



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

DATE: December 21, 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:

This letter provides an updated response to the full release of the permitted area of the Hazeltine Mine. 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.

In our previous comment letter from December 8, 2022 we indicated that 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.

According to information provided on December 13, 2022 by the Applicant's consultant Mr. Jared Dains of Applegate Group, Inc., 97 percent of all lagged depletions from past operations, including dewatering before the pit was lined, will have affected the South Platte River by the end of December 2022 and would have been replaced under the current Aggregate Industries South Platte combined substitute water supply plan (SWSP). The current combined SWSP will expire on December 31, 2022. The Applicant intends to replace the remaining 3 percent of lagged depletions in one lump sum during the next SWSP approval period for 2023.

Regarding the seepage from Orr Drain depleting the South Platte River, the City of Thornton has a decreed plan for augmentation plan in Case No. 18CW3158 which will replace all out-of-priority seepage depletions from the Orr Drain.



Based on the above the State Engineer's Office has no more concerns regarding to the request to the full release of the permitted area of the Hazeltine Mine, provided the remaining 3 percent of lagged depletions will be replaced as proposed under the 2023 SWSP.

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.