

MEMORANDUM

Date: July 2, 2021
To: Rob Zuber, DRMS
From: Amy Eschberger, DRMS
RE: Young Ranch Resource Quarry, File No. M-2021-009, New 112c Permit Application
Request for Technical Review

On May 17, 2021, the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division) received a new 112c Permit Application for the Young Ranch Resource Quarry, submitted by Young Ranch Resource, LLC. The proposed quarry is located approximately 2.5 miles northeast of Idaho Springs, in both Gilpin and Clear Creek Counties. The proposed permit area is 469.7 acres and includes a segment of the Central City Parkway (CCP). The proposed affected area is 335.4 acres. The proposed affected lands are primarily owned by the Applicant, with the CCP and some cut/fill areas adjacent to this road owned by Central City.

The application proposes an open pit quarry operation to extract metamorphic rocks and the overlying gravel deposit for use as construction materials. Blasting methods will be utilized by the operation. Mined material will be processed on site. The quarry operation will develop two large excavation areas with highwalls maintained at a benched configuration. A large waste rock dump will be created in the eastern portion of the affected lands. The operation will advance through three primary mining phases with reclamation of affected lands occurring concurrently as the operation progresses. The application proposes realigning the section of the CCP located within the affected lands to the center of the site during the second mining phase. The affected lands will be reclaimed to support a rangeland and wildlife habitat post-mining land use.

The Division determined this application to be “complex”, which extended the application decision date by 60 days. This gives an application decision date of October 14, 2021. The public comment period for this application is set to close on July 21, 2021. The Division conducted an on-site meeting with Colorado Parks and Wildlife on June 10, 2021 to discuss the proposed wildlife mitigation measures. A pre-operation inspection of the proposed affected lands will be conducted after the public comment period closes.

I am requesting your technical expertise in reviewing this application to determine whether the information presented demonstrates the proposed operation will minimize disturbances to the prevailing hydrologic balance of the affected land and of the surrounding area and to the quantity or quality of water in surface water systems both during and after the mining operation and during reclamation in accordance with Rule 3.1.6, that all mined material to be disposed of within the affected area will be handled in such a manner so as to prevent any unauthorized release of pollutants to the surface drainage system in accordance with Rule 3.1.5(1), and that runoff from disturbed areas, piled material, and operating surfaces will be managed to protect against pollution of surface water (and, where applicable, control pollution in a manner that is consistent with water quality discharge permits), both during and after the operation in accordance with Rule 6.4.7(2)(c). Please submit your review comments by **July 27, 2021** in the form of a Memorandum on Division letterhead.

The application files are available in Laserfiche and will also be shared with you via Google Drive.

Cc: Michael Cunningham, DRMS

