



STATE OF
COLORADO

Ridley - DNR, Hunter <hunter.ridley@state.co.us>

Fwd: City of Thorton Blocking return flows to south platte

Ebert - DNR, Jared <jared.ebert@state.co.us>

Mon, Aug 28, 2023 at 7:11 AM

To: Michael Cunningham - DNR <michaela.cunningham@state.co.us>, Hunter Ridley - DNR <hunter.ridley@state.co.us>

Good morning Michael and Hunter,

Peter received this email complaint at one of his former assignments in Weld County, I believe it is the NCCI Pit #1, (M-2001-107). Mr. Hladky also called Pete and left him a voicemail that I will also forward to you.

Thanks,

Jared

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Hays - DNR, Peter** <peter.hays@state.co.us>

Date: Sun, Aug 27, 2023 at 3:41 PM

Subject: Fwd: City of Thorton Blocking return flows to south platte

To: Jared Ebert <Jared.Ebert@state.co.us>

Jared,

I forwarded this gentleman's voicemail on Friday. His email is below.

Peter S. Hays
Environmental Protection Specialist
Inactive Mine Reclamation Program



COLORADO
Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety
Department of Natural Resources

I am working remotely and can be reached at 720.786.0024.

C 720.786.0024 | P 303.866.3567 Ext. 8124 | F 303.832.8106

Physical - [1313 Sherman St., Room 215](#), Denver, CO 80203

Mailing - [1001 E 62nd Ave.](#), Denver, CO 80216

peter.hays@state.co.us | <https://drms.colorado.gov>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Patrick Hladky** <patrickhladky@yahoo.com>

Date: Sat, Aug 26, 2023 at 9:21 PM

Subject: City of Thorton Blocking return flows to south platte

To: peter.hays@state.co.us <peter.hays@state.co.us>, ioana.comaniciu@state.co.us <ioana.comaniciu@state.co.us>

Good afternoon Peter,

I was given your contact through Ioana and am a very concerned neighbor farmer to a gravel pit on the nw corner of cr 18 and 25 in fort lupton co. This pit is owned by the city of thorton, mined by NCC and they have been notified of the damages they are causing not only my crops and equipment and cattle but also downflow users by blocking return flows to the South platte River Basin in Division 1. I would like to find out their water court decree case number and read up on their case to see if they are staying consistent with their decree through blocking return flows and directly impacting upstream and downstream users and my crops. They are quickly turning my cropland into a wetland in the course of a year. They have had 4 12" pumps pumping out their pit 24 hours a day for the last 18 months and since then , as they complete the clay walls and shut off the pumps I have noticed all that water which naturally flowed through the city of thortans land is now being withheld

and coming up on on my farmland owned by Richard hein to the west of their pit.

I would like copies of the ground water monitoring wells in the surrounding area. There are 2 wells on Richard heins property which I farm west of the pit that are checked monthly if I remember right. Maybe the division of water resources has the information, I havent been in contact with them.

If you or someone can meet me on sight to show the issues I am fighting that would be great! I currently have my semi stuck on the road because the watertable is outrageously high. My cattle were left in the pod for 4 hours without water as I had to retrieve a tractor to pull out the semi, just to get the tractor stuck as well. I cant even drive into the property to check on my cattle because my pickup will sink. My corn hasn't been irrigated for 3 over weeks and yellowing showing signs of drowning out. My nutrients I put into the corn has been leached out Into the watertable and there is standing water everywhere. The attached pictures show my semi getting stuck where I historically would never be stuck especially without any irrigation for over 3 weeks or rainfall for 6 weeks. You can see standing water in the pictures.

I dont think Scott Twombly with the city of thorton is taking this issue seriously, I have asked for their court case number and he can't provide it. His excuse and claim is that "this has been an abnormally wet year". That's a load of bull. I farm all over the fortlupton, hudson and wattenberg areas and know my lands and water and am educated on groundwater and flows. On this particular farm I literally need to push the water or it will disappear because of the gravel. If I irrigate now the water won't disappear. It has nowhere to go. I believe the city of thorton blocking return flows to the South Platte River in the Fort lupton area could be the reason we went into sections on

the fulton and lupton bottoms ditch already due to the fact downstream isn't receiving the natural return flows they were originally.

I believe this issue is big and needs addressed. I'm reaching out for help.

You can reach me at 7203008852 any time of any day.

Thanks ! Patrick Hladky

--

Jared Ebert

Senior Environmental Protection Specialist



P 303.866.3567 ext. 8120 | F 303.832.8106 | Cell (720) 413-6466

Physical: [1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, CO 80203](#)

Mailing: DRMS Room 215, [1001 E 62nd Ave, Denver, CO 80216](#)

jared.ebert@state.co.us | <https://drms.colorado.gov/>

3 attachments

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