



March 8, 2023

Dirk Richards
P.O. Box 153
Nucla, CO 81424

Re: New Horizon Mine, Permit No. C-1981-008, Comment Letter to Proposed Decision for Bond Release SL-25

Dear Mr. Richards,

The Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division) received your comment letter regarding the proposed decision for the New Horizon Mine's Bond Release No. 25 (SL-25) on March 3, 2023. Your comment letter was received within the 30 day public comment period of the Division's public notice published on February 15, 2023. Thank you for your timely submittal of comments. In your letter, you express concerns of a ditch/pipeline location and erosion. These items were not included as a part of Elk Ridge Mining and Reclamation's (ERMR) request in SL-25. The areas referenced in your letter were released from the mining permit with the approval of Bond Release No. 22 (SL-22), which was approved on March 12, 2020. The Division did not receive any comments regarding these concerns from you during the SL-22 process. After the approval of SL-22, the Division approved ERMR's Technical Revision No. 98. This revision removed your reclaimed property from the New Horizon Mining permit on June 4, 2020. The Division did not receive any comments regarding these areas during the technical revision process. During the inspection conducted on August 3, 2022 for SL-25 Ms. Schweikhardt Informed the Division of these concerns and they have been documented in the Division's SL-25 Findings of Compliance document. The Division does not have the authority do make any determinations on your comments regarding the ditch/pipeline location and erosion. Three monitoring wells; GW-N41, GW-N42 and GW-N43 are located within Section 31 on the eastern portion of your property. These three monitoring wells are the only structures on your property associated with SL-25. Please feel free to contact me by email or at (303)-866-3567 x8185 if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Clayton Wein
Environmental Protection Specialist
clayton.wein@state.co.us

cc: Travis Marshal, Senior Environmental Protection Specialist

