



August 30, 2022

Jim Doody
Grand Junction Pipe & Supply Co.
556 Struthers Avenue
Grand Junction, CO 81501

**Re: Delta Paving Gravel Pit, File No. M-1998-105,
Amendment Application (AM-01) – Preliminary Adequacy Review**

Mr. Doody:

The Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division/DRMS/Office) reviewed the contents of the AM-01 application for the Delta Paving Gravel Pit, File No. M-1998-105 and submits the following comments. The Division is required to issue an approval or denial decision no later than September 5, 2022, therefore a response to the following adequacy review concerns should be submitted to the Division as soon as possible (or an extension requested).

The review consisted of comparing the application contents with the specific requirements of Rules 1, 3, 6.1, 6.2, 6.4 and 6.5 of the Minerals Rules and Regulations of the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board for the Extraction of Construction Materials (effective date July 15, 2019). Any inadequacies are identified under the respective exhibit heading along with suggested actions to correct them.

Comments

- 1) The Division received state agency comments from History Colorado. The letter from this agency is included as an enclosure with this adequacy review letter. Please review the letter and provide comments accordingly.
- 2) The name of the permittee is not consistent and should be the full name: "Grand Junction Pipe & Supply Co." Examples include page i-1 and Exhibit O. Please update as appropriate.

1.6 Public Notice

- 3) Pursuant to Rule 1.6.2(e), please submit proof of the notice to all owners of record of surface and mineral rights of the affected land and the owners of record of all land surface within 200 feet of the boundary of the affected land, including all easement holders located on the affected land and within 200 feet of the boundary of the affected land. Proof of notice may be return receipts of a Certified Mailing or by proof of personal service.



6.4.3 Exhibit C - Pre-Mining and Mining Plan Maps of Affected Land

- 4) On the Current Conditions map (C-1), please add and label the ditch on the west side of the proposed area, which runs parallel to Highway 65. Indicate if this ditch carries irrigation return flows or has another function.
- 5) On the Current Conditions map (C-1), please add Mel Frazier as the owner of the Broad Ax Ditch, per correspondence with the Division of Water Resources.
- 6) On the Current Conditions map and Mining Plan map (C-2), please add and label the berm at the south end of the site, as appropriate.
- 7) The Regarding the Mining Plan map, explain if the large “settling pond” (reclaimed lake) is the same as the “sediment pond” mentioned in Detail 3. The Division suggests more consistent terminology.

6.4.4 Exhibit D - Mining Plan

- 8) The text states that water from pits will be pumped to a drainage ditch and then it will flow to the river. However, the Mining Plan map (C-2) indicates that the water will be pumped to a sediment pond. Please explain this apparent contradiction.

6.4.5 Exhibit E - Reclamation Plan

- 9) This exhibit should clearly state the plan for existing reclamation as it relates to the new, proposed activities at the site. In particular, will current reclamation be completed prior to additional disturbance?
- 10) Clarification is needed regarding Table E-1. The value for groundwater lakes does not match the value on the Reclamation Plan map (F-1) for total groundwater exposure. Also, is the rangeland value (34.7 acres) accurate? It appears to be large based on a calculation by the Division.
- 11) The discussion of weeds on page E-4 should state that, in addition to the general plan for the control of all noxious weeds, any List A species (per the State of Colorado noxious weeds list) will be eradicated.

6.4.7 Exhibit G - Water Information

- 12) In the Water Quality Protection section, text should be added to explain if water will be sampled prior to discharge to the Relief Ditch.
- 13) In the Floodplain section, text should be added to explain how the northern banks of the Phase 3 area will be protected during flooding.
- 14) To ensure that the Delta Paving Gravel Pit does not impact the hydrologic balance of the Gunnison River, the application needs to include a water quality monitoring plan, specifically for the alluvium. The groundwater monitoring plan should be developed in accordance with Rule 3.1.7(7)(b) and should include a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) for the collection of groundwater samples. The plan should provide mitigation steps

if there is an exceedance at a groundwater or surface water monitoring location. Potential impacts to quality and/or quantity the nearby domestic wells should also be addressed. A copy of the Division's Groundwater Monitoring and Protection Technical Bulletin has been included as an enclosure to this letter for your reference.

