Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas, Texas 75202-2733

NPDES Permit No. NM0022306

AUTHORIZATION TO DISCHARGE UNDER THE NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM

In compliance with the provisions of the Clean Water Act, as amended, (33 U.S.C. 1251 et. seq; the "Act"),

Chevron Mining Inc. – Questa Mine
P.O. Box 469
Questa, NM 87556

is authorized to discharge from a facility located near Questa in Taos County, to the receiving water named

Red River, Waterbody Segment Code No. 20.6.4.122 of the Rio Grande Basin

in accordance with effluent limitations, monitoring requirements and other conditions set forth in Parts I, II, and III hereof. [ONLY PART I OF THE PERMIT IS PROVIDED FOR REVIEW AND COMMENT.]

This permit modification supersedes and replaces Part I, Section A of the NPDES Permit No. NM0022306 issued on September 30, 2013.

This permit shall become effective on

This permit and the authorization to discharge shall expire at midnight, October 31, 2018.

Issued on

William K. Honker, P.E.
Director
Water Division (6WQ)

Prepared by

Isaac Chen
Environmental Engineer
Permitting Section (6WQ-PP)

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PART I
REQUIREMENTS FOR NPDES PERMITS

A. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

OUTFALL 002

During the period beginning the effective date and lasting through the expiration date of the permit, the permittee is authorized to discharge from Outfall 002 – collected seepage from tailings facility.

Such discharges shall be limited and monitored by the permittee as specified below:

EFFLUENT CHARACTERISTIC	DISCHARGE LIMITATIONS				MONITORING REQUIREMENTS	
	CONCENTRATION (mg/L, unless stated)		LOADING (Lbs/day, unless stated)		FREQUENCY	SAMPLE TYPE
	MONTHLY AVERAGE	DAILY MAXIMUM	MONTHLY AVERAGE	DAILY MAXIMUM		
Flow (MGD)	***	***	Report	Report	Continuous	Record
Total Manganese	1.0	1.5	(**)	(**)	1/month	24-hr. composite
Fluoride	3.0	3.0	16.1	16.1	1/month	24-hr. composite
Total Suspended Solids	20	30	107.6	161.4	1/month	24-hr. composite
Total Arsenic	0.207	0.310	(**)	(**)	1/month	24-hr. composite
Total Cadmium	1.19 µg/l	1.79 µg/l	(**)	(**)	1/month	24-hr. composite
Total Copper	0.029	0.044	(**)	(**)	1/month	24-hr. composite
Total Lead	0.057	0.086	(**)	(**)	1/month	24-hr. composite
Total Mercury	1 µg/l	2 µg/l	(**)	(**)	1/month	24-hr. composite
Total Molybdenum	3.30	5.03	(**)	(**)	1/month	24-hr. composite
Total Zinc	0.485	0.640	(**)	(**)	1/month	24-hr. composite
Total Aluminum	Report	Report	(**)	(**)	1/quarter	24-hr. composite
Total Cyanide	Report	Report	(**)	(**)	1/quarter	24-hr. composite
Dissolved Uranium	Report	Report	Report	Report	1/year	24-hr. composite

The pH limit range shall be no less than 6.6 standard units and no greater than 8.8 standard units and shall be monitored 1/day by grab sample.

EFFLUENT CHARACTERISTICS	DISCHARGE MONITORING		MONITORING REQUIREMENTS	
WHOLE EFFLUENT TOXICITY TESTING (7-day Static Renewal)	MONTHLY AVG MINIMUM	7-DAY MINIMUM	MEASUREMENT FREQUENCY	SAMPLE TYPE
Ceriodaphnia dubia	Report	Report	1/3 Months (*1)	24-Hr Composite
Pimephales promelas	Report	Report	1/3 Months (*1)	24-Hr Composite

Note:
(**) See combined loading limitations for OUTFALL 101 on page 7 of Part I, below.

