



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, WA 98101-3140

OFFICE OF
WATER AND
WATERSHEDS

Reply to Attn of: OWW-191

APR 22 2016

Judy Cloos
Hecla Limited
6500 North Mineral Drive, Suite 200
P.O. Box 386
Coeur D'Alene, Idaho 83815

Re: Additional Monitoring Requirements for Hecla Limited Interstate Facility under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Multi-Sector General Permit, Permit Reference No. IDR053159

Dear Ms. Cloos:

The purpose of this letter is to notify you of watershed based monitoring requirements that must be implemented at your facility to maintain permit coverage under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) 2015 Multi-Sector General Permit for Storm water Discharges Associated with Industrial Activity (MSGP). Based on the information provided in your Notice of Intent (NOI), storm water from the Hecla Interstate Facility on Ninemile Road in Wallace, Idaho (Facility) discharges into Ninemile Creek and the East Fork of Nine Mile Creek. Each of these waters is listed as impaired for sediment and dissolved lead, zinc, and cadmium. The State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) has established Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for these pollutants.

Basis for EPA to Add Additional Requirements

Part 2.2.2.1 of the MSGP, Existing Discharge to an Impaired Water with an EPA Approved or Established TMDL, states, "If you discharge to an impaired water with an EPA approved or established TMDL, EPA will inform you if any additional limits or controls are necessary for your discharge to be consistent with the assumptions of any available waste load allocation in the TMDL, or if coverage under an individual permit is necessary in accordance with Part 1.2.3."

EPA inspections of mines have indicated that the storm water from any part of an active mine may contain pollutants of concern, not simply those associated with waste rock and overburden piles. To comply with the TMDL, if the Facility becomes active during the permit term, the Facility is to conduct storm water monitoring for Total Suspended Solids (TSS), lead, zinc, & cadmium at all outfalls from the Facility, following the benchmark monitoring procedures in Part 6.2.1. Results are to be compared to the Sector: G-Metal Mining benchmark values.

If you have any questions, please contact Margaret McCauley of my staff at mccauley.margaret@epa.gov or (206) 553-1772.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Lidgard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Michael J. Lidgard, Manager
NPDES Permits Unit

cc: June Bergquist, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality