



Response to Construction Materials Reclamation Permit Amendment Application Consideration

DATE: May 11, 2022
TO: Eric C. Scott, Environmental Protection Specialist
FROM: Javier Vargas-Johnson, Water Resources Engineer
RE: Specification Aggregates Quarry, File No. M-1974-004 - AM04
Applicant/Operator: Martin Marietta Materials, Inc., (970)612-6232
Section 15, Twp 4 South, Rng 70 West, 6th P.M., Jefferson County
Water Division 1, Water Districts 7 and 9

CONDITIONS FOR APPROVAL

- ☒ A dewatering system well permit must be obtained for the pumping and discharge of any groundwater at the site. If the groundwater is not returned to the stream system with efforts to ensure minimal consumption, an approved substitute water supply plan or decreed plan for augmentation will be required.
 - ☒ Any stormwater runoff intercepted by this operation that is not diverted or captured in priority must be released to the stream system within 72 hours; otherwise the operator will need to make replacements for evaporation.
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COMMENTS: The Applicant operates the Specification Aggregates Quarry under Colorado Division of Reclamation Mining and Safety (DRMS) permit no. M-1974-004. The subject amendment request seeks to add 64.1 acres to the currently permitted 325.2 acres, for a total of 389.3 permitted acres. The 64.1 acres are located south of, and immediately adjacent to, the existing permit area.

The Applicant proposes to mine 48 out of the 64.1 acres being added to the permit. The remaining 16.1 acres will be an undisturbed buffer area. Only mining activities will be allowed on the acreage being added, with all processing activities to be located within the existing permit area. The Applicant will utilize the “mine from behind” technique and concurrent reclamation. The “mine from behind” technique will remove the crystalline rock in benches that will average 35 to 50 feet in height, until the lowest proposed level of the quarry is reached at an elevation of 5,400 feet.

Water for mining operations and dust control purposes will be obtained from the Spec Agg Pit and the Magic Mountain Reservoirs located within the existing Specification Aggregates Quarry site. Although the Spec Agg Pit is not a lined reservoir, on November 15, 2018, the Division of Water Resources certified that the Spec Agg Pit achieved the design standard for groundwater seepage for lined reservoirs in accordance with the August 1999 State Engineer Guidelines for Lining Criteria for Gravel Pits. After this proposed enlargement, the Spec Agg Pit will be much larger than when the leakage test was performed. Therefore, this office may require that the Applicant perform a second leak test once the mining is complete and prior to the use of the enlarged Spec Agg Pit as a storage reservoir. The two reservoirs are included in a plan for augmentation originally decreed in Division 1 Water Court Consolidated Case Nos. 90CW0215 and



91CW0047 and subsequently amended in Water Court Case No. 13CW3053. The augmentation plan replaces depletions at the Specification Aggregates Quarry site due to evaporation from the Magic Mountain Reservoir, Spec Agg Pit and Spec Agg Sedimentation Ponds, and operational losses from dust control, concrete batching and other industrial uses associated with the site. Total depletions at the covered facilities are limited to 200 acre-feet per year. Depletions are replaced using the Applicant's water rights previously changed for augmentation use, water leased from Coors Brewing Company, and water released from Magic Mountain Reservoir and/or the Spec Agg Pit. Magic Mountain Reservoir has a decreed storage volume of 147 acre-feet, and the Spec Agg Pit has a decreed storage volume of 320 acre-feet. The Spec Agg Sedimentation Ponds were constructed to contain stormwater runoff from the quarry area and have a decreed surface area of 1.1 acres. The Memorandum prepared by Bishop Brogden Associates, Inc., states that the proposed mining activities on the subject property are expected to increase surface drainage flows to the Spec Agg Pit. Any increase in surface water flows accruing to the Spec Agg Pit are proposed to either be stored under the Applicant's existing water rights or released downstream. Any unauthorized inflows must be released to the stream as soon as practical, but within 72 hours unless a different time frame is approved in writing by the water commissioner or division engineer.

The Applicant proposes to dewater the enlarged Spec Agg Pit reservoir only to the extent necessary to facilitate mining. The pit is equipped with a pump and pipeline to lift water out to the quarry and all pumping from the pit is recorded with a totalizing flow meter. The groundwater must be returned to the stream system and may not be stored under the Applicant's existing water rights as groundwater is not a decreed source for the two reservoirs. The existing dewatering operations are considered to meet the definition of a dewatering system and must be properly permitted with our office. The Applicant must submit a water well permit application for a dewatering system (GWS-45).

This office has no concerns regarding the requested amendment so long as the existing plan for augmentation is operated in accordance with its decreed terms and conditions and a permit is obtained for the dewatering system. The Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety and/or the Applicant may contact the State Engineer's Office with any questions.