- 15) In the Surface Water section, provide calculations for the lake storage capacity values in Table G-2. Also, in Table G-2 explain the values 1000-3000 gpm during mining; explain if those are anticipated pumping rates or refer to something else.
- 16) The Water Consumption and Source section should include a discussion on water rights, including any existing Substitute Water Supply Plans or Augmentation Plans associated with water use at the Delta Paving Gravel Pit. The section should also include the applicant's future intentions related to such plans.

6.4.8 Exhibit H – Wildlife Information

- 17) Please explain an apparent contradiction on page H-1. In the second subsection (Seasonal Use of the Area), it is noted that bald eagles use the site for winter range. However, text in the fifth subsection suggests that there is no winter range in the affected area.

6.4.11 Exhibit K – Climate

- 18) The text states that the client is "tropical." Explain if that is accurate, or if "arid" is a better classification.

6.4.12 Exhibit L - Reclamation Costs

- 19) The Applicant should provide more detail on structures, including details on dimensions and types of construction.

6.4.13 Exhibit M - Other Permit and Licenses

- 20) Please commit to providing copies of all required and approved permits and licenses to the Division when available. This should include well permits and documents related to water rights, such as a Substitute Water Supply Plan.

6.4.19 Exhibit S –Permanent Man-made Structures

- 21) A structural agreement should be sought for the Broad Ax Ditch.

6.5 Geotechnical Stability Exhibit

DRMS is reviewing the geotechnical analysis and our comments will be forthcoming.

Please be advised that the AM-01 application may be deemed inadequate, and the application may be denied unless the above-mentioned adequacy review items are addressed to the satisfaction of the Division. If more time is needed to complete the reply, the Division can grant an extension to the decision date. This will be done upon receipt of a written waiver of the Applicant's right to a decision by September 5, 2022 and a request for additional time. This must be received no later than the decision date.

If you have any questions, please contact me at rob.zuber@state.co.us or (720) 601-2276.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert D. Zuber".

Robert D. Zuber
Environmental Protection Specialist

Enclosures

Copied via e-mail: Michael Cunningham, DRMS
 Ben Langenfeld, Lewicki & Associates

Letter from History Colorado



History Colorado

Robert D. Zuber, P.E.
Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety
1313 Sherman Street, Room 215
Denver, Colorado 80203

Re: Delta Paving Gravel Pit – File No. M-1998-105, Grand Junction Pipe & Supply Co. Amendment Application (AM-1). Additional of 63.4 Acres to Permit, Revision of Mining and Reclamation Plans (HC# 30316)

Dear Mr. Zuber:

We received your letter dated June 06, 2022 initiating consultation with our office on the subject action pursuant to the Colorado State Register Act – Colorado Revised Statute (CRS) 24-80.1 et. seq.

A search of our database indicates that no properties of historical significance included or nominated for inclusion in the state register have been recorded within the proposed permit area. Please note, as most of Colorado has not been inventoried for cultural resources, our files contain incomplete information. Consequently, there is the possibility that as yet unidentified cultural resources exist within the proposed permit area. The requirements under CRS 24-80 part 13 apply and must be followed if human remains are discovered during ground disturbing activities.

Please note that if the fill or disposal site location is associated with a Federal undertaking, it is the responsibility of the federal agency to meet the requirements of Section 106 as set forth in 36 CFR Part 800 titled “Protection of Historic Properties”. This includes not only reasonable and good faith identification efforts of any historic properties located within the area of potential effects, but determining whether the undertaking will have an effect upon such properties. The State Historic Preservation Office, Native American tribes, representatives of local governments, and applicants for federal permits are entitled to consultative roles in this process.

We thank you for the opportunity to comment. If we may be of further assistance, please contact Holly McKee-Huth, Cultural Resource Information/Section 106 Compliance at (303) 866-4670 or holly.mckee@state.co.us.

