



COLORADO
Division of Water Resources
Department of Natural Resources

Response to Reclamation Permit for Full Release of Permitted Area Request Consideration

DATE: December 8, 2022
TO: Nikie C. Gagnon, Environmental Protection Specialist
CC: Division 1 Office, District 2 Water Commissioner
FROM: Ioana Comaniciu, P.E.
RE: Hazeltine Mine, File No. M-2004-031-[SL01](#)
Operator: Holcim - WCR, Inc.,
Contact: Wyatt Webster, (720) 480-4563 or City of Thornton, (720) 977-6507
SW1/4 and the NW1/4 of the SE1/4 of Section 9, Twp 2 South, Rng 67 West, 6th
P.M., Adams County

COMMENTS:

Holcim - WCR, Inc., has submitted a request for full release of permitted area of the Hazeltine Mine, Permit No. M-2004-31. The area of the land proposed for release contains approximately 184.9 acres. The Hazeltine Mine is primarily located in the SW1/4 and the NW1/4 of the SE1/4 of Section 9, Township 2 South, Range 67 West of the 6th P.M., and contains one lined pond, designated as Hazeltine Mine Reservoir (WDID 0203381). The final use of the Hazeltine Mine is a water storage reservoir owned and operated by the City of Thornton.

The reservoir was lined with a soil bentonite slurry wall. The slurry wall liner was approved by the State Engineer's Office on May 25, 2016 as meeting the designed standard referenced in the August 1999 State Engineer Guidelines for Lining Criteria for Gravel Pits. The construction of the slurry wall resulted in groundwater mounding and flooding of adjacent property. The operator has installed a gravity drain to dewater the site on a continuous basis. A 45-day leak test was performed after installation of the permanent drain to verify that the liner was not impacted. The liner was re-approved in a letter dated March 22, 2018. The Applicant was required to install and operate the "Orr Drain" to reduce mounding of groundwater associated with the installation of the slurry wall at the site. According to our records the Orr Drain currently intercepts groundwater seepage and surface flow in the Bull Seep, which are routed into the lined pit and subsequently pumped out to the Bull Seep and discharged to the South Platte River. The monthly difference between what is measured entering the pit and what is measured being pumped out is considered a depletion.

Prior to the full release of the permitted area of the Hazeltine Mine, Holcim - WCR, Inc. must demonstrate that there are no more lagged depletions from past operation including dewatering that have an effect on the stream and there is no more seepage from the Orr Drain that will continue to deplete the stream.

Water shall not be impounded in the reservoir except pursuant to lawful diversions allowed by statute or decree. At all other times, all inflow of water into the reservoir from any source, including precipitation and ground water inflows, shall be removed by the applicant. The applicant may contact the State Engineer's Office with any questions.

