



COLORADO
Division of Water Resources
Department of Natural Resources

Response to Reclamation Permit Application Consideration

DATE: April 5, 2022
TO: Robert D. Zuber, P.E., Environmental Protection Specialist; transmission via email at: rob.zuber@state.co.us
EC:
FROM: Division 1 Office, District 2 Water Commissioner
RE: Ioana Comaniciu, P.E.
Monarch DENM Mine, File No. M-2022-009
Operator: Monarch Mountain Minerals and Aggregates, LLC - Eric Leigh (720)-289-5584
Contact: Civil Resources, LLC - Kyle Regan, (303) 833-1416
Sections 18 and 19, Twp 4 North, Rng 66 West, P.M., Weld County

CONDITIONS FOR APPROVAL

- ☒ The proposed operation will consume ground water by: ☒ evaporation, ☒ dust control, ☒ dewatering, ☒ water removed in the mined product, ☒ reclamation:
Prior to initiation of these uses of groundwater, the applicant will need to obtain either a gravel pit or other type of well permit, as applicable. However, prior to obtaining a permit, an approved water supply plan or decreed plan for augmentation is required.
- ☒ Prior to approving a well permit, the applicant must conduct a field inspection of the site and document the locations of all wells within 600 feet of the permit area. The applicant must then obtain a waiver of objection from all well owners with wells within 600 feet of the permit area or request a hearing before the State Engineer.

COMMENTS: The subject application is for a surface mining operation on approximately 544.6 acres located in the SE ¼ of the NE ¼ and the NE ¼ of the SE ¼ and the S ½ of the SE ¼ of Section 18; the N ½ of the NE ¼ and the E ½ of the NW ¼ and the N ½ of the SW ¼ of Section 19, the S ½ of the SW ¼ of Section 19, the SE ¼ of Section 19 and the NW ¼ of Section 30, all in Township 4 North, Range 66 West of the 6th P.M. The primary commodities to be mined at the site are sand and gravel intended for construction materials. The mining plan currently includes mining in five major phases ranging in size from 27 to 97 acres that are expected to last approximately 37 years.

The mining plan calls for excavation to remove approximately 1,000,000 tons of aggregate per year. Mining will be accomplished by dry-mining method. A continuous soil/bentonite slurry wall will be constructed around the proposed Cell 1 through Cell 4. In addition a unlined Siltation Pond and two Fresh Water Ponds will be located on the mined area. The mined area in the proposed Siltation Pond and Fresh Water Ponds may be backfilled back to native grade and used as farmland or may be converted to a water storage facility if economically feasible. The site is proposed to be reclaimed as water resources for storage of decreed water rights or other water as allowed by this office as well as backfilling.

Prior to the use/exposure of any groundwater the applicant must first obtain a well permit and a substitute water supply plan or decreed plan for augmentation. The site must continue to be operated under a substitute water supply plan until such time as the proposed storage reservoirs or backfilling



are completed and replacement of all lagged depletions shall continue until there is no longer an effect on the stream.

Any storm water 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 be required to make replacements for evaporation.

The applicant may contact the State Engineer's Office with any questions.