




Response to Consideration of 112c Construction Materials Reclamation Permit Application

DATE: June 21, 2021

TO: Brock F. Bowles, Environmental Protection Specialist

CC: Keith Vander Horst, P.E., Chief of Water Supply - Inside Basins

FROM: Sarah Brucker, P.E. 

RE: Biesemeier State Pit, File No. M-2021-029
Applicant/Operator: Phillips County; (970) 854-3778
SW¼ NW¼ Section 16, Twp. 7 North, Rng. 46 West, 6th P.M., Phillips County
Water Division 1, Water District 65, Northern High Plains Designated Basin,
Frenchman 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 reclamation activity.
- ☒ 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 infiltrate into the ground or be released to the stream system within 72 hours; otherwise the operator will need to make replacements for evaporation.

COMMENTS: The subject application is for a surface mining operation on 20 acres located approximately 7 miles southeast of Haxtun, Colorado. The primary commodity to be mined at the site is gravel. The site is proposed to be reclaimed to its pre-mining use of pastureland.

The site will be mined to approximately 6 feet in depth. The groundwater table is 150 feet below ground surface in most areas of the site, therefore mining is not anticipated to intercept groundwater. No water is proposed to be used in conjunction with the mining operation.

No mining will be conducted within the dry creek bed adjacent to the excavation area, which can contain water during heavy rainfall. If water ponds in any area of the site, it will be backfilled within 72 hours.

Based on the submitted information, this office has no concerns regarding the proposed operation. The Division of Reclamation Mining & Safety and/or the applicant may contact the State Engineer's Office with any questions.

