



WATER QUALITY / QUANTITY COMMITTEE (QQ)

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March 4, 2013

Mr. Martin Hestmark
Assistant Regional Administrator
US Environmental Protection Agency
1595 Wyncoop Street
Denver, CO 80202-1129

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Dear Mr. Hestmark,

The Northwest Colorado Council of Governments ("NWCCOG") would like to join the Summit County Board of County Commissioners in thanking the EPA for its efforts to find an approach to address water quality contamination associated with the Pennsylvania Mine in a manner that has such broad stakeholder support. Thank you for listening to the concerns of the local community and for assisting in the reconnaissance work at the mine. NWCCOG is in support of the resulting approach to cleanup outlined in the draft Action Memorandum for a Removal Action at the Pennsylvania Mine including the phased approach, which allows for continued review and input on the later optional phases of the project.

The Pennsylvania Mine represents one of the worst water quality insults remaining in the Upper Colorado River basin. The proposed remedy is a milestone for our region. As such NWCCOG is committed to work with the appropriate parties to help identify long-term monitoring and maintenance approach for certain aspects of the project. We look forward to working with the EPA and other agencies during the implementation of the next steps of the proposed removal plan at the Pennsylvania Mine.

Thank you again for your assistance in these efforts and for the EPA's willingness to find collaborative solutions to this complex water quality situation. Please feel free to contact Lane Wyatt (970) 468-0295 if you have any questions, or if NWCCOG can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

James Newberry
Chairman

cc: David Ostrander, EPA Program Director
Jan Cutts, USFS Dillon Ranger District Ranger
Brian Lloyd, US Forest Service Hydrologist

Dan Sheppers, CDPHE HMD
Martha Rudolph, CDPHE
Loretta Pineda, DNR, DRMS
Summit County, BOCC and Open Space Department