



January 16, 2020

Mr. Gordon Criswell
Talen Montana
PO Box 38
Colstrip, Montana

RE: DEQ Approval of Units 3&4 Cleanup Criteria and Risk Assessment Report

Gordon:

DEQ has reviewed the above-referenced document and approves the Report.

As discussed in the October 23, 2019 meeting between Talen and DEQ, three of the surface water structures referenced in the September 13, 2019 letter from DEQ contain boron and sulfate at concentrations that exceed the protective levels for livestock. Two of the structures (PSW-4 Overflow Pond and West Seep Diversion) are man-made and essentially contain groundwater; the third structure (NP Cut) is the result of previous mining activity in the area, and based on groundwater flow directions, is not impacted by pond water.

Talen proposed in a letter to DEQ dated December 5, 2019, that the man-made structures and any impacted soil be removed to eliminate any risk to livestock or wildlife. DEQ understands these structures are no longer needed, as the West Seep no longer issues water to the surface, and the PSW-4 Overflow Pond is not needed due to the construction of alternative livestock watering sites. Based on this information, DEQ approves removal of the structures; the specifics of the proposed actions should be included in the Units 3&4 Remedial Design Work Plan.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 406-444-6797 or sedinberg@mt.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sara Edinberg". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sara Edinberg
Hydrogeologist
Montana DEQ

cc: Marietta Canty, Neptune Inc. (electronic copy)
Al Hilty, Hydrometrics (electronic copy)
Terri Mavencamp, DEQ (electronic copy)
Aimee Reynolds, DEQ (electronic copy)