



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Royal Gorge Field Office  
3028 East Main Street  
Cañon City, Colorado 81212



In Reply Refer To:  
3600 (LLCOF02000, SSC)  
COC-080565

Mr. Richard Vidmar  
City of Aurora Water Department  
15151 E Alameda Parkway, # 3600  
Aurora, CO 80012

Dear Mr. Vidmar,

On June 4, 2021, this office received a proposal request from the City of Aurora to conduct a second phase of site investigation in Park County, involving test pits/trenches and boreholes. Phase 2 is focused on obtaining data needed to enable engineering to configure project components for various permitting requirements and for feasibility design of the Wild Horse Reservoir.

The BLM Royal Gorge Field Office has completed a review of the proposed site investigation and authorizes you to sample and test the mineral materials under the provisions of 43 CFR Section 3601.30. This authorization does not give you a preference right to a sales contract or free use permit. The authorization will terminate on December 31, 2022. You may conduct operations as outlined in the June 4, 2021 proposal, subject to the following stipulations (similar to those required for operations conducted in Phase I):

1. The Royal Gorge Field Office will be notified at least 48 hours prior to the City of Aurora beginning testing and sampling efforts.
2. A BLM paleontological specialist conducted a pre-work survey in October 2019 (prior to Phase I fieldwork) and promptly received permission from Aurora to be present during implementation of the exploration work at that time. As this work is being conducted on split-estate, BLM may provide some onsite monitoring as time allows, but it is not a requirement.
3. A comprehensive archaeological monitoring plan will be in place during the work to ensure that the exploration activities will not disturb the sites.
4. It is recommended that no habitat disturbance (removal of vegetation such as timber, brush, or grass) be conducted during the periods of May 15 -July 15, the breeding and brood rearing season for most Colorado migratory birds. The provision will not apply to completion activities in disturbed areas that were initiated prior to May 15 and continue into the 60-day period. An exception to this timing limitation would be a consideration if nesting surveys conducted no more than one week prior to vegetation-disturbing activities indicate no nesting within 30 meters (100 feet) of the area to be disturbed. Surveys would need to be conducted

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COLORADO, NEW MEXICO, UTAH, WYOMING

by a qualified breeding bird surveyor between sunrise and 10:00 a.m. under favorable conditions.

5. Since the project involves oil or fuel usage, transfer, or storage, an adequate spill kit and shovels are required to be on site during project implementation.
6. The project proponent will be responsible for adhering to all applicable local, state and federal regulations in the event of a spill, which includes following the proper notification procedures in BLM's Spill Contingency Plan.
7. If cement mixtures are used as part of the project, all washout water needs to be contained and properly disposed of at a permitted offsite disposal facility.
8. The project proponent will be responsible for adhering to the State of Colorado regulations that govern stormwater management for these types of activities.
9. The responsible party should identify and protect evidence of the Public Land Survey System (PLSS) and related Federal property boundaries prior to commencement of any ground-disturbing activity. Evidence of the PLSS include, but are not limited to, General Land Office and Bureau of Land Management Cadastral Survey corners, reference corners, witness points, U.S. Coastal and Geodetic benchmarks and triangulation stations, military control monuments, and recognizable civil (both public and private) survey monuments. In the event of obliteration or disturbance of any of the above, the responsible party should immediately report the incident, in writing, to the authorized officer. BLM Cadastral Survey will determine how the marker is to be restored. In rehabilitating or replacing the evidence, the responsible party will reimburse the BLM for costs or, if instructed to sue the services of a Certified Federal Surveyor, procurement shall be per qualification-based selection. All surveying activities will conform to the Manual of Surveying Instructions and appropriate State laws and regulations. Cadastral Survey will review local surveys before being finalized or filed in the appropriate State or county office. The responsible party will pay for all survey, investigation, penalties and administrative costs.
10. A report of the results of any testing from the site investigation, including a map showing the location of the test pits/trenches, boreholes and their access routes, will be submitted within 30-days of completion of the sampling/testing program to the Royal Gorge Field Office.

If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Carter at (719) 269-8551.

Sincerely,

**KEITH BERGER**

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BERGER  
Date: 2021.09.01 12:01:49  
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Keith E. Berger  
Field Manager  
Royal Gorge Field Office

Enclosure:

1 – NEPA Document: DOI-BLM-CO-F020-2018-007 CX

cc: Elliott Russell, CDRMS (via email)



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## Wildhorse Reservoir - City of Aurora

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**Carter, Stephanie S** <sscarter@blm.gov>  
To: "Russell - DNR, Elliott" <elliott.russell@state.co.us>  
Cc: "Vidmar, Richard" <rvidmar@auroragov.org>

Thu, Sep 2, 2021 at 6:49 AM

Good Morning,

I'm sending you a copy of the authorization letter BLM just issued for Phase II exploration/testing work to be conducted at the planned Wildhorse Reservoir location in Park County.

Thanks!

Best Regards,

STEPHANIE CARTER, LPG

Geologist, Program Lead Locatable & Mineral Materials | BLM CO, Royal Gorge Field Office | Dep't of Interior Region 7 | **3028 E. Main St., Canon City, CO 81212** | 719.269.8551



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