

WHITEWATER BUILDING MATERIALS CORPORATION

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July 12, 2023

Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety
Room 215, c/o: Ms. Amy Yeldell
1001 E 62nd Ave
Denver, CO 80216

Dear Ms. Yeldell;

RE: Whitewater 500 Pit - Technical Revision
Permit - M-1977-129

The following Technical Revisions are being submitted to address the 4 Problems presented in the May 9, 2023 inspection report. We will address each of them in the order presented in your Inspection Report.

1) INCREASE THE MAXIMUM ALLOWED SLOPING

Under the current mining method Whitewater has committed to having 1500 feet of shore slope that would need backfilling, grading and seeding at any-one-time. We now wish to increase that to a maximum of 5,000 linear feet of working highwall that would be an average slope of 2H to 1v. In addition, an additional 2,000 linear feet of 1h to 1v highwall needing backfilling along the exterior of the mine. All material needed for the sloping will be maintained on the site in close proximity to where it is needed. If needed material from the lake floor could be pushed up to create the backfill slopes.

2) INCREASE TO MAXIMUM ALLOWED DISTURBANCE

At this time we request that the maximum disturbance be increased from 50 acres to 250 acres. The plan is to have no more than 250 acres ∇ of disturbance at any-one-time to allow for flexibility during mining. This 250 acres will include stripped, partially mined (lake area), partially reclaimed, soil piles, materials stockpile areas, settling pond facilities and recreational

vehicle parking area. Much of the 250 acres would be within the highwater line of the lakes and would need no soiling or revegetation.

While reviewing the Reclamation Plan for this Technical Revision I found a discrepancy between the Divisions listed permit area and what we have on the maps. I think it stems from what looks like a math issue start with AR4 (3/5/07) and AR6 (5-9-13). There are probably some rounding mistakes too that have accumulated since 1977. For this exercise I used the 1999 Reclamation Timetable since it matches the last Map that we have used for the basis of the changes. Using the table numbers for the Stages north of the river and adding the 71.62 Acres for the stages south of the river the total area should be 430.68 acres not the 491.70 acres noted in the inspections of the forms.

Also I found in **Technical Revision #4** (March 3, 2009) approval that combined Stage 3-Part B and Stage 4-Part B into one large stage and renaming Stage 4 - Part A to just Stage 4. The Reclamation Timetable has been updated to reflect current conditions. A revised **Exhibit Fn - Reclamation Plan Map - North areas** is supplied with the proper Stage markings showing this revision.

3) REVISED WEED CONTROL PLAN

Attached is a revised Weed Control Plan prepared after consultation with Mesa County weed control and the CSU Cooperative Extension Service.

4) REVISED RECLAMATION PLAN AND TIMETABLE

This revision address=s the area south of the Gunnison River in what is now Stages 2, W & Z. Originally Stage 2 was to be reclaimed as lake area surrounded by Revegetated area, Stage W was to be reclaimed as Stock Feeding area since it what the original Plant Site and stockpile area and there was no soil to revegetate it. Stage Z was a settling pond that was to be backfilled and revegetated. This revision combines those Stage into a single stage, Stage S, that covers 71.62 acres. This is permit are south of the river that remained when **Area Release 6** was approved in 2013. The old Stage W and the eastern part of Stage 2 that was used as plant site and stockpile area will be reclaimed into recreational parking and access to the existing lakes. This area was utilized as a plant and stockpile site prior to permitting requirements and will be reclaimed in a state similar to what is existing now.

For reclamation in this Stage, we propose two options for final reclamation. In both options the area along the north, west and south sides of the small western pond and around the west, south and east sides of the existing pond will remain as vegetated area since those areas are mostly reclaimed at this time.

In Option 1, the eastern area that was the old Plant Site and stockpile area will be mined. The mined area would remove the eastern part of the Pond #1 and the northern part of the pre-law Lake to create a single lake. The slope area from the existing surface to the stable lake elevation

would be resoiled and seeded and the level area around the new lake will be graveled for recreational vehicle parking.

In Option 2 the old Plant Site and stockpile area will remain unmined and will be reclaimed as graveled recreational vehicle parking. If this is done then the area will only need grading since it has a gravel cover.

The Revised Reclamation Timetable shows the two options and the final use areas associated with that option. The revised **Exhibit Fs - Reclamation Plan Map - South areas** contains an inset showing Reclamation Option 2. No changes are being made to the Reclamation Plan for the area north of the river in Stage 3-Part A, Stage 3-Part B, Stage 4, Stage 5 and Stage 6.

If you have any questions or need more information please call me.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark Gardner
Vice President

Enclosure

cc Environment, Inc. - Steve O'Brian
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