



**COLORADO**  
Department of Public Health & Environment

Dedicated to protecting and improving the health and environment of the people of Colorado

Lisa Elgin  
El Paso County

**VIA EMAIL**

RE: EPC EDARP: Please logon to provide Review Comments for Solberg Pit Site Development Plan

Dear Lisa Elgin,

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment’s Air Pollution Control Division (APCD or Division) received a request for an air quality administrative review concerning the proposed Solberg Pit Site project as described in your correspondence dated September 20, 2024. The Division has reviewed the project letter and respectfully offers the following comments. Please note that the following Air Quality Control Commission (AQCC) regulations may not be inclusive of the regulations the proposed project will be subject to. It is the responsibility of the involved parties to determine what regulations they are subject to and follow them accordingly.

**Land Development**

We also note that projects similar to this proposal often involve land development. Under Colorado air quality regulations, land development refers to all land clearing activities, including but not limited to land preparation such as excavating or grading, for residential, commercial or industrial development. Land development activities release fugitive dust, a pollutant regulation by the Division. Small land development activities are not subject to the same reporting and permitting requirements as large land activities. Specifically, land development activities that are less than 25 contiguous acres and less than 6 months in duration do not need to report air emissions to the Division. It is important to note that even if a permit is not required, fugitive dust control measures including the Land Development APEN Form APCD-223 must be followed at the site. Fugitive dust control techniques commonly included in the plan are included in the table below.

Control Options for Unpaved Roadways	
Watering	Use of chemical stabilizer
Paving	Controlling vehicle speed
Graveling	
Control Options for Mud and Dirt Carry-Out Onto Paved Surfaces	
Gravel entry ways	Washing vehicle wheels
Covering the load	Not overfilling trucks
Control Options for Disturbed Areas	
Watering	Application of a chemical stabilizer
Revegetation	Controlling vehicle speed
Compaction	Furrowing the soil
Wind Breaks	Minimizing the areas of disturbance
	Synthetic or Natural Cover for Slopes



Please refer to the website <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/apens-and-air-permits> for information on land use APENs and permit forms. Click on “Land Development” to access the land development specific APEN form. Please contact KC Houlden, Construction Permits Unit Supervisor, at 303-692-4092, [kenneth.houlden@state.co.us](mailto:kenneth.houlden@state.co.us) if you have any specific questions about APENs and permit forms.

### **Federal General Conformity**

The federal General Conformity rule applies to federally funded projects in federal nonattainment and air quality maintenance areas, such as the Denver Metro/North Front Range severe ozone nonattainment area.<sup>1</sup> Within these areas, the general conformity rule applies to any “Federal action” not specifically exempted by the Clean Air Act or Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations, i.e., any non-exempt activity by a federal governmental department, agency or instrumentality, or any activity that such an entity supports in any way, provides financial assistance for, or licenses, permits, or approves.

The federal general conformity rule and associated EPA guidance provides for a federal department or instrumentality to determine if the estimated emissions resulting from a proposed action in a nonattainment or maintenance area are below EPA’s de minimis levels (<https://www.epa.gov/general-conformity/de-minimis-emission-levels>) for the applicable National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS).<sup>2</sup> Note that El Paso County is located in the Colorado Springs Carbon Monoxide maintenance area EPA has confirmed that General Conformity requirements associated with Carbon Monoxide no longer apply in those maintenance areas, as the areas demonstrated 20-years of continued attainment of the applicable NAAQS, as of January 14, 2022.

If you have any other questions or need additional information, please use the contact info listed above, or e-mail or call me directly. Thank you for contacting the Air Pollution Control Division about your project.

Sincerely,  
Brendan Cicione  
Air Quality and Transportation Planner  
General SIP Unit  
Air Pollution Control Division  
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment  
303-691-4104 // [brendan.cicione@state.co.us](mailto:brendan.cicione@state.co.us)

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. EPA, Green Book, Colorado, [https://www3.epa.gov/airquality/greenbook/anayo\\_co.html](https://www3.epa.gov/airquality/greenbook/anayo_co.html)

<sup>2</sup> U.S. EPA, De Minimis Tables, <https://www.epa.gov/general-conformity/de-minimis-tables>