Sincerely,

Dawn DiPrince
State Historic Preservation Officer

Groundwater Technical Bulletin



COLORADO

**Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety**

Department of Natural Resources

Groundwater Monitoring and Protection Technical Bulletin

November 19, 2019

Contents

1. Introduction3

2. Background and General Statutory Context3

3. Regulations under the Colorado Water Quality Control Act4

4. Regulations under Mining-specific Acts7

5. DRMS Implementation of the Interim Narrative Standard8

6. DRMS Establishment of Points of Compliance9

7. General Groundwater Monitoring Requirements 10

8. Release of Reclamation Liability for Sites with Groundwater Monitoring..... 12

9. References 13

1. Introduction

This document is intended to provide guidance on groundwater monitoring and protection to operators, consultants and regulatory staff concerned with permits issued by the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (DRMS or Division). The guidance is given in the context of applicable statutes and regulations, and is an attempt to ensure that compliance requirements are clearly and unambiguously stated. This document is not all-inclusive with respect to the requirements, information, and materials needed for a complete groundwater monitoring program, as site specific requirements will vary widely.

This guidance addresses DRMS requirements only. Other divisions, such as the State Engineer's Office Division of Water Resources, have processes, requirements, and timelines that must be met for activities within their jurisdiction. It is recommended that applicants/permittees consult with all appropriate agencies in the planning phase prior to the start of work so that any deficiencies or conflicts can be addressed promptly.

Hyperlinks are embedded within the document text for convenience, but are subject to change or removal without notice and are not intended to be a definitive reference; a list of references is given in section 9.

2. Background and General Statutory Context

The passage of the Colorado Water Quality Control Act (C.R.S. Title 25, Article 8) in 1972 established the Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC), and assigned to it the duty to develop and maintain a comprehensive and effective program for the prevention, control, and abatement of water pollution, and for water quality protection throughout the state of Colorado. Within its general remit, three of the specific responsibilities of the WQCC are to:

- Classify state water
- Promulgate water quality standards
- Promulgate control and permit regulations

The Water Quality Control Division (WQCD) is the agency responsible for implementing and enforcing the standards and regulations adopted by the WQCC. The WQCD also provides staff support to the WQCC. Both the WQCC and WQCD are within the Colorado State Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE).

The Act was amended in 1989 with Senate Bill 181 (SB 89-181), to clarify the role of other state agencies, including DRMS, with specific responsibilities in the area of water quality control for certain industries or activities, and to designate them as "implementing agencies". Two Memorandums of

Agreement (MOA) were entered into by the agencies in order to fully implement the amendments made under SB 89-181. The first MOA, pertaining to coal mines, was signed on August 28, 1990; and the second, pertaining to mineral mines, was signed on December 14, 2010.

The MOAs clarify the roles and responsibilities of DRMS, WQCD and WQCC at sites where their jurisdictions overlap, and may be summarized as follows:

- WQCC is solely responsible for the adoption of water quality standards and classifications
- WQCD is solely responsible for issuance and enforcement of permits authorizing all point source discharges to surface waters, as well as enforcing any control or permit regulation adopted by WQCC
- DRMS is responsible for implementing standards and classifications for discharges, other than point source discharges to surface water, through its own regulatory programs after consultation with WQCC and WQCD

In addition to the division-wide responsibility described above, the regulatory programs within DRMS have statutory mandates to monitor groundwater and protect the hydrologic balance during and after mining operations under three separate acts specific to mining: the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Act (C.R.S. Title 34, Article 32), the Colorado Land Reclamation Act for the Extraction of Construction Materials (C.R.S. Title 34, Article 32.5), and the Colorado Surface Coal Mining Reclamation Act (C.R.S. Title 34, Article 33).

The regulations developed under the acts cited in this section are discussed in greater detail in sections 3 and 4 of this document. Sections 5 through 8 discuss the implementation of the regulations, and include guidance on the permitting process and procedures necessary to ensure effective regulatory compliance.

3. Regulations under the Colorado Water Quality Control Act

Two of the regulations pertaining to groundwater promulgated by the WQCC under the Colorado Water Quality Control Act are relevant to DRMS:

- Regulation No. 41 – The Basic Standards for Groundwater
- Regulation No. 42 – Site-specific Water Quality Classifications and Standards for Groundwater

Reg. 41 establishes five classes of groundwater and the criteria for each; secondly, it establishes statewide water quality standards and the procedures for applying them; thirdly, it defines the term “point of compliance” and the provisions by which such a point should be established. Rule 41.6(B) identifies DRMS as an implementing agency and specifies that such agencies “shall establish the point of compliance for those activities under their control.”

