



Climax Mine
Highway 91 - Fremont Pass
Climax, CO 80429
Phone (719) 486-7718
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Sent by Email

May 10, 2023

Mr. Dustin Czapla, Environmental Protection Specialist
Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety
1313 Sherman St., Rm. 215
Denver, CO 80203

Re: Mayflower Return Pipeline Leak – Climax Mine Permit No. M-1977-493

Dear Mr. Czapla:

Climax is providing this 5-day follow-up written notice pursuant to Rule 8.2.3 of the DRMS Rules and Regulations for Hard Rock, Metal, and Designated Mining Operations. On Saturday, May 6, 2023, Climax identified a small leak (approximately 1 gallon per minute (gpm)) from the Mayflower Return pipeline, which is conservatively considered as a potential failure or imminent failure of an Environmental Protection Facility (EPF) pursuant to Rule 8.1(b). Climax left a voicemail with Environmental Protection Specialist Dustin Czapla at approximately 1pm on May 6, 2023 and sent an email shortly after in accordance with Rules 8.2.1(a) and 3.1.13(1).

Description of Incident:

The incident occurred at the Climax Mine located at Fremont Pass – Highway 91 Climax, CO 80429. At 6:45am on May 6, 2023 an operator performing routine inspections noticed some water that appeared to be emanating from the middle of the road. The source of the water was determined to be from the Mayflower Return line located under the road which contains water that is treated, but has not gone through pH adjustment prior to discharge from the PDWTP. Normally this water goes into a sump and is pumped back up to the Mayflower TSF for reuse. The pump that feeds this line was turned off soon after the leak was identified. No water migrated off the road and a containment berm was constructed around 12:30pm.

While the line continues to leak because the leak is on the downhill portion of the pipeline and has not completely drained down, it is contained with a berm that is being regularly inspected.

Required Information under Rule 8.2.3, paragraphs (a) through (e):

- (a) actions taken to respond to and correct the emergency situation or condition;

Climax Response: The pump that feeds the pipeline was shut down and a berm was placed on the road to contain the water and keep it from potentially going offsite. The pipeline continues to leak due to the leak being at the bottom end of the pipeline and water remaining in the line. The site is working to excavate the line to identify the source of the leak, but there are other utilities in the around that need to be properly located before excavation can begin. As of May 5, 2023, no excavation has begun as Century Link has yet to locate their line despite an emergency ticket being submitted by Climax,

- (b) any known or anticipated adverse impacts to human health, property or the environment;

Climax Response: There are no adverse impacts because the spill was contained on the road and did not migrate offsite..

- (c) name(s), address(s), telephone numbers and e-mail address of the Operator's contact person for additional information and follow-up by the Office;

*Climax Response: Diana Kelts, Environmental Manager – dkelts@fmi.com, 719-486-7525
Climax Mine
Fremont Pass-Highway 91
Climax, Co 80429*

- (d) monitoring and analyses that are necessary to evaluate the situation and corrective actions, copies of all pertinent data; and

Climax Response: Preliminary onsite analysis of the leaking water showed a pH of 9.4-9.6 and Mn of 0.8mg/L and Fe of 0.46mg/L. A sample collected in mixing zone before Tenmile Creek begins shows a pH of 7.6 and Mn of 0.1mg/L and Fe of 0.06mg/L verifying no offsite impacts.


- (e) results of the Operator's investigation to assess the conditions or circumstances that created the emergency situation, and what corrective or protective measures will be taken to prevent a similar event from occurring in the future.

Climax Response: Since excavation in the affected area has not begun, Climax has not identified the root cause of the issue. The sampling data and location of the leak confirms that the source of the water is from the Mayflower Return Line. The following actions have taken place or will as soon as the affected area is excavated.

- Continued monitoring of the area during each shift to ensure the leak does not worsen or go offsite.*
- Pumping of the water from behind the containment berm to ensure that a breach does not occur*
- A Root Cause Analysis will be conducted and action items will be generated and addressed in a timely manner.*

Please feel free to contact me at (719) 486-7525 or at dkelts@fmi.com if you need any further information regarding this matter. Thank you for your continued assistance with Climax Mine.

Sincerely,


Diana Kelts
Environmental Manager