

**Technical Revision**  
**Empire Pit**  
**Reclamation Permit No. M-1977-534**

**Introduction**

The City of Golden is submitting a technical revision to make changes to existing 112 Operation Reclamation Permit No. M-1977-534 for its Empire Pit. Changes include modifications to the methods to address potentially saline soils in TR-03, re-establishment of an access road to the former explosives storage facility, and construction of a new road to access property to the south.

**Reclamation Plan**

Golden proposes to make the following changes to the reclamation plan for the area east of the reservoir:

1. Saline Soils

Golden proposes to modify the reclamation plan revisions included in TR03 as follows: Golden will excavate and remove 24 inches from the project area instead of the 30 inches approved in TR03. A geosynthetic clay liner will be installed at the base of the excavation instead of the 6 inch clay layer approved in TR03.

Consistent with TR03, a combination of soil and topsoil, 24 inches thick, will be placed on the barrier to provide sufficient depth for the native species roots. The subsoil will be approximately 18 inches thick, would be inert and not contain excessive salts or sodium, and would otherwise meet DRMS requirements. The topsoil would be a minimum of 6 inches and provide sufficient nutrients to support native grasses. Additionally, the topsoil would be within the pH range and alkalinity/salt tolerance of the native grasses planted.

Golden proposes to delete the requirement to test the soils and submit results to DMRS before application at the project area. Noxious weed best management practices will be followed including using certified weed-free mulch and seeds and inspecting the site after seeding to determine if noxious weeds are growing. If weeds are growing, appropriate noxious weed-control methods would be used.

2. Access Roads

Golden proposes to re-establish an access road along the east fence line of the pasture at the request of the property owners. The Reclamation Plan Map has been amended to reflect this change and is included in this technical revision. Where this access road overlaps areas that have had unsuccessful revegetation, soils will not be excavated and replaced. Where needed,

the liner will be anchored under the road in such a way to prevent migration to the areas addressed in item 1 above.

Golden will also redirect drainage from the site that is currently causing minor erosion on a road that connects the reclamation area to the property to the north.