

STATE OF
COLORADO

Zuber - DNR, Rob <rob.zuber@state.co.us>

Objection Letter to M-2023-025

2 messages

Jim Gochis <hiddenplatteranch@gmail.com>
To: rob.zuber@state.co.us

Wed, Nov 8, 2023 at 12:23 PM

I own 250 acres of land south and west of the proposed mining operation. I am very concerned with the impact the proposed mining project will have on my property.

Specifically, my concerns are:

1. Groundwater table. The water table is very close to the surface 3-7 feet per Exhibit G. Slurry walls often cause mounding. The proposed slurry wall is essentially along the property line and thus any off-site impacts on the upstream side will be on my property. I do not want the north end of my property to become wetlands.
2. Drain pipe. The operator should be required to install a drain pipe to alleviate upstream mounding. The F-1 reclamation map shows the location of a "perimeter groundwater drain (if necessary)". We should prevent the problem rather than fix it after the fact.
3. Flooding. Historically during flood events, water has flowed through my property and into the proposed mining property. In recent years, it appears that a berm up to 10 feet in height in places has been constructed on the west side of the mining property. This will protect the mining property to the detriment of my property and surrounding properties since the farmland historically used to accommodate flood volumes will no longer be available. See attached aerial from June 2014 showing evidence of a deep cut on the west side of the mining property and evidence of erosion and deposition across most of the mining property. Floodwaters have been carried through an irrigation channel that has not been in use for years. Head gates still remain on my property that the berm had been built after 2013. The other split in the water flow the canal between my property and the proposed mining operation that carried the water to the Platte River since has been filled with trees and other debris, which could leave my property vulnerable as the flow of water that leaves my property at the high flood area, I think the building of the berm that let the water flow across the mining property, and the fact that the old canal along the property line has been filled with trees and other debris that could lead to a High water situation that could be detrimental to not only my property but to the surrounding properties as well. This picture was taken after the flood event in Sept 2013. Approximately 95% of the mining site is in the floodplain. How will the mining and reservoir affect the floodplain and flooding on my property?
4. Will the reservoir have a structure to control flows into the reservoir during flood events?
5. The C-2 Mining Map shows an underground electric line and gas line running southeast from my property across the mining property to north-northeast. These lines are proposed to be removed. Are they active? Will they affect any service to my property?
6. Finally, I am disappointed that IHC Scott has never reached out to me regarding this project. I am a reasonable person, support mining, and work in a construction-related business. Their project has the potential to impact my property significantly and there should be better communication.

I have attached an overhead view showing the berm installed in 2014 the highlighted yellow shows the drainage canal

Sincerely,

Jim Gochis
Hidden Platte Ranch
20435 WCR 23
Milliken, Co 80453

Aerial photos from 2014.



2014 Berm.png
1617K

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To: rob.zuber@state.co.us

Wed, Nov 8, 2023 at 12:33 PM

I would like to add that I do not want any access granted through my property for these mining operations.

[Quoted text hidden]