

INFORMATION SHEET

ORDER R5-2016-XXXX
MERIDIAN BEARTRACK CO.
ROYAL MOUNTAIN KING MINE
CALAVERAS COUNTY

MERIDIAN BEARTRACK CO., ROYAL MOUNTAIN KING MINE, CALAVERAS COUNTY

Meridian Beartrack Co. and Meridian Gold Company (hereafter jointly Discharger) operated the Royal Mountain King Mine (RMKM or facility) in Calaveras County for the extraction of gold. Active mining began in March 1989 and ceased in June 1994. Ore was mined from a series of open pits (North, Skyrocket, and Gold Knoll) and milled at approximately 3,400 tons per day. Skyrocket Pit and North Pit were actively dewatered during mining and have filled with groundwater and runoff/precipitation since mining stopped. The Gold Knoll Pit was backfilled and has been covered by the Gold Knoll Overburden Disposal Site (ODS). Currently, Skyrocket Pit is classified as an active waste management unit (WMU) for the transfer of Flotation Tailings Reservoir (FTR) leachate and ODS seep water to Skyrocket Pit. Mining facilities consisted of three open pits, a mill, a FTR, a Leached Concentrate Residues Disposal Area (LCRF), a Process Water Retention Pond (PWP), and three ODSs (FTR, West, and Gold Knoll).

In conjunction with the State Water Board Water Quality Order (WQO 2004-0007), National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Order R5-2007-0162, and Basin Plan Amendment R5-2014-0047, the facility WMUs are considered closed with the exception of the following:

1. PWP Evaporation Pond – The PWP evaporation pond remains active to accept Group B mining waste consisting of the Leachate Concentrate Residue Facility (LCRF) and PWP leachate collected from the leachate collection and recovery systems (LCRSs).
2. Skyrocket Pit – Skyrocket Pit accepts liquid Group C mining waste from the FTR LCRS and ODS seeps.
3. North Pit –The North Pit may accept Group C liquid from Skyrocket Pit during emergency situations when Skyrocket Pit is near overtopping.

Following adoption of the Basin Plan Amendment by the State Water Board in January 2015, the Discharger submitted a Report of Waste Discharge in July 2015 for final closure of the facility. These WDRs address the final closure including:

1. Classification of the FTR and ODSs as Group C Mining Waste.
2. Implementation of Skyrocket Pit water management strategies.
3. Classification of the North Pit as a Group C WMU for transfer of water from Skyrocket Pit during emergency situations.
4. Closure of the ODSs
5. Reduction in the monitoring system.
6. Update of the Financial Assurances.

AAH/WMH