

STATE OF COLORADO

DIVISION OF RECLAMATION, MINING AND SAFETY

Department of Natural Resources

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Memorandum

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Governor

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Loretta Piñeda
Director

June 13, 2013

To: Marcia Talvitie, DRMS

From: Jared Ebert, DRMS

RE: New Horizon Mine; C-1981-008, Minor Revision No, 86 (MR86) Review

Marcia, I have reviewed MR-86 for the New Horizon Mine. I have several adequacy review items that will need to be addressed prior to the approval of the revision.

1. For both irrigated pasture and dryland pasture areas, the revised plan indicate herbaceous production sampling will be done along a randomly placed transect. If production will be measured along the same transect where cover is measured then the individual taking the samples should collect the cover measurements prior to collecting vegetation clippings for production. Or, the production quadrats could be placed at a set distance offset from the transect where clipping activity will not interfere with the cover measurements. The text needs to be updated to clarify this methodology.
2. For both irrigated pasture and dryland pasture herbaceous production sampling, the revised plan indicates that three and perhaps five sample points may be taken along a given transect. Western Fuels needs to clarify how the number of sample points per transect will be determined and why a certain number of sample points will be taken. For example, in what instance would three sample points be collected and in what instance would four or five sample points be collected?
3. In regards to the herbaceous production quality standard, the revised plan indicates, "At least 75% of the relative production as compared to the production obtained from the Irrigated Pasture Reference Area will be comprised of seeded species or species of comparable quality as livestock forage." This revised sentence is unclear. Western Fuels needs to specify what specific area they are referencing and the plant life form and/or species they are referring to in regards to relative production. It would be helpful to have an illustration of how this will be determined.
4. Similar to the item above, revised page 60 discusses the herbaceous production quality standard for the dryland pasture, it indicates the relative production as compared to the production obtained from the *Irrigated Pasture Reference Area* will be comprised of seeded species or species of comparable quality as livestock forage. The Division believes the sentence should refer to the Dryland Pasture Reference Area. However, as indicated above the revised sentence is unclear and needs to be clarified.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.