

Exhibit A

Bausch, Whitney

From: Russell, Carly
Sent: Monday, October 17, 2022 8:03 AM
To: Bausch, Whitney
Subject: RE: Riverside - Rehbein Follow-up

Hey Whitney,

Welcome back! I hope that you had a relaxing vacation. I just wanted to send you this email to make sure that I capture everything correctly.

- 1) I have not issued a 2nd deficiency notice for this site because my family was hit with the stomach flu the first week after our meeting with CSKT, I avoided it until later in the week (when I was planning on working on the letter) then I had it all weekend before the Pix4D conference and was on the tail end of it during my flight down (only almost puked once, gross!). I am sending it to be peer reviewed today, and will be sending it out later this week. I am so sorry that this did not get taken care of while you were gone.
- 2) See my answers to each question in red below. Let me know if you would like to discuss anything.

Thanks!

Carly

From: Bausch, Whitney <WBausch2@mt.gov>
Sent: Friday, September 30, 2022 12:47 PM
To: Russell, Carly <Carly.Dorshorst@mt.gov>
Subject: FW: Riverside - Rehbein Follow-up

Hi Carly,

Dan sent this email yesterday. We have some follow up tasks.

- I will get ahold of MaryRose to make sure she has the requested information.
- This is the list of other things that I wrote down to follow up on, that you probably already have on your to do list. I may have missed some so add anything else I didn't catch! Will you please:
 - o Glenda and Deb Dumontier's comments were not included in the FOIA request? Will you please check on this. I don't quite have time to dive in BUT I was able to find our finished requests. If you go to the GovQA site and then in the search bar type in "Knoetgen" while searching all fields, the two FOIA requests should pop up. Rina and/or Jennifer can probably get stuck in GovQA. It's not very intuitive.
 - I was able to have Jennifer pull the FOIA request and there is no record of Deb or Glenda Dumontier's public comment. I went in and researched all of the public comments and public meeting requests and we have no record of receiving anything from them.
 - o Kieran Ursua's vote for a public meeting did not count. See if you can see his house on any imagery.
 - According to the Surface Landowners and Occupied Dwelling Units List provided to us by the Operator, Kieran Ursua does not have an occupied dwelling unit.
 - According to the 2019 NAIP imagery, it appears that there is NOT an ODU on her parcel of land.
 - According to the 2021 NAIP imagery, it appears that there IS an ODU on her parcel of land.
 - o Dan included a link below to the MDT EA mentioned in some of the comments. See if there is any analysis from that EA that might be good to include or reference in ours. I have started looking through the EA, but is 600+ pages, so its gonna take me a bit.

- Laurie Childs brought up the Class 1 airshed. Make sure to disclose impacts to air quality very thoroughly.
- Jim Coefield mentioned a map camp. If Riverside is actually proposed this it should probably be in the EA, but I'm not sure where. **I don't know if we want to disclose this. I tried combing through the Riverside website but couldn't find anything referencing it. It has been discussed in the pass that we (Opencut) does not allow people to set up residence within an Opencut boundary, but I don't think that there is anything specifically within statue.**
- Touch base with Dan and JJ about how to best request "proof" from Riverside that they did their notices correctly.
- Touch base with Dan and JJ about the idea of having an automatic reply on the Opencut email to acknowledge when people submit things. **I touched base briefly with Jennifer about this and she said that it might be doable but they don't know who technically owns the DEQOpencut inbox. So it might be tricky to do.**
- MaryRose mentioned that the NRD groundwater person (Seth?) said that groundwater is very shallow at Reynolds. Please investigate a little.
- MaryRose also mentioned something about senior water rights issues related to instream flows and process water. I am honestly not sure what to ask you to do with this one. Just making sure I captured it.

Thank you again for your awesome work on this and keeping the train on the tracks. I know this is a tough site, but I also know it's in good hands!

Whitney Bausch | *Section Supervisor*
 Opencut Section | Mining Bureau
 Montana Department of Environmental Quality
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How did we do? Let us know here: [Feedback Survey](#)

From: Walsh, Dan <dwalsh@mt.gov>
Sent: Thursday, September 29, 2022 3:04 PM
To: Bausch, Whitney <WBausch2@mt.gov>
Cc: Nowakowski, Sonja <Sonja.Nowakowski@mt.gov>
Subject: Riverside - Rehbein Follow-up

Whitney,

Can you please send Mary Rose Morigeau the information that we promised Chairman Tom McDonald today? We promised Chairman McDonald the list of residents/neighbors (24) that Riverside Contracting "certified" it contacted/notified as part of its application. If this information is already on the website, please send her the link and identify the specific page within the application to look at. I understood that Mary Rose will get the information to Chairman McDonald.

Please also begin to follow-up on any other questions/comments that you heard today.

We heard today about a previous EIS that was done in that area for the Highway 93 corridor. Perhaps we can look and/or tier to portions of that document for our EA. Please see the link below for the supplemental EIS.

<https://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/docs/eis-ea/eis-ninepipe.pdf>

Thanks

Dan Walsh | *Bureau Chief*