



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Bill Ritter, Governor
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March 3, 2008

Mr. Rick Ehat
Project Construction Engineer
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Four Corners Construction Office
P.O. Box 5107
Durango, CO 81301

RE: Basin Creek COGCC 3M Monitoring Wells
MW #34-9-7-1 and MW #34-9-7-2
NESE Sec 7 T34N R9W NMPM
La Plata County, CO

067-08804
067-08815

Dear Mr. Ehat:

In 2000, the State of Colorado Oil & Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC) and US Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) entered into a License Agreement whereas the COGCC was granted permission to install and monitor 3M Fruitland Formation monitoring wells on BOR property as described above. The wells, installed in 2002, share a common pad and are located just to the north of the southeast access/haul road to Ridges Basin Dam. Two wells were installed along with a shared equipment shed. A copy of the License Agreement is provided as Attachment 1 which was signed for a term of 40-years with an option to renew.

As the Ridges Basin Dam and Lake Nighthorse construction project begins to wind down, the COGCC would like to formally request continued reasonable access to this monitoring location. We have historically downloaded our data using remote technology; however our equipment is aging and we recently lost the analog service which allowed us remote data access. We plan to replace our monitoring equipment as a part of the ongoing 4M Outcrop project, but will need to periodically visit the site and manually download data until we can undertake this task, probably sometime in late-2008 or early-2009. As such, physical access will be critical as the BOR phases out of construction and into completion of the Ridges Basin Dam project. We will also need to continue accessing the wells and monitoring equipment throughout the life of our agreement for routine maintenance and upgrading as monitoring technology continues to evolve and our data needs change.

During your final reclamation activities in this area, the COGCC would like to request the following to allow us reasonable access for long-term monitoring:

- Removal of the water line and large dirt berm alongside the access road at the monitoring site to allow light-duty vehicular access to the wellpad and equipment;
- Inclusion of the location in any planned Ridges Basin weed management program;

- The installation and maintenance of adequate stormwater controls along the access road to prevent potential flooding or ponding on the wellpad; and
- The procurement of any keys necessary to open locks on access road gates coming from CR 213 so the COGCC and its contractors can readily access the monitoring location.

Obviously as long as the area remains an active construction and reclamation project COGCC staff will continue to closely coordinate with BOR staff when site access is necessary. Our current point-of-contact is Mr. Andy Baca. Please let us know if this is still the appropriate person to call and who the preferred backup contact would be.

We would again like to thank the BOR for allowing the COGCC to install and access these very important monitoring points in a location that has been the center of such a major construction project over the past years. Your staff has been more than courteous and very helpful when access has been needed. We truly appreciate the working relationship we have developed and will continue to ensure COGCC personnel and contractors abide by any necessary access restrictions, safety concerns or other issues that may crop up.

Please feel free to give me or Debbie Baldwin a call if you would like to discuss any of our requests or proposed COGCC 2008-2010 activities in the area. You can reach me at 970-259-1619 or Debbie at 303-892-2100x111.

Sincerely,
Colorado Oil & Gas Conservation Commission Staff



Karen L. Spray, PG
SW Environmental Protection Specialist

Cc: Carol DeAngelis
Area Manager
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Western Colorado Area Office
2764 Compass Drive, Suite 106
Grand Junction, CO 81506

Rob Waldman – USBR
Debbie Baldwin – COGCC – Denver