



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 10

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

OFFICE OF  
WATER AND  
WATERSHEDS

APR 22 2016

Reply to Attn of: OWW-191

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 Tamarack Facility under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Multi-Sector General Permit, Permit Reference No. IDR053155

Dear Ms. Cloos:

The purpose of this letter is to notify you of watershed specific 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 Stormwater Discharges Associated with Industrial Activity (MSGP), should the facility become active during the permit term. Based on the information provided in your Notice of Intent (NOI), storm water from the Hecla Tamarack Facility on Burke Road in Wallace, Idaho (Facility) discharges into Canyon Creek and Ninemile Creek. Canyon Creek is listed as impaired for sediment and dissolved lead, zinc, and cadmium. Ninemile Creek is listed as impaired for cadmium, lead, temperature, zinc, and sediment. The State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) has established Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for sediment for each creek.

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,



Michael J. Lidgard, Manager  
NPDES Permits Unit

cc: June Bergquist, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality