GCC Rio Grande, Inc. – Salt Canyon Project
Reclamation Permit M-1997-064
Exhibit D – Mining Plan (revised July 11, 2022)

General Mining Information

The Salt Canyon gypsum project lies within the Ustic Torriorthent-Sedillo complex. The primary commodity is cement grade gypsum. Incidental materials, such as overburden or reject material will be used during reclamation to build up the excavation floor for final grading or to rebuild slopes, if necessary. Based on site exploration, average deposit thickness is 30 feet, ranging in thickness from 5 to 39 feet. Gypsum will be extracted to an anticipated sandstone floor. The Salt Canyon mine is a dry mining operation.

The proposed mine will operate throughout the year with mining and processing activities Monday – Saturday from sunrise to sunset. Mining and processing will be performed by a licensed contractor with oversight by GCC personnel.

The site is being developed in phases which started in the northwest corner of the southern gypsum deposit and is progressing to the southeast through the deposit. The expected life of the mine through the completion of Phase 8 is approximately 9 years. The disturbed areas within the mine will be limited to forty (40) acres or less at any one time including the Processing and Storage Area, which will be limited to approximately ten (10) acres or less.

Updated maps have been provided with this submittal as Exhibit C-2 Mining Plan Map Overview and Exhibit C-3 Mining Plan Map Detail View.

Completed and Future Mining Phases

Phases 1-5, as shown in Exhibit C-2 Mining Plan Map Overview and Exhibit C-3 Mining Plan Map Detail View, have been completed as of the time of this submittal. Phases 1-4 were depicted in the original map submitted to the DRMS in 2009, with the exception of Phase 2 which was expanded to the northeast to encompass additional mining disturbance. A small portion of disturbance directly north of Phase 2 and the permit boundary has been reclaimed consistent with recent discussions with the DRMS. Phase 5 was part of the area defined in the original submittal as “Future Mining Phases to be Determined”. All mining phases are within the established permitted boundary. Mining will continue to progress through Phases 6-8 as shown on the map. Phase 6 is expected to be continue through approximately 2027, Phase 7 through 2028 and Phase 8 through 2031.

There is currently approximately 23.8 acres of disturbance at the site.

Mine Operations Summary

Mining commenced with Phase 1 in the northwest end of the southern gypsum deposit as a perpendicular cut into the ore body developing both a northwest and southeast mining face. Mining proceeded northwest to the northern extent of the deposit and then to the southeast face, executing the rotational removal and placement of the surface material and overburden to reclaim the northwest. Mining will continue through all phases utilizing this rotational removal and placement method in a rolling progression through the deposit (i.e., removal of surface material, overburden and topsoil with immediate replacement of the prior mined out area).

Mine development includes temporary stockpiling of surface material and overburden, a looped hall road, and a processing area. Gypsum will be mined using loaders, motor graders, haul trucks, bulldozers, and/or

other similar equipment in 50 to 100 foot panels, from an approximate 500-2,500 foot wide face proceeding in a southeasterly direction. The highwall face is planned to be nearly vertical. As mining progresses in a southeasterly direction, the lagging northwesterly highwall will be reclaimed utilizing the rotational removal and placement of the surface material and overburden, as discussed above. The preferred mining technique will be digging the blasted rock with a loader; if needed, materials will be pushed to the mine floor with a dozer while maintaining a 3:1 slope. Drilling and blasting required to facilitate gypsum removal will be conducted by a licensed contractor in accordance with an approved blasting plan. In the event the gypsum crumbles under the weight of the dozer, or as determined necessary to comply with applicable Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) safety and design requirements, temporary 50 foot wide benches may be constructed in these unconsolidated areas for every ten feet of vertical height with an average gypsum thickness of 30 feet. Bench construction would produce slope reconstruction with a slope less than 3:1 over the existing bench.

The Processing and Storage Area will be maintained within existing mine excavation areas and include a screen and crushing plant. Processed gypsum will be stockpiled and hauled to the GCC Pueblo facility, south of Pueblo, as market demands. Stockpile height will be limited to 25 feet or less and will be located inside the mine phases and out of the view shed of Highway 115 patrons.

As mining approaches the southeasterly portion of the deposit, GCC anticipates utilizing the natural ridges and topography within the permitted boundary extending east towards Highway 115 to provide an effective visual buffer for Highway 115 patrons. Within the permitted boundary, a 3:1 slope is anticipated adjacent to these ridges along with additional contouring and/or berming to blend in with the natural topography to yield an effective visual buffer. GCC anticipates completing this work as part of both concurrent and final reclamation to ensure the buffer is maintained throughout the life of the project.

The soils and vegetation descriptions provided by Fremont Soil Conservation District in the original approved permit application remain unchanged. The minimal plant growth medium that is available on site will be temporarily placed on existing disturbed areas followed by application of an approved seed mix. This practice will provide for both temporary reclamation and long-term growth medium storage for final reclamation. No long-term stockpiling of growth medium is anticipated as part of the mining plan. Overburden is approximately zero to five feet deep across the deposit. The northwest end of the southernmost ore body contains approximately five feet of overburden, diminishing with progression to the southeast.

Surface Water Management and Sediment Control

Surface water management and sediment control measures are summarized and have been implemented in accordance with the most current Salt Canyon Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP); and consistent with requirements in Salt Canyon's Stormwater General Permit issued by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). Generally, SWMP practices include minimizing the size of soil disturbances, concurrent reclamation, installation of temporary diversion ditches, berms, and settling basins, as required. The primary site-specific stormwater feature at Salt Canyon is an approximate 3,000 foot long diversion berm running along the southern portion of the quarry, which may be extended up to approximately 5,000 feet during future mining phases. The berm will be removed and is anticipated to be used as fill material in the quarry during final closure. Other stormwater features that may be needed are

expected to be contained within the quarry pit, the disposition of which will be addressed as part of the concurrent reclamation plan utilizing rotational removal and placement of the surface material and overburden.