

STATE OF
COLORADO

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Follow up to CMD meeting

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Afternoon all,

Thank you for meeting with us! I understand this process is taking longer than anticipated with the division changing staff, and now CMD is bringing new staff up to speed on what the district has done in the past and how we got to this variance. With the public comments we received, the division needs to take into consideration any pertinent comments. We are still analyzing variance options while also considering some longer term, regional approaches. Once we finalize a few alternatives, we will have to work with our leadership team on next steps.

We have had a chance to talk internally and had a few follow up questions to help us try to make the determination regarding the economic and energy impacts of meeting the chloride and TDS limitations and to make sure the variance includes protection of existing beneficial uses. Due to the groundwater in this area being unclassified, all the beneficial uses must be protected. Here are our guideposts outlined in Reg 61.12 that must be demonstrated to the commission.

If the Division determines that the benefits derived from meeting the limitation(s) do not bear a reasonable relationship to the economic, environmental, and energy impacts or other factors which are particular to the applicant in complying with the control regulations; except that such variances shall be consistent with the purposes of the Water Quality Control Act and these regulations, including the protection of existing beneficial uses.

To assist with the first part relating the economic, environmental and energy impacts, Mandy had a couple of questions since it has been a bit since she has looked at the financials:

1. How is the projected treatment cost(s) compared to the current debt obligation?
2. What is the plan to get out of receivership?

We are are charged with ensuring that the groundwater is protected for beneficial uses now and in the future; as such, a variance is not guaranteed into the future. Per 61.12, "A variance may be granted for no longer than the duration of the permit, During the duration of a permit, a variance may be renewed at the discretion of the Division in accordance with the same procedures which applied to the first variance decision." It is recognized that the system is partially a closed loop system, but trend lines have been increasing for TDS and chloride so we need to consider potential impacts to not only drinking water within CMD, but drinking water wells within the area (and as noted by the public comments). This is not unusual for other variance requests the division has received (see attached for Singing Hills and Wiggins as examples).

Due to these considerations, we have a handful of follow up questions:

1. Do you have any current or historical data for TDS, chloride, and groundwater elevation from the existing wells at the property (MW-1 through MW-6) that can be provided or in studies prior to

development of CMD? In particular we are interested in the monitoring wells located along the perimeter of the CMD property. I believe there is data on one of the wells; do any of the others have data?

- a. If no, would you be willing to collect current data for TDS, chloride, and groundwater elevation from the existing wells at the property?
2. Do you have any groundwater data for TDS and chloride for offsite properties adjacent to the CMD?
3. The variance request refers to a raw water well that was installed in 2018 with a reported TDS concentration of 417 mg/l. Where is this well located?
4. Can you provide boring logs and well construction details for the existing wells?
5. Do you have any data regarding the TDS and chloride concentrations of the water coming from the CSA area that is treated by CMD?
6. Are deicing salts applied to the parking area and roads within the CMD and CSA service areas? Or are they only applied along 285?
 - a. If deicing salts are applied within the CMD and CSA service areas, would they reach groundwater in the vicinity of the raw water wells? Would existing stormwater drains convey salts away from raw water wells?
 - b. If salts are applied within the CMD and CSA service area, are there available alternatives that would be less likely to affect TDS concentrations if they reached groundwater?
7. With the proposed additional residential development tying into CMD's wastewater system, has there been an analysis of the source water for that area and how it may impact the chloride and TDS discharge levels? How would that residential area tying into the wastewater system impact water rights?
8. If the variance was approved, how would CMD propose to address the chloride and TDS levels to ensure they do not get more elevated or negatively impact surrounding groundwater during the next permit term?

Thank you for your patience and in advance for your responses.

Randi Johnson-Hufford, MPA

Unit 1 Manager, Permits Section

(Stormwater, Dewatering, Groundwater, Reclaimed)



COLORADO

Water Quality Control Division

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24-hr Environmental Release/Incident Report Line: 1.877.518.5608

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For COVID-19 specific information, please call the CDPHE Call Center at 303-692-2700 or go to CDPHE COVID-19.

For general questions about COVID-19: Call CO-Help at 303-389-1687 or 1-877-462-2911 or email


COHELP@RMPDC.org, for answers in English and Spanish (Español), Mandarin (普通话), and more.

2 attachments

COX621078_Singing Hills Variance Request.pdf

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State.co.us Executive Branch Mail - Follow up to CMD meeting

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 **COX631013 - Wiggins Special Report.pdf**
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