(*1) The frequency for the first year (12 months) is 1/3 months. If all tests pass, the frequencies for year 2 to 5 are 1/6 months for Ceriodaphnia dubia and 1/year for Pimephales promelas. If fails any test, frequency returns to 1/3 months for remainder of the permit term.

There shall be no discharge of floating solids or visible foam in other than trace amounts.

Samples taken in compliance with the monitoring requirements specified above shall be taken at the following location(s): At the final Outfall 002. The quarterly WET testing sample must be collected during the milling operation period if milling operations take place in that quarter.

Monitoring reduction associated with Compliance Schedule specified in Part I.B. of this permit: All monitoring requirements at Outfall 002 could be reduced to 1/6 months and WET tests could be reduced to 1/year after CMI demonstrates that: 1) CMI ceases conveying all waste streams to tailings facility; 2) discharges at Outfall 002 after cessation of water conveyance to the tailings facility are in compliance with effluent limitations and pass WET tests; and 3) the maximum discharge flow at Outfall 002 is below and not expected to exceed 0.645 MGD for the rest of the permit term.

OUTFALLS 004 and 005

During the period beginning the effective date and lasting through the expiration date of the permit, the permittee is authorized to discharge from Outfalls 004 and 005 – storm water.

Such discharges shall be limited and monitored by the permittee as specified below:

EFFLUENT CHARACTERISTIC	DISCHARGE LIMITATIONS				MONITORING REQUIREMENTS	
	CONCENTRATION (mg/L, unless stated)		LOADING (Lbs/day, unless stated)		FREQUENCY	SAMPLE TYPE
	MONTHLY AVERAGE	DAILY MAXIMUM	MONTHLY AVERAGE	DAILY MAXIMUM		
Flow (MGD)	***	***	Report	Report	1/day	Measure by Weir
Chemical Oxygen Demand	125	125	---	---	1/day	Grab
Total Suspended Solids	20	30	---	---	1/day	Grab
Total Zinc	0.2	0.2	---	---	1/day	Grab
Total Arsenic	0.665	0.665	---	---	1/day	Grab
Total Cadmium	1.78 µg/l	1.78 µg/l	---	---	1/day	Grab
Total Copper	0.044	0.044	---	---	1/day	Grab
Total Lead	0.403	0.403	---	---	1/day	Grab
Total Mercury	1.4 µg/l	1.4 µg/l	---	---	1/day	Grab
Total Aluminum	3.87	3.87	---	---	1/day	Grab
Total Silver	0.012	0.012	---	---	1/day	Grab
Total Chlordane	2.4 µg/l	2.4 µg/l	---	---	1/day	Grab
Total Residual Chlorine	0.019	0.019	---	---	1/day	Grab

The pH limit range shall be no less than 6.6 standard units and no greater than 8.8 standard units and shall be monitored 1/day by grab sample.

EFFLUENT CHARACTERISTICS	DISCHARGE MONITORING		MONITORING REQUIREMENTS	
WHOLE EFFLUENT TOXICITY TESTING (48 Hr. Static Renewal)	MONTHLY AVG MINIMUM	48-Hr MINIMUM	MEASUREMENT FREQUENCY	SAMPLE TYPE
Daphnia pulex	Report	Report	1/3 Months (*1)	24-Hr Composite
Pimephales promelas	Report	Report	1/3 Months (*1)	24-Hr Composite

Note: (*1) When discharging. See Part II.G.

All samples shall be collected at the outfall where overflows leave the catch basin whenever a discharge occurs.

NEW OUTFALL 001

During the period beginning the start-up of Outfall 001 (no later than October 1, 2016) and lasting through the expiration date of the permit, the permittee is authorized to discharge from Outfall 001 – treated mills wastewater, mine drainage, storm water, captured groundwater and other sources of wastewaters.