Reg. 42 is the compilation of the actions taken by the WQCC to date in classifying site-specific areas of the state. In other words, it contains a complete description of the groundwater to which the WQCC has specifically assigned use classifications and water quality standards.

It is important to stress that **DRMS does not have the authority to classify groundwater or to set standards for groundwater quality, however it does have the authority and the legal obligation to establish points of compliance at which those standards set by the WQCC must be met.** In order to satisfy this obligation DRMS staff must: (i) determine whether the proposed activity has the potential to negatively impact the quality of groundwater, based primarily on an assessment of the physical characteristics of the site; (ii) if that potential does exist, determine the standards applicable at the site; and then (iii) locate one or more point of compliance where water quality can be measured and assessed against those standards. Although these tasks should be part of a comprehensive groundwater monitoring plan that addresses the requirements of other applicable regulations, it is helpful to consider the general procedure for compliance with Reg. 41 and 42 before examining specific details, (see figure 1).

The simplest situation is where an operator seeks to conduct mining operations in an area of classified groundwater. If the proposed operation is within a classified area, the standards contained in Regulation No. 42 apply. However, due to the very limited overall area that has been classified in Colorado to date under Regulation No. 42, this is not common. It is more likely that activity occurring under a permit issued by DRMS will be subject to the state-wide standards described in Reg. 41. If this is the case, tabulated numeric standards in 41.5(C)(2) and (3) for some radioactive materials and organic pollutants must not be exceeded; radioactive and organic pollutants not included in the tables must be maintained at the lowest practical level. In addition, assuming that the background level of Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) is not in excess of 10,000mg/L, the Interim Narrative Standard applies.

