

July 13, 2022

Miranda Kawcak
Peabody Sage Creek Mining, LLC.
P.O. Box 250
36600 Routt County Road 27
Hayden, Colorado 81639

**RE: Peabody Sage Creek Mine – Permit No. C-2009-087
2021 Annual Reclamation Report Review**

Dear Ms. Kawcak:

The Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety (Division) has reviewed the 2021 Annual Reclamation Reports (ARR) for the Sage Creek Mine for compliance with Rule 2.04.13. Below is a discussion of the Division's review. **Bolded items are issues that the Division requests PSCM to respond to.**

1) ARR Reported Acres:

- i) Surface Mine Acres Disturbed (reported as 1844 acres) should equal the acres backfilled and graded (reported as 1628.8 acres) plus long-term facilities (reported as 68.8 acres). Currently backfilled and graded acres plus long-term facilities acres equal 1697.6 acres, with 146.4 acres not accounted for on the form.**
- ii) Please verify that the number of acres being reported as backfilled and graded (reported as 1628.8 acres) is correct.**
- iii) Please verify that the acreage being reported in Long-term Facilities are correct (reported as a total of 68.8 acres). Please note that these acres should include all roads, ponds, ditches, topsoil piles, etc. (Listed under footnote No.3 on the ARR reporting form).**
- iv) Phase I Released acres (reported as 1728.28 acres) generally would not exceed acres backfilled and graded (reported as 1628.8 acres). If the phase I released acres exceed those reported as backfilled and graded then the difference should be accounted for within the acres reported in long-term facilities (reported as 68.8 acres).**

2) The annual reclamation report was received by the Division on April 1, 2022 via electronic submission. Previous Division reviews of PSCM's ARR's indicate the report was to be submitted by March 30 each year in accordance with the PAP.

- i) The name and address of the permittee and permit number are indicated on the Annual Reclamation Report form.**
- ii) PSCM reported that zero acres were disturbed during 2021**
- iii) PSCM reported that zero acres were backfilled and graded during 2021.**
- iv) PSCM reported that zero acres were topsoiled during 2021.**
- v) PSCM reported that zero acres were seeded or planted during 2021.**

3) The following additional information was provided in accordance with the approved PAP:



- i) Topsoil monitoring; no topsoil was removed or replaced in 2021 so no data was submitted for topsoil recovery or fertility/spoil quality. The topsoil balance was reported.
- ii) According to the report no seeding was conducted within the 356.4-acre approved disturbance boundary in 2021. No seed tags were provided.
- iii) Weed control was conducted at the site in 2021. Weed spraying logs were provided.
- iv) Revegetation Monitoring; when PSCM submits a bond release application, the Division will review this information in detail for compliance.
- v) **Please verify if grazing occurred within the PSCM boundary in 2021.** The report indicates about 19.6% of the forage produced on the reclaimed area was utilized by the cattle. **The report dates 2020 rather than 2021.**
- vi) Sedimentation pond surveys and stock tanks were discussed. PSCM has committed to conducting sediment and pond storage capacity surveys every 10 years. The last survey was conducted in 2016. Table 13.4 in the report shows pond capacity data since 2006.
- vii) Wildlife Monitoring required by Section 2.05.6(2) of the permit: Under Temporary Cessation, suspension of wildlife monitoring was approved in January of 2017.

If you need additional information or have any questions, please contact me at Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, Mailing: DRMS Rm 215, 1001 E 62nd Ave, Denver CO 80216, by telephone at **720-618-0860**, or by email at tabetha.lynch@state.co.us.

Sincerely,



Tabetha Lynch
Environmental Protection Specialist