



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10**

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

OFFICE OF
WATER AND
WATERSHEDS

DEC 04 2015

Reply to Attn of: OWW-191

HECLA Limited Morning Star
6500 N Mineral Drive, Suite 200
Attn: Judy Cloos
P.O. Box 386
Coeur D'Alene, Idaho 83815

Re: Additional Monitoring Requirements for Hecla Limited Morning Star Facility under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Multi-Sector General Permit, Permit Reference No. IDR053153

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), should that facility become active during the permit term. Based on the information provided in your Notice of Intent (NOI), storm water from the Hecla Morning Star Facility on Canyon Creek Road in Wallace, Idaho (Facility) discharges into Canyon Creek, Grouse Gulch Creek, Mill Creek, and O'Neill Gulch Creek. Canyon Creek is listed as impaired for sediment and the State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) has established a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for this pollutant.

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) 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 TSS benchmark value of 100.0 mg/L.

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 blue ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Lidgard".

Michael J. Lidgard, Manager
NPDES Permits Unit

cc: June Bergquist, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality