

NOTICE OF DECISION - Bureau of Mining Regulation and Reclamation

Web Posting: 04/04/2016

Deadline for Appeal: 04/16/2016

WPC Permit No. NEV0060006

Inspiration Mine

Meridian Rossi Corp.

The Administrator of the State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (the Division) has decided to renew Water Pollution Control Permit NEV0060006 to Meridian Rossi Corp. This Permit authorizes the closure of approved mining facilities in Lander County, Nevada. The Division has been provided with sufficient information, in accordance with Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 445A.350 through 445A.447, to assure that the waters of the State will not be degraded by this operation, and that public safety and health will be protected.

The Permit will become effective 19 April 2016. The final determination of the Administrator may be appealed to the State Environmental Commission pursuant to Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 445A.605 and NAC 445A.407. All requests for appeals must be filed by 5:00 PM, 14 April 2016, on Form 3, with the State Environmental Commission, 901 South Stewart Street, Suite 4001, Carson City, Nevada 89701-5249. For more information, contact Lisa Kreskey at (775) 687-9415 or visit the Bureau of Mining Regulation and Reclamation website at <http://ndep.nv.gov/bmrr/index.htm>

Written comments were received during the public comment period from Adam Whitman of Meridian Rossi Corp.

Meridian Rossi Corp. Written Comment 1:

“...The Fact Sheet...notes future water quality monitoring is no longer required at AGV2 or in the Beaver Slide and Satellite sub-water sheds. As such, there is an inconsistency in Table I.D, Items 4, 5, and 6 where ‘Profile IV’ (water quality sampling) is listed in the parameters column for the ‘Engineered Structures’. Water quality sampling has been designated for specific locations (Items 1, 2, 3, and 7 in Table I.D) and has not been previously required at the ‘Engineered Structures’. To be consistent with the Fact Sheet and previous monitoring, ‘Profile IV’ should be removed from Items 4, 5, and 6, in Table I.D. prior to final permit issuance.”

Division Response 1:

The Division has reviewed the 2015 Modification and concurs with this request. The Profile IV requirements have been removed from Parts I.D.4, 5, and 6.

Meridian Rossi Corp. Written Comment 2:

“Total recoverable Iron and Aluminum are listed in Profile IV. As demonstrated by past monitoring of background during the period of record, these parameters may be exceeded in Birch Creek if there is a high Total Suspended Solids (TSS) resulting from storm events or seasonal runoff....AGV cannot be held responsible for, nor do we have control of these issues and so monitoring for impacts unrelated to AGV activities should not be required. Meridian respectfully request iron and aluminum be removed from the Profile IV list of parameters...”

Division Response 2:

In reviewing the 2015 Annual report for the Inspiration Mine, there are no monitoring data for AGV-3a for four years as there has been “no flow” during this period. The Division cannot reduce monitoring requirements with insufficient data to support a request in sampling reduction.

Meridian Rossi Corp. Written Comment 3:

“The Dump Gulch Sediment pond ...was added to the monitoring list in the 2010-issued permit to demonstrate that its quality would not pose a threat to wildlife due to potential evapo-concentration. Monitoring ...has clearly demonstrated that the pond water quality does not present a threat to wildlife...Meridian ... requests that either AGV-7 or the Dump Gulch Sediment Pond monitoring point be removed from the monitoring requirements as they are essentially redundant sampling...”

Division Response 3:

The Dump Gulch Sediment Pond and AGV-7 were reported as dry during the 2015 sampling period and no samples were collected. Per the Annual 2015 monitoring report (with 2014 results), the analysis for the AGV-7 location shows exceedances in surface water standards for antimony (0.012 mg/L), selenium (0.029 mg/L), sulfate (1300 mg/L) and total dissolved solids (2200 mg/L). The results for the Dump Gulch Basin show exceedances in antimony (0.012 mg/L), pH (9.3 s.u.), selenium (0.016 mg/L), sulfate (1900 mg/L) and total dissolved solids (2700 mg/L). These samples do not reflect each other except in antimony. While selenium is lower, Dump Gulch Basin, evapo-concentration has increased the pH, sulfate and total dissolved solids. The spreadsheet included with the Annual 2015 monitoring report shows a trend of increases in these constituents of concern. Therefore, the Division cannot at this time remove monitoring requirements for Dump Gulch Basin or AGV-7.