



**Climax Mine**  
Highway 91 - Fremont Pass  
Climax, CO 80429  
Phone (719) 486-7718  
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Sent by Email

July 24, 2024

Mr. Dustin Czaplá, Environmental Protection Specialist  
Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety  
1313 Sherman St., Rm. 215  
Denver, CO 80203

**Re: Mayflower Pump Station EPF Failure – Climax Mine Permit No. M-1977-493**

Dear Mr. Czaplá:

Climax is providing this 5-day follow-up written notice pursuant to Rule 8.2.3 of the DRMS Rules and Regulations for Hard Rock, Metal, and Designated Mining Operations. On Thursday, July 18, 2024, at approximately 2:45 pm, an event occurred at Climax Mine at the Mayflower Pump Station, which is considered as a potential failure or imminent failure of an Environmental Protection Facility (EPF) pursuant to Rule 8.1(b). Climax left a voicemail with Environmental Protection Specialist Dustin Czaplá at approximately 11:20 am on July 19, 2024, in accordance with Rule 8.2.1(a), and spoke with him at approximately 2:00 pm on July 22, 2024. Climax also notified Colorado Department of Health and Environment via the Spill Hotline within 24 hours (incident/spill no. 2024-691).

Description of Incident

Incident occurred at the Climax Mine located at Fremont Pass – Highway 91, Climax, CO 80429. At approximately 2:45 pm on July 18, 2024, a routine pipe jetting job was completed and the Mayflower Pump Station was going to be brought back online. The pumps were turned on in auto sequence-auto control mode. The line was filling with the variable frequency drive (VFD) – pumps 2 and 3 started at the same time, this made pumps trip/power out. A trip occurred and operator was able to clear alarm – hit auto start again – observed that the line pressure dropped to zero and turned the pumps off. Water hammer occurred and caused the blind flange at the end of a pipeline junction at the Pump Station to fail and caused process water to drain into a Climax Mine drainage that eventually leads to Climax's Colorado Discharge Permit System (CDPS) permit (No. CO0000248) Outfall 001A that represents the beginning of Tenmile Creek.

Upon repair of the flange, the pumps were brought online in a staggered manner and normal operations resumed. Attachment 1 shows the release location and path of flow.

Required Information under Rule 8.2.3, paragraphs (a) through (e):

- (a) actions taken to respond to and correct the emergency situation or condition;

*Climax Response: Climax was able to plug a local culvert and contain a portion (approximately 25%) of the released material. It is estimated 2,500 gallons of seepage water was released during the event, and of this, about 25% was contained and Climax was able to pump this contained water back into the process. Climax was also able to repair the flange and resume normal operations.*

- (b) any known or anticipated adverse impacts to human health, property or the environment;

*Climax Response: Given the amount of material released from the Mayflower Pump Station, amount captured and dilution that occurred upstream of Outfall 001A, there are no anticipated adverse impacts to human health, property, or the environment. Field measurements of pH were within normal ranges and lab samples were collected at Outfall 001A immediately after the event and the next morning as an additional measure.*

- (c) name(s), address(s), telephone numbers and e-mail address of the Operator's contact person for additional information and follow-up by the Office;

*Climax Response: Eric Detmer, Environmental Manager – [edetmer@fmi.com](mailto:edetmer@fmi.com), 719-427-0070  
Climax Mine, Fremont Pass-Highway 91  
Climax, CO 80429*

- (d) monitoring and analyses that are necessary to evaluate the situation and corrective actions, copies of all pertinent data; and

*Climax Response: Climax collected two CDPS samples at Outfall 001A after this event occurred. The first was taken on July 18, 2024, at 4:35 pm and the second was taken on July 19, 2024, at 6:35 am. Field pH was also taken during each sampling event, the pH values were 7.61 and 7.73, respectively, both within normal operational range and permit limits. Both samples have been submitted to ACZ Laboratories for analysis and Climax has not received those results yet; they will be sent to DRMS and CDPHE upon receipt of those data in a follow-up submittal.*

- (e) results of the Operator's investigation to assess the conditions or circumstances that created the emergency situation, and what corrective or protective measures will be taken to prevent a similar event from occurring in the future.

*Climax Response: Climax does not interpret this event as an emergency situation due to the duration of the release and repair. Climax is currently constructing a pumpback system in this area that will prevent situations like this from occurring in the future. Climax will be installing control/delay programming into the startup sequence of the pumps at this pump station; so that pumps start with appropriate intervals in between, and Climax will be updating the pump startup process SOP as well.*

Please feel free to contact me at (719) 427-0070 or at [edetmer@fmi.com](mailto:edetmer@fmi.com) if you need any further information regarding this matter. Thank you for your continued assistance with Climax Mine.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E Detmer', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Eric Detmer, P.E.  
Environmental Manager

Attachment

## Attachment 1 – Location and Flow Map