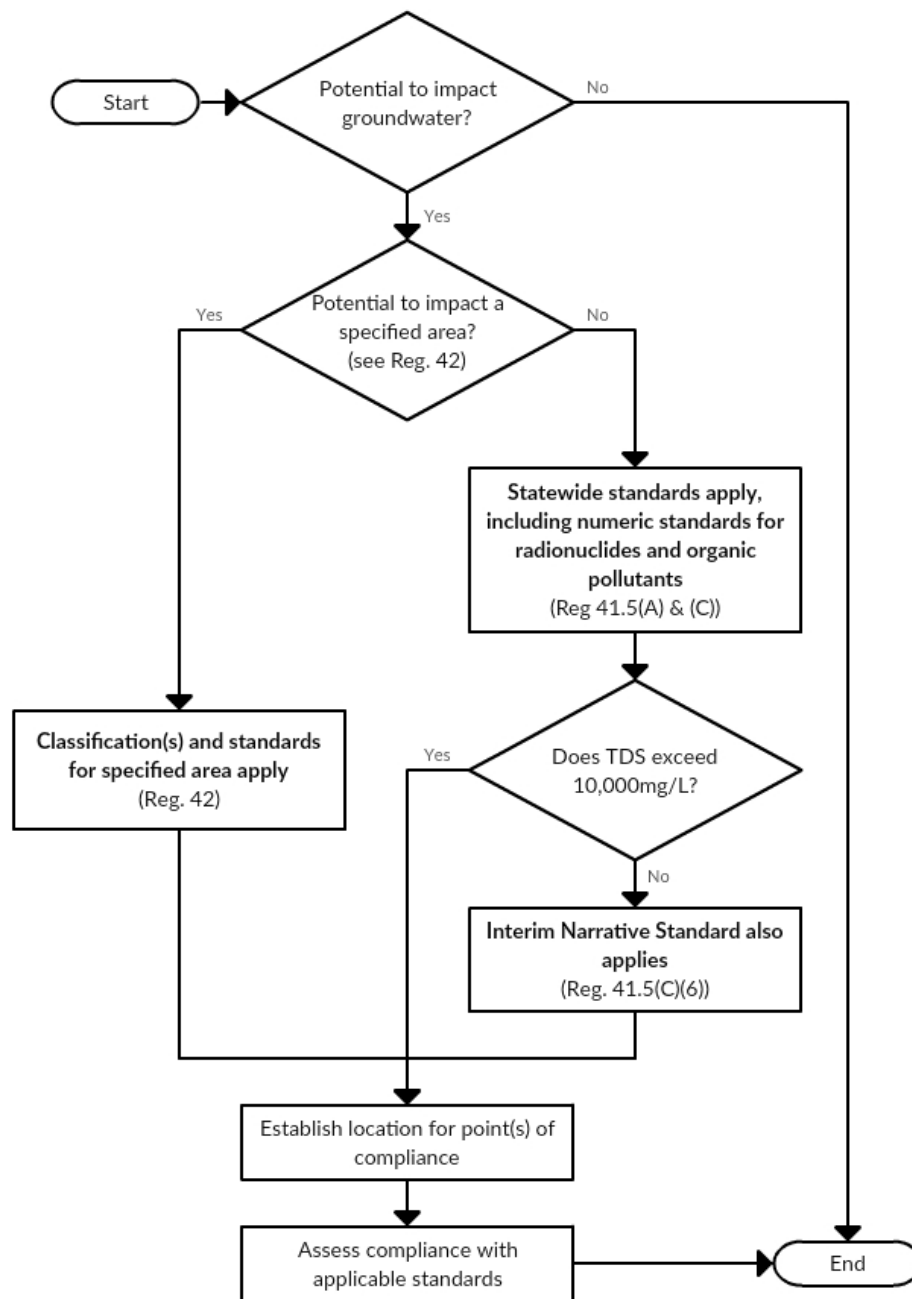


Figure 1: General procedure for compliance with Reg. 41 and 42

4. Regulations under Mining-specific Acts

The Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Act and the Colorado Land Reclamation Act for the Extraction of Construction Materials led to the promulgation of The Mineral Rules and Regulations of the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board for Hard Rock, Metal, and Designated Mining Operations (Hard Rock Rules) and The Mineral Rules and Regulations of the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board for the Extraction of Construction Materials (Construction Materials Rules) respectively. There are substantial differences between the two sets of rules, but they are structured similarly and, on the subject of groundwater, have similar requirements. Pertinent sections of the rules are:

- 1.4 – Application Review and Consideration Process
- 3.1.7 – Reclamation Performance Standards; Groundwater - Specific Requirements
- 6.4.7 – Water Information
- 6.4.21(8), (9) & (12) – Designated Mining Operation Environmental Protection Plan; Groundwater Information, Groundwater Quality Data & Water Quality Monitoring Plan
- 6.4.22-24 – Description, Baseline Site Characterization and Monitoring Plan for All In-Situ Leach Mining Operations

The Regulations of the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board for Coal Mining (Coal Rules) were promulgated under the Colorado Surface Coal Mining Reclamation Act, and have specific requirements pertaining to groundwater. Pertinent sections of the regulations are:

- 2.04.7 – Hydrology Description
- 2.05.6(3) – Protection of Hydrological Balance
- 4.05.13 - Surface and Ground Water Monitoring

It is outside the scope of this guidance to discuss the specific requirements of each of these rules, however general requirements are discussed in section 7.

5. DRMS Implementation of the Interim Narrative Standard

The Interim Narrative Standard is described completely in section 41.5(C)(6) of Reg. 41, and applies to all unclassified groundwater in the state, unless TDS exceeds 10,000mg/L. The standard is simply stated as follows:

Groundwater quality shall be maintained for each parameter at whichever of the following levels is less restrictive:

(A) Existing ambient quality as of January 31, 1994,

or

(B) That quality which meets the most stringent criteria set forth in Tables 1 through 4 of “The Basic Standards for Ground Water.”

The Interim Narrative Standard does not define or limit the potential need for remediation of contaminated groundwater; however it does ensure that even contaminated groundwater is not allowed to be further degraded pending remedial action.

