



SUSANA MARTINEZ
Governor

JOHN A. SANCHEZ
Lieutenant Governor

NEW MEXICO
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

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CERTIFIED MAIL—RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

February 6, 2015

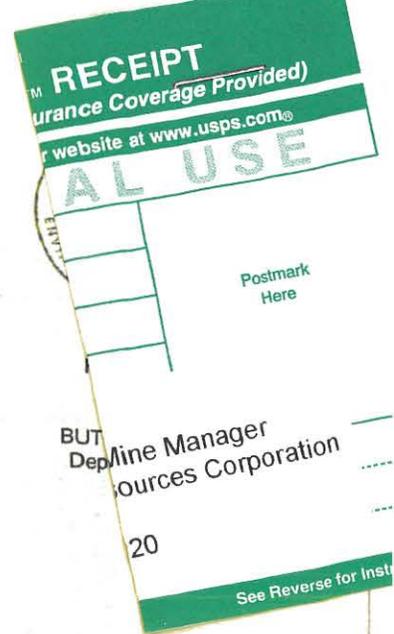
Mr. Joel Lister, Mine Manager
Rio Grande Resources Corporation
P.O. Box 1150
Grants, NM 87020

RE: Mt. Taylor mine/Discharge Permit-61—New Mexico Environment Department comments on “Soil and water sampling and testing, water and sediment impoundment locations downstream of Mt. Taylor mine water outfall 001” (Rio Grande Resources Corporation, January 26, 2015)

Dear Mr. Lister:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) submits the following comments from its review of the above-referenced document that was submitted by Rio Grande Resources Corporation (RGRC):

1. NMED, October 2, 2014 [**RE: Mt. Taylor mine/Discharge Permit DP-61—NMED review comments on ‘RGR responses to NMED letter of 9/3/14 regarding the outfall investigation report’ (September 23, 2014) and ‘Work plan, supplemental investigation of soil for uranium, selenium, and molybdenum contamination downstream of mine water pipeline Outfall 001’ (September 23, 2014)**] stated that “RGR shall perform SPLP [Synthetic Precipitation Leaching Procedure] analysis on any soil samples for which the concentration of uranium, selenium, and/or molybdenum exceeds the background concentration(s) by at least 50%” (p. 3). In comparison to the analytical results that were reported for sample LPV-01-A, which is located upstream of the outfall, concentrations by both analytical methods from sample LDD-01-A for the three analytes, as reported in Table 2, exceed the respective concentrations in the former sample by more than 50%. Please provide the SPLP analytical data for the latter sample or explain why these data are not available.
2. NMED, October 2, 2014 required RGRC to submit selenium and molybdenum concentration data from samples collected during RGRC’s previous outfall investigation, if available. From a recent telephone conversation, NMED



Mr. Joel Lister, Rio Grande Resources Corporation Mine Manager
RE: Mt. Taylor mine/Discharge Permit-61—New Mexico Environment comments on “*Soil and water sampling and testing, water and sediment impoundment locations downstream of Mt. Taylor mine water outfall 001*” (Rio Grande Resources Corporation, January 26, 2015)
February 9, 2015

understands that these data are included in this report. Please identify the sample designators within the subject submittal for these data.

Please provide a response to this letter within 10 days of your receipt. You may contact me at (505) 476-3777 or by email at david.mayerson@state.nm.us if you have any questions on this letter.

Sincerely,



David L. Mayerson
Mining Environmental Compliance Section
Ground Water Quality Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department