

STATE OF COLORADO

DIVISION OF RECLAMATION, MINING AND SAFETY

Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman St., Room 215

Denver, Colorado 80203

Phone: (303) 866-3567

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July 9, 2012

John Gallegos
Telluride Stone
PO Box 3552
Telluride, CO 81435

John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

Mike King
Executive Director

Loretta E. Piñeda
Director

Re: Airport Pit, Permit M-2011-013, Technical Revision TR-1, Adequacy Review Letter.

Dear Mr. Gallegos,

The Division found the above-named technical revision complete on June 15, 2012, at which time the review period began. We have reviewed the revision and find that it is not yet adequate for approval. Overall the proposed changes are straightforward and well-presented. However, the Division has a few questions that must still be addressed. Please respond to each of the items listed in the paragraphs below.

The revised mining plan states that the pit that is excavated will be backfilled with unusable materials up to the original surface grades. Please clarify if you intend for this backfill material to include imported earthen materials, that is, materials generated from an offsite source. If so, please describe the source(s) and characteristics of the materials, and whether this may be an ongoing practice.

We interpret the revised plan to include placing the backfill such that it will be approximately up to the grade that existed prior to excavating the pit. This will have a slope of about 10:1. However, some of it may be placed above the original grade along the northern boundary, to extend the 7:1 slope that leads down to the airport runway. Will the entire pit that results from the excavation have to be backfilled before the raised area is made? If so, this appears to imply that you expect to have a net gain of material volume, either generated onsite or imported, to be able to raise the surface above the original surface. This is unusual for an excavated site, unless materials are imported. Please explain this point.

The mining plan map depicts a fuel storage location. Please describe the impermeable secondary containment that will prevent spills and leaks from contaminating the soil and water.

The reclamation map is required to include the surface topography, such that the direction and rate of slope of the reclaimed surface may be determined. This can be depicted by topographic contour lines or labeling the areas with arrows and slope rates, or other methods. Please provide a corrected reclamation map. (As a reminder, the submittal must include two copies of each map, which are to be signed and dated, and two copies of all other submittals.)

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The Division's decision date is set for July 16, 2012. Please respond to all items above. If you find that additional time is needed to prepare and submit your responses, you may request an extension. Once all adequacy questions have been answered the Division will calculate a bond amount and send you the figures for review.

You may send the response materials to me at the Durango Field Office: 691 CR 233, Room A-2, Durango, CO 81301.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Oswald", written in a cursive style.

Bob Oswald
Environmental Protection Specialist

Cc: Russ Means, DRMS Grand Junction

(c:\12-07 docs\Airport TR-1 par/rco)