“Existing ambient quality” is a key phrase in the Interim Narrative Standard. Section 41.5(C)(6)(b)(iii) allows implementing agencies, such as DRMS, to exercise their best professional judgment as to what constitutes adequate information to determine or estimate existing ambient quality, taking into account the location, sampling date, and quality of all available data. This gives the Division some discretionary authority, however there are two additional clauses that limit the scope of that authority:

- Data generated subsequent to January 31, 1994, shall be presumed to be representative of existing quality as of January 31, 1994, if the available information indicates that there have been no new or increased sources of ground water contamination initiated in the area in question subsequent to that date.
- If available information is not adequate to determine or estimate existing ambient quality as of January 31, 1994, groundwater quality for each parameter shall be assumed to be no worse than the most stringent levels provided for in Tables 1 through 4 of “The Basic Standards for Ground Water”

The implementation of the Interim Narrative Standard by DRMS is summarized as follows:

The applicable groundwater quality standards for new and permitted mine sites are the most stringent criteria set forth in Tables 1 through 4 of “The Basic Standards for Ground Water”

UNLESS

The permittee/applicant provides to DRMS sufficient data and documentation demonstrating that ambient levels of applicable analytes exceeded table value standards prior to January 31, 1994;

OR

The permittee/applicant provides to DRMS sufficient data and documentation demonstrating that data collected after January 31, 1994, which shows water quality parameters in excess of table value standards, are representative of pre-1994 conditions; and that there have been no new or increased sources of groundwater contamination in the area since.

Note that:

- It is the permittee/applicant's burden to provide substantial evidence and documentation to DRMS to demonstrate to DRMS's satisfaction that any proposed "pre-94" site-specific exemption from table value standards is appropriate for their site.
- If DRMS deems that a "pre-94" exemption from the table value standards is appropriate, the highest documented (valid/non-outlier) ambient value of that analyte shall be used as the numeric limit for that water quality parameter.

The only other way a DRMS permitted site may allowably exceed table value standards would be for the permittee/applicant to obtain a site-specific exemption or variance from the WQCC through the rulemaking process.

6. DRMS Establishment of Points of Compliance

As an implementing agency, DRMS shall establish the point of compliance for those activities under its jurisdiction. It is acknowledged in Reg. 41 that mining activities occur within ground water bodies and that water quality within the disturbed area will change. The point(s) of compliance established outside the area anticipated to be disturbed may protect the water body while allowing the mining activity.

DRMS protocol for establishing points of compliance is given in Section 3.1.7(6) of the Hard Rock Rules and Construction Materials Rules, and in Section 4.05.13(1) of the Coal Rules. There is some variation in the precise terms of those rules, however the following general guidance applies to all sites operating under a DRMS permit.

A point of compliance shall be established for all potentially impacted groundwater; multiple points of compliance may be necessary for a given operation, depending on the hydro-geologic conditions at the site. Compliance with groundwater quality standards must be achieved at points of compliance.

Points of compliance shall be located at some distance hydraulically down-gradient from the source of potential contamination. The point shall be at:

The hydrologically downgradient limit of the area in which contamination has been identified

OR

The permit boundary

OR

A specified distance, agreed to by the Division and the permittee/applicant, taking into consideration:

- Applicable water quality standards**
- Hydro-geologic conditions at the site**
- Toxicity, mobility and environmental persistence of potential contaminants**
- Potential of the site as an aquifer recharge area**
- Technical and economic feasibility**

Note that enforcement action(s) may result from the exceedance of one or more water quality parameters at a Point of Compliance location, or from failure to adhere to the sampling and reporting protocols approved in the Groundwater Monitoring Plan.

7. General Groundwater Monitoring Requirements

Groundwater monitoring and compliance requirements for specific permits and activities vary widely according to the complexity of the activity and the site, but are generally implemented through the following basic process:

- A. The permittee/applicant shall conduct a site-wide hydro-geologic characterization prior to disturbance at any given site. This baseline characterization must determine, at a minimum, if the proposed activity has the potential to impact groundwater. If the potential to impact groundwater exists, thorough characterization is essential.

