

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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November 15, 2012

Jon Thorson
RM Potash
3611 South Xenia Street
Denver, CO 80237

John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

Mike King
Executive Director

Loretta E. Piñeda
Director

Re: Colorado Potash Project, NOI No. P-2011-012, Additional Adequacy Review Questions.

Dear Mr. Thorson,

This office has received a copy of the Preliminary Environmental Assessment (EA) from the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), in which operational requirements for this project have been defined. The Division is in agreement with the BLM's requirements and the conditions that are set forth for the applicant, and at this time the Division presumes that the applicant will commit to those requirements.

The Division's review of the EA has raised several questions that still need to be addressed. Please answer each of the following items:

1. Regarding the "temporary casing" proposed, please describe the methods that will be employed to conduct the well installation and what length of time will be needed between the steps of drilling the wells, casing the wells and cementing the wells. In other words, a clearer description of well installation methods is needed.
2. Please state what techniques will be employed to isolate aquifers during the drilling of the wells.
3. Please provide information about cement-to-steel casing bond verification. The Division believes the operator needs to perform cement bond logging on all wells installed to verify adequate isolation of the aquifers that are adjacent to the well column.
4. The Division will require cement to be used for plugging and abandoning of the deep wells in this project. Please commit to tremmying the cement from the bottom of well to the top of well upon closure.
5. Please provide more information regarding the proposed details of plugging and abandonment of the wells in the reclamation plan.

The Division looks forward to receiving your responses. Please be reminded that two complete sets of all response materials must be provided. You may send your responses directly to me at the Division's Durango Field Office: 691 CR 233, Room A-2, Durango, CO 81301; telephone 970-247-5193.

Sincerely,

Bob Oswald
Environmental Protection Specialist

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EC: Russ Means, DRMS Grand Junction
Travis Marshall, DRMS
James Blair, BLM, Tres Rios Field Office, Dolores

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