Such discharges shall be limited and monitored by the permittee as specified below:

EFFLUENT CHARACTERISTIC	DISCHARGE LIMITATIONS				MONITORING REQUIREMENTS	
	CONCENTRATION (mg/l, unless stated)		LOADING (lb/day, unless stated)		FREQUENCY	SAMPLE TYPE
	MONTHLY AVERAGE	DAILY MAXIMUM	MONTHLY AVERAGE	DAILY MAXIMUM		
Flow (MGD)	---	---	Report	Report	Continuous	Record
Total Suspended Solids	20	30	769	1153	1/month	24-hr. composite
Total Arsenic	0.101	0.362	(**)	(**)	1/ month	24-hr. composite
Total Cadmium	0.6 µg/l	0.9 µg/l	(**)	(**)	1/ month	24-hr. composite
Total Copper	0.029	0.044	(**)	(**)	1/ month	24-hr. composite
Total Lead	0.016	0.024	(**)	(**)	1/ month	24-hr. composite
Total Mercury	0.84 µg/l	1.26 µg/l	(**)	(**)	1/ month	24-hr. composite
Total Zinc	0.484	0.640	(**)	(**)	1/ month	24-hr. composite
Total Molybdenum	1.238	1.857	(**)	(**)	1/ month	24-hr. composite

Note:
(**) See combined loading limitations for OUTFALL 101 on page 7 of Part I, below.

The pH limit range shall be no less than 6.6 standard units and no greater than 8.8 standard units and shall be monitored 1/day by grab sample.

There shall be no discharge of floating solids or visible foam in other than trace amounts.

EFFLUENT CHARACTERISTICS	DISCHARGE MONITORING		MONITORING REQUIREMENTS	
WHOLE EFFLUENT TOXICITY TESTING (7-day Static Renewal)	MONTHLY AVG MINIMUM	7-DAY MINIMUM	MEASUREMENT FREQUENCY	SAMPLE TYPE
Ceriodaphnia dubia	Report	Report	1/3 Months (*1)	24-Hr Composite
Pimephales promelas	Report	Report	1/3 Months (*1)	24-Hr Composite

Note: (*1) The frequency for the first year (12 months) is 1/3 months. If all tests pass, the frequency for year 2 to 5 reduces to 1/6 months for Ceriodaphnia dubia and 1/year for Pimephales promelas. If fails any test, frequency returns to 1/3 months for remainder of the permit term. Also see Part II.F.

Sampling Location

Samples shall be taken at Outfall 001, a point after the last Equalizer Tank but before reach the Red River.

OUTFALL 101

During the period beginning the start-up of Outfall 001 (no later than October 1, 2016) and lasting through the expiration date of the permit, the permittee is authorized to discharge from New Outfall 001 and Outfall 002, as described above.

Such discharges shall be limited and monitored by the permittee with the combined loading limits as specified below:

EFFLUENT CHARACTERISTIC	DISCHARGE LIMITATIONS				MONITORING REQUIREMENTS	
	CONCENTRATION (mg/l, unless stated)		LOADING (lb/day, unless stated)		FREQUENCY (**)	SAMPLE TYPE (**)
	MONTHLY AVERAGE	DAILY MAXIMUM	MONTHLY AVERAGE	DAILY MAXIMUM		
Total Manganese	---	---	8.97	13.45	1/ month	24-hr. composite
Total Arsenic	---	---	1.66	6.27	1/ month	24-hr. composite
Total Cadmium	---	---	0.0162	0.0298	1/ month	24-hr. composite
Total Copper	---	---	0.673	1.009	1/ month	24-hr. composite
Total Lead	---	---	0.609	0.914	1/ month	24-hr. composite
Total Mercury	---	---	0.00649	0.0119	1/ month	24-hr. composite
Total Molybdenum	---	---	39.28	59.42	1/ month	24-hr. composite
Total Zinc	---	---	8.604	10.532	1/ month	24-hr. composite
Total Aluminum	---	---	1.28	5.80	1/ month	24-hr. composite
Total Cyanide	---	---	0.0429	0.0640	1/ month	24-hr. composite

Note: (**) Report combined results from samples collected at Outfall 002 and at New Outfall 001.