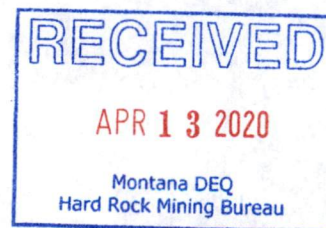


# TROY MINE INC.

34524 US Hwy 2  
Libby, MT 59923  
(406)295-5882



April 07, 2020

Herb Rolfes - USFS  
Hard Rock Mining Bureau  
Montana Department of Environmental Quality  
1520 E. Sixth Avenue  
P.O. Box 200901  
Helena, MT 59620-0901

**RE: Troy Mine – Notification of Changes to 2020 Second Quarter Aquatics/Fisheries and Surface Water Monitoring: In Response to COVID-19**

Mr. Rolfes:

Troy Mine Inc. (TMI) is submitting this letter as formal notification of changes to the macroinvertebrate and surface water monitoring program planned for the Troy Mine in 2020. TMI conducts its first of three annual macroinvertebrate and surface water monitoring events early in the second quarter (Q2), prior to spring run-off, in accordance with the Troy Mine Long-term Water Quality, Monitored Natural Attenuation and Macroinvertebrate Monitoring Field Sampling and Analysis Plan (2019). Monitoring started in 1985 and has continued annually over the past 34 years. This lengthy monitoring history provides an extensive and robust dataset for benthic macroinvertebrate communities and the water quality of two stream systems near the mine operated by Troy Mine. Data is summarized and trend analysis is included within annual reports - Comprehensive Water Quality Monitoring Program for Streams Adjacent to the Troy Mine Years 2 through 34.

The macroinvertebrate portion of this event is conducted by Anchor QEA (contractor) staff that travel to the site from New York. As you are aware, multiple states are currently under "Stay-at-Home" orders with travel restrictions due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, New York State has seen a significant number of COVID-19 cases. TMI is unable to locate any local area contractors who would be able to complete this work in the manner necessary to maintain the data continuity and quality generated over the long history of monitoring. Given this current situation, current TMI policies limiting outside visitors/contractors on the site, and a desire to limit potential exposure to our staff, contractors, and community, TMI will need to cancel the macroinvertebrate portion of the Q2 event.

The surface water monitoring portion of this event is typically conducted by Hydrometrics, Inc. (contractor) staff out of Kalispell, Montana, and can be conducted later into the quarter. TMI will make all reasonable efforts to proceed with the surface water monitoring portion of this event. However, TMI will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation and will provide further notification if the monitoring cannot be conducted safely.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (406) 289-8888 ext. 108 or nraines@hecla-mining.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nicholas J. Raines".

Nicholas Raines  
Environmental Coordinator – Troy Mine Inc.

cc: Wayne Jepson – MT DEQ  
Julie Hopkinson – USFS, Kootenai National Forest  
Doug Stiles, P.E. - General Manager, Troy Mine Inc.