

AUTHORIZATION TO DISCHARGE TO WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES,
NPDES PERMIT NO. NM0028100.

The applicant's mailing address is:

Rio Grande Resources Corporation
P.O. Box 1150
Grants, NM 87020

Under the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) Code(s) 1094, the applicant operates the Mt. Taylor Mine- an underground mine currently on standby with no mine drainage discharge. The applicant may discharge mine water and treated domestic wastewater during the period of mining operation. The plant site is located in Cibola County, New Mexico. Potential mining water, storm runoff, and treated sewage will discharge to an unnamed tributary, thence to San Miguel Creek, thence to Arroyo Chico, thence to Rio Puerco and thence to the Rio Grande. The receiving stream is designated as an intermittent stream, Segment No. 20.6.4.98.

Changes from the permit previously issued July 28, 2010, with an effective date of August 1, 2010 and an expiration date of July 31, 2015, are:

1. Change whole effluent toxicity (WET) monitoring requirements from acute testing to chronic testing based on WET requirements for discharge to intermittent streams; and
2. Change water quality-based effluent limitations based on water quality standards designated for intermittent streams.

State Certification

This Notice also serves as Public Notice of the intent of the New Mexico Environment Department, Surface Water Quality Bureau to consider issuing Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 401 Certification. The purpose of such certification is to reasonably ensure that the permitted activities will be conducted in a manner that will comply with applicable New Mexico water quality standards, including the antidegradation policy, and the statewide water quality management plan. The NPDES permit will not be issued until the certification requirements of Section 401 have been met.

If you want to comment on State Certification submit written comments within the 30 day period to:

Bruce Yurdin
Manager, Point Source Regulation Section
Surface Water Quality Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
P.O. Box 5469
1190 Saint Francis Drive
Santa Fe, NM 87502-5469
Phone (505) 827-2795
Fax (505) 827-0160
bruce.yurdin@state.nm.us