



Response to Reclamation Permit Application Consideration

DATE: April 27, 2022
TO: Robert D. Zuber, Environmental Protection Specialist,
rob.zuber@state.co.us
CC: Division 1 Office, District 2 Water Commissioner
FROM: Ioana Comaniciu, P.E.
RE: Two Rivers Sand, Gravel and Reservoir Project, File No. M-2022-013
Operator: Garrett C. Varra, Varra Companies, Inc., (303)-666-6657
Contact: Bradford Janes, Varra Companies, Inc., (303) 666-6657
Parts of Sections 3 and 4, Twp 4 North, Rng 66 West, 6th 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 ground water, 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 409.234 permitted acres located in parts of Sections 3 and 4, Township 4 North, Range 66 West of the 6th P.M. The areas to be mined are currently used for agricultural purposes. The primary commodities to be mined at the site are sand, gravel, topsoil overburden and borrow materials. Two mining areas designated as the Central Field and the North West Field were identified in this application as the primary extraction areas. The primary extraction area totals 234.06 acres (180.76 acres for Central Field and 53.30 acres for North-West Field). The remaining 175.17 acres of land within the permitted boundaries will include the secondary extraction (plant processing/stockpile areas and a wash pond) and existing and future access roads, levees and other structures.

The mining plan calls for excavation to remove aggregate from approximately 30 to 45 feet over the entire property. Groundwater occurs at an average weighted depth of approximately 8.4 feet below ground surface. Mining will be accomplished by dry-mining method. 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. The two primary extraction areas will be mined and reclaimed as developed two water storage reservoirs proposed to be lined in accordance with the August 1999 State Engineer Guidelines for Lining Criteria. Prior to the use/exposure of any ground water 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 reservoirs are lined, lining approved by this office, backfilling completed and replacement of lagged depletions shall continue until there is no longer an effect on 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.