170
Pt. SW ¼ of Section 16, Twp 9 North, Rng 44 West, 6th P.M., Sedgwick County
Water Division 1, Water District 65, Northern High Plains Designated Basin, Marks Butte Ground Water Management District

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 conversion from a Limited Impact Permit to a Construction Materials Reclamation Permit of an active surface mining operation located approximately 11 miles north and 1 mile east of Holyoke, Colorado. The application seeks to add 8.35 acres to the currently permitted 9.9 acres for a total permitted area of 18.25 acres at the Jensen Pit under permit no. M-1983-050. The primary commodity mined at the site is road base and gravel. The site is proposed to be reclaimed to its previous use of rangeland upon completion of mining.

The application did not state the proposed excavation depths, however, operations are not anticipated to intercept groundwater. The static water levels observed in wells constructed within 2 miles indicate that the static groundwater levels in the area are at least 100 feet below ground surface.

No water will be needed during the mining operation, and no water impoundments will be constructed. There is an intermittent stream on the border of the permit boundary.

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.

