



July 22, 2020

MDEQ – Environmental Management Bureau  
Attn: Herb Rolfes, Section Supervisor  
P.O. Box 200901  
Helena, MT 59620-0901

**RE: EXTENSION REQUEST – 3-YEAR BEDROCK GROUNDWATER SAMPLING**

Dear Mr. Rolfes:

Per the groundwater monitoring plan (MR 09-001) approved by your office in 2009:

- Two monitor wells (MW3 and MW6) will be sampled twice during the year and had the first sampling completed during May 2020; total depth of those wells are 25 feet and 50 feet, respectively.
- Four additional monitor wells (MW1A, MW4, MW5A and MW7) are sampled on a once per three year basis – these four wells were last sampled in 2017 the next sampling was scheduled for these four wells this year.
  - The alluvial wells (MW1A & MW4) were sampled in May 2020 – this was completed as normal with in-house equipment capable of pumping a shallow aquifer; total depth of those wells are 20 feet and 22 feet, respectively.
  - The bedrock wells (MW5A & MW7) have not been sampled during calendar year 2020 as they both require third party services with equipment capable of pumping deep aquifers; total depth of those wells are 299 feet and 160 feet, respectively.
- Water level measurements were recorded in May 2020 (and will be again in the fall) at all eight monitor wells; including MW1, MW2 and the six noted wells in the first two bulleted items.

As detailed in the Director of the Montana DEQ (Shaun McGrath) letter dated March 31, 2020:

*“DEQ recognizes the current COVID-19 public health response may impact the ability of communities and companies to comply with certain regulatory obligations. While we expect everyone will do their best to adhere to all requirements, we understand some limited flexibility may be appropriate during this challenging time.”*

Trident continues to operate with as minimal amount of third party services as possible. We believe that delaying the sampling of these 2 bedrock wells (MW5A & MW7) is in the best interest for the health of our employees and that of potential third party provider. We propose that as the COVID pandemic subsides we will plan to schedule for these 2 bedrock wells to be sampled via third party service during calendar year 2021.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at 406-285-4977.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Greg Gannon', is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Greg Gannon  
Environmental Manager

ec: Nathan Allen