



February 10, 2022

Ms. Melissa Harmon
Cripple Creek & Victor Gold Mining Company
P.O. Box 191
Victor, CO 80860

RE: Division Adequacy Review; Technical Revision 129 (TR-129) Proposed Numeric Protection Levels and Site Compliance Well Identification, Permit No. M-1980-244

Dear Ms. Harmon,

On December 2, 2021, the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division/DRMS) received your request for Technical Revision 129 (TR-129). After review of TR-129 the Division has the following list of items that need to be addressed by the operator.

Proposed Numeric Protection Limits:

1. The operator states they will be supplementing this TR with proposed numeric protection limits (NPLs) for the points of compliance. Please note that any NPLs proposed by the Operator must comply with the criteria outlined in WQCC's Regulation No. 41 – The Basic Standards of Ground Water. As an implementing agency under Regulation No. 41, the Division is exercising its discretion to review the prior setting of NPLs at the site to determine whether or not the NPLs are representative of existing water quality as of January 31, 1994, taking into account location, sampling date and quality of all available data.
2. Until such time as the WQCC re-classifies the groundwater basins influenced by the Cresson Project or the DRMS determines it may modify NPLs, the DRMS will require CC&V meet the current NPLs and corrective actions will be required where groundwater quality consistently does not meet those NPLs.

Background:

3. The following is the Operator's June 3, 2021 response to the Division's January 28, 2021 adequacy review question #2. The original question is provided (*italics*) with the Operator's response in **bold**.

In Amendment 13, Exhibit G it states that there are 53 active wells used for various monitoring activities at site and of those 27 wells are monitored on a quarterly basis or more frequently. It is also stated that there are 27 monitoring wells in the Cresson Project Area with an additional 29



monitoring wells in the Grassy Valley Area. The Division, using the provided maps, was only able to determine that there are 49 monitoring wells and of those only 25 (DRMS compliance monitoring wells) are monitored on a quarterly basis

- *Clarify the number of total active monitoring wells at the site on a basin-by-basin basis and explain the difference between a non-DRMS monitoring well and a DRMS compliance monitoring well.*
- *What are the non-DRMS compliance monitoring wells sampled for and how often are they sampled? Why are the sample results for these wells not provided to the Division?*

Per conversation with DRMS on May 12, 2021, CC&V commits to submitting a Technical Revision (TR) to clarify the total number of active monitoring wells at CC&V on a basin-by basin basis. This TR will be submitted by July 31, 2021, and will define non-DRMS monitoring wells, quarterly monitoring wells, and Points of Compliance per Rule 3.1.7(6).

Please respond to the bulleted items listed above.

4. The following is the Operator's June 3, 2021 response to the Division's January 28, 2021 adequacy review question #3. The original question is provided (italics) with the Operator's response in bold.

It does not appear, from review of the permit record, that any of the DRMS compliance monitoring well locations were identified as specific points of compliance to satisfy the conditions of Rule 3.7.1. The Division requests the operator propose a specific point of compliance for each basin.

Per conversation with DRMS on May 12, 2021, CC&V commits to submitting a Technical Revision by July 31, 2021, defining CC&V's Points of Compliance in a manner consistent with the conditions of Rule 3.1.7(6). The TR will include an update to Exhibit G, applicable maps, and CC&V's Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP).

Please provide the updated Exhibit G and QAPP.

Points of Compliance:

5. Please provide potentiometric maps of each basin that demonstrate the proposed points of compliance are hydrologically down-gradient, and provide basin information on the groundwater flow direction.
6. Groundwater at the site has been separated into a shallow, deep and deeper water bearing intervals, e.g CRMW-5A, -5B, -5C, and -5D. All intervals need to have a point of compliance identified within each basin. Identify the additional points of compliance for Arequa Gulch, Grassy Valley, Vindicator Valley, and Wilson Creek. At this time, basins that do not currently have multiple groundwater intervals identified additional points of compliance do not need to be identified.

7. Additional clarification is needed. In the potential points of compliance table, SGMW-8 is listed and in the following paragraph SGMW-8A is referenced, are these the same well? Does the Operator anticipate there may be more than one well installed during the test drilling program?
8. Additional information is requested to describe what the test drilling program will entail to determine proper new well locations. Please indicate what criteria will be used to determine appropriate locations and how that is consistent with the request for a potentiometric map in Comment 5.

This concludes the Division's Adequacy Review of TR-129 Proposed Numeric Protection Levels and Site Compliance Well Identification. The Division reserves the right to further supplement this document with additional items and/or details as necessary.

The due date for your response has been set for March 14, 2022.

If you need additional information or have any questions, please contact me at Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, 1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, CO 80203, by telephone at **303-866-3567 x8114**, or by email at patrick.lennberg@state.co.us. If you need additional information or have any questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Patrick Lennberg
Environmental Protection Specialist

cc: Justin Raglin, Cripple Creek & Victor Gold Mine
Ronald Parratt, Cripple Creek & Victor Gold Mine
Katie Blake, Cripple Creek & Victor Gold Mine
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