

November 23, 2021

Blake Tope
Hill Top Gravel LLC
21225 Scott Rd
Calhan, CO 80808

**Re: Simla Highway Pit, Permit No. M-1995-095, Technical Revision (TR-2);
Preliminary Adequacy Review**

Mr. Tope:

The Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (DRMS) received a request for a Technical Revision (TR-2) addressing the following:

Locate new mining in are on two acres in northwest corner of current permit area.

The submittal was called complete for the purpose of filing on November 10, 2021. The **decision date for TR-2 is December 10, 2021**. Please be advised that if you are unable to satisfactorily address any concerns identified in this review before the decision date, **it will be your responsibility to request an extension of the review period**. If there are outstanding issues that have not been adequately addressed prior to the end of the review period, and no extension has been requested, the Division may deny this Technical Revision.

The following comments are based on the DRMS review of the request for TR-2:

- 1) Map: The map that was submitted with TR-2 depicted two black rectangles outlining areas to be re-affected, but did not show the existing permit boundary. The DRMS overlaid the submitted map in Google Earth. Based on the overlaid image, the large rectangle is 1.40 acres and the small rectangle is 0.15 acres. As can be seen in **Figure 1**, both these rectangles include area outside the permit area. This type of increase in affected area is only allowed through either an amendment application (which allows adding area such that the total permit area is less than 10 acres), or a conversion application (changing the type of permit and allowing 10 acres or more to be affected). If you wish to keep this change to a technical revision, please submit a revised map limiting the re-affected area to that within the existing permit boundary. [Note: the current approved area for mining is the area outlined in light blue on Figure 1 and is currently what is required to be delineated




with boundary markers in the field. If TR-2 is approved, additional boundary markers will be required to mark the entire orange boundary in Figure 1.]

- 2) Sediment Pond: Referring to the dark blue outlined area in **Figure 1**, it appears the area excluded from reseeding with the approval of the Surety Reduction (SR-1) in 2018 is no longer a sediment pond, thus requiring reseeding for final reclamation. Please clarify whether this area is still intended as a permanent sediment pond.
- 3) Bond Increase: The request proposes increasing the bond by \$7,000 to account for reclamation of the re-affected area. The DRMS assumes this is intended to cover additional topsoil placement and reseeding of the proposed re-affected area. Please clarify what additional tasks this proposed increase in bond is intended to cover.
- 4) Topsoil Stockpile: The request states the topsoil will be located in the northeast corner of the current permit area. Please be aware the topsoil will need to be placed within the orange boundary on **Figure 1**.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact me at (303)866-3567 x8169.

Sincerely,



Timothy A. Cazier, P.E.
Environmental Protection Specialist

Attachment: Figure 1

cc: DRMS file
Blake Tope, Hill Top Gravel