



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

Corey Millard
US. Silver and Gold Inc.
1041 Lake Gulch Rd
Wallace, ID 83873

Re: TMDL Monitoring Requirements for the Osburn Tailings Impoundment under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Multi-Sector General Permit, Permit Reference No. IDR053040

Dear Mr. Millard:

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 Osburn Tailings Impoundment at Nichols Gulch Rd and Two Mile Road (the Facility) near Osburn, Idaho discharges into a tributary of the South Fork of the Coeur d'Alene river, which is listed as impaired for sediment, temperature, cadmium, lead, and zinc. The State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) has established a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for sediment.

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." See also Part 6.2.5 of the MSGP (allowing EPA to notify a facility of additional monitoring requirements).

As described Table 8.G-2 of the permit and in the letter that will be sent automatically from EPA's NOI processing center, due to the type of industrial activity - Sector: G-Metal Mining - this Facility is already required to monitor for Total Suspended Solids (TSS) with a benchmark value of 100.0 mg/L as well as Turbidity monitoring with a benchmark value of 50 NTU. 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, the Facility is to conduct storm water monitoring for TSS at all outfalls from the Facility, following the benchmark monitoring procedures in Part 6.2.1.

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