



David L. Mayerson  
Mining Environmental Compliance Section  
NMED – Ground Water Quality Bureau  
Harold Runnels Building  
PO Box 5469  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-5469

January 29, 2015

**RE: Mt. Taylor Mine/DP-61 – Rio Grande Resources reply to NMED letter dated 01/12/2015 updating the Stage II Abatement phytoremediation program.**

Dear Mr. Mayerson,

In response to your inquiry of the phytoremediation program, I provide the following most updated information and description.

There are a total of 34 borings equally spaced between MW- 5 and WP- 4. The trees are numbered from north to south. Trees #1 through #23 are alive and growing at the end of summer 2014. WP-5 is between tree #12 and #13.

The trees were initially planted in the spring of 2012 and by the fall of the same year, all but one tree had died. We determined that most of trees failed due to inadequate compaction of the soil mix in the borings (80% compost and 20% soil). We repaired each boring by compacting with mostly water and tamping in through the fall. We planted new trees in late fall of 2012. We assessed the trees in the spring of 2013 and they seem to have a good start but by mid-summer, it was evident that some of the trees were distressed in the area of #24 through #34. We determined that a more robust water delivery system was needed, so we added a 1500 gallon storage tank and a new 1 ¼" supply line was installed.

The current condition of trees #1 through #23 is that they are alive. We have addressed the issues (1) soil borings have been successfully compacted (2) rodents have been dealt with and (3) a reliable water delivery system has been developed. Our plans are to plant new trees #24 through #34 in early spring of 2015.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joe Lister", written over the typed name.

Joe Lister  
Mine Manager  
Rio Grande Resources – Mt. Taylor Mine