

May 14, 2020

Hecla Montana
Troy Mine Inc.
Attn: Nicholas Raines, Environmental Coordinator
34524 US Hwy 2
Libby, MT 59923

Sent via e-mail to: nraines@hecla-mining.com

**RE: 2020 Second Quarter Aquatics/Fisheries and Surface Water
Monitoring--In Response to COVID-19 - Operating Permit #00093**

Dear Mr. Raines:

On April 13, 2020, the Department of Environmental Quality, Hard Rock Mining Bureau (DEQ), received the Troy Mine Inc. (TMI) correspondence about the 2020 Second Quarter Aquatics/Fisheries and Surface Water Monitoring as it is currently affected by COVID-19. From the submittal, DEQ understands that the macroinvertebrate portion of this monitoring event is conducted by Anchor QEA, the TMI contractor that is currently located in New York. DEQ also understands that TMI has been unable to find another local contractor that is qualified to conduct this monitoring.

In the April 13, 2020 submittal, TMI staff notified DEQ that the 2nd Quarter Aquatics/Fisheries portion of the monitoring event has been cancelled. TMI staff identified the "Stay-at-Home" orders with travel restrictions due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the lack of suitable contractor to conduct the work, the long 34-year history of aquatic/fisheries monitoring for the site, and a desire to limit potential COVID-19 exposure during a sampling as the reasons for the decision. DEQ further understands that TMI is still hopeful to conduct the 2nd Quarter Surface Water Monitoring later in the 2nd Quarter.

DEQ staff have reviewed the request and agree with TMI's proposed course of action regarding the 2nd Quarter Aquatics/Fisheries Monitoring. Please keep DEQ staff updated on the plans for the 2nd Quarter Surface Water Monitoring, and provide a status update no later than 2 weeks from this letter as to the plan for such monitoring.

Please contact me if you should have any questions about this letter.

Sincerely,



Wayne Jepson

Nicholas Raines

April 24, 2020

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Hard Rock Mining Bureau

Department of Environmental Quality

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