

Trapper submitted PR-11 with the intent to extend the perimeter boundary of the mine slightly to the northwest of the current permit area. This small permit extension adjoins the active mine area and permit boundary as of 2022. Within this expansion area two drainages, West Buzzard and East Buzzard, will be extended a short distance within the new permit boundary.

The West and East Buzzard watersheds are located within upslope areas that have been entirely disturbed by mining and subsequently reclaimed. These drainages flow northward from the permit area, eventually crossing under nearby Highway 13. From Highway 13 the drainages lose definition and flow overland until terminating in the Big Bottom area.

Flow observations from the East Buzzard drainage were made from 1997 to 2004 at historic NPDES Outfall 003, which was located immediately adjacent to the south boundary of the new expansion area. Historic baseline monitoring of this drainage indicated water flow in this drainage occurred only once in 1998 during a heavy snowmelt event. Flow observations from the Far East Buzzard drainage, an East Buzzard sub-drainage, were made from 1997 to 2012 at historic NPDES Outfall 014. Discharge from Outfall 014 occurred primarily as a result of higher than normal spring snowmelt. Flow observations from the West Buzzard drainage were made from 1992 to 2004 at historic NPDES outfall 006, which was located immediately adjacent to the south boundary of the new expansion area. Outfall locations are given on Figure 2.7-15g.

Table 2.7-18c presents the water flow data for the Buzzard drainage outfalls and shows that historic flow was sporadic, occurring more heavily during spring runoff and often stopping during late summer. Similar future Buzzard drainage runoff results are anticipated.