

Comments for Frenchie Draw Permit WY0002062

Neither the application nor the presentation gives a clear, full picture about the full scope of the project. Perhaps there is a lot more information than what is shown on the internet, but that is what we have to review, and our questions are based on the information at hand.

Questions regarding outlet 001: On page 9 in the Statement of Basis, the permit describes a NEP1 that is not a regulated discharge but requires monitoring prior to its in-line mixture with outlet 001. Is there a flow diagram or map to show