A baseline characterization of existing site groundwater conditions should be completed for both groundwater quality and quantity. Data should be collected in order to locate and construct appropriate monitoring wells and points of compliance, and to fully implement appropriate water quality standards. Revisions to a permit may require new baseline characterization studies. The characterization investigation should be conducted by a qualified

individual, preferably a Professional Geologist (PG), Registered Geologist (RG), or other certified professional experienced in hydro-geologic characterization, and should include:

- A complete description of the geologic setting, including each aquifer above, within and, if potentially impacted, below the lowest unit to be mined.
 - Seasonal quantity and quality data for the water in each aquifer, (refer to tables 1 through 4 of Reg. 41 for water quality parameters).
 - A description of the recharge, storage, transmissivity and discharge characteristics of each aquifer.
 - A complete list of registered wells in the proposed permit and adjacent areas, with locations, completion intervals and reported yields.
- B. For the Coal permitting process, a prediction of the Probable Hydrologic Consequences of the proposed activity shall be made. This is not a requirement for minerals or construction materials permits.
- C. A Groundwater Monitoring Plan shall be designed so as to allow a determination to be made of the effects of the permitted activity on the quantity and quality of water in groundwater systems in the permit and adjacent areas, and to verify any predictions made in the permit. The plan should include monitoring points up- and down-gradient of any potential sources of contamination, and provision to directly monitor any mine pool as it develops.
- D. The locations of Points of Compliance shall be determined in the context of the Groundwater Monitoring Plan. It is advised, but not required, that monitoring wells be located up-gradient of Points of Compliance so as to allow timely remedial action to be taken if necessary.
- E. All monitoring wells and piezometers shall be permitted with the State Engineer's Office (SEO) Division of Water Resources (DWR) and constructed and abandoned according to the required SEO standards. Adherence to these standards will protect aquifer integrity and provide representative, defensible data. Failure to follow the applicable permitting and well construction rules could result in unacceptable data; and failure to adequately protect groundwater resources may result in subsequent enforcement action as deemed appropriate by DRMS or the SEO.
- F. All wells shall be installed by a licensed contractor, as required by SEO. Appropriate site specific well placement and construction details should be recorded and approved by a qualified professional, before being submitted to DRMS. DRMS may require the installation of additional wells for adequate characterization and/or monitoring.
- G. Sampling protocols shall be described in the Groundwater Monitoring Plan and followed during each sampling event.

H. Analysis of samples shall be by an accredited laboratory.

8. Release of Reclamation Liability for Sites with Groundwater Monitoring

It is the permittee's burden to demonstrate to the satisfaction of DRMS, through the data collected for the Groundwater Monitoring Plan, and any other data deemed necessary, that all applicable table value standards, and/or site-specific standards for groundwater quality established in accordance with Reg. 41 and/or Reg. 42 have been met, and that existing and reasonably potential future uses of groundwater have been protected.

9. References

- [1] Board of Examiners of Water Well Construction and Pump Installation Contractors. Rules And Regulations For Water Well Construction, Pump Installation, Cistern Installation, And Monitoring And Observation Hole/Well Construction, 2 CCR 402-2 § (2016). Retrieved from:
<http://water.state.co.us/DWRIPub/Documents/BOE%20Water%20Well%20Construction%20Rules%202%20CCR%20402-2%20 20160901.pdf>
- [2] Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Water Quality Control Commission. Regulation 41 - The Basic Standards For Groundwater, 5 CCR 1002-41 § (2016). Retrieved from:
https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/41_2016%2812%29.pdf
- [3] Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Water Quality Control Commission. Regulation 42 - Site-Specific Water Quality Classifications And Standards For Groundwater, 5 CCR 1002-42 § (2018). Retrieved from:
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- [4] Colorado Land Reclamation Act for the Extraction of Construction Materials, C.R.S. 34-32.5 §.
- [5] Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Act, C.R.S. 34-32 §.
- [6] Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board. Regulations of the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board for Coal Mining, 2 CCR 407-2 § (2005). Retrieved from:
<http://mining.state.co.us/SiteCollectionDocuments/CoalRegulations91405.pdf>
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https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/T1_WQCC_181MOA_Mined-Land-Regarding-Coal-Mines.pdf
- [12] Memorandum Of Agreement For The Implementation Of SB 181 Amendments To The Colorado Water Quality Control Act (25-8-101, et seq) Pertaining To The Regulation Of Mineral Mines. (2010, December 14). Retrieved from: https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/T1_WQCC_181MOA_DRMS.pdf