



June 13, 2024

TO: Tony Tennyson, Colowyo Coal Mine (Colowyo)

CC: Zach Trujillo and Leigh Simmons, Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division)

Re: Colowyo Coal Mine, C-1981-019, Point of Compliance Well Review Meeting Discussion.

Dear Mr. Tennyson,

Thank you for meeting with the Division on Monday June 10, 2024 to discuss the Division's review of the water quality data from two alluvial Groundwater Point of Compliance (POC) wells, LGSW-1 and LWCW-1. Colowyo has provided the Division with quarterly exceedance notifications for these wells since data collection began in December of 2021. Additional water quality data for these wells are available in Exhibit 1C of the most recent Annual Hydrology Report (AHR). The POC wells were incorporated into the Permit Application Packet (PAP) with TR-148, issued on August 3, 2021. With the approval of TR-148, CCC and the Division established numerical values for various water quality parameters which would represent the application of the Interim Narrative Standard from Regulation 41: The Basic Standards for Groundwater at the two POC locations; these values are recorded in Volume 2C, Exhibit 7, Item 19, Table 16 of the 2021 AECOM Point of Compliance Well Investigation Report.

It is the Division's understanding that Colowyo wishes to apply for Phase III bond release of multiple parcels within the Lower Goodsprings Creek and Taylor/Wilson Creek drainages. Pursuant to Rule 3.03.2(2), in order to approve a bond release application, the Division must evaluate site conditions in relation to requirements under Rule 4.05.13. This includes a review of water quality monitoring data to, in part, determine whether the operation has prevented material damage to the hydrologic balance outside the permit area.

During our meeting, the Division stated that an immediate determination of whether or not a Phase III bond release would be approved for these areas could not be made before a Phase III bond release application has been submitted. However, Colowyo and the Division both agreed that a review of Colowyo's 2023 AHR would help highlight potential issues with groundwater quality which may hinder the approval of a future Phase III bond release request. The Division also discussed the possibility of approving Phase III bond releases by drainage area, should this be applicable and desired.

Sincerely,
Hunter C. Ridley

Environmental Protection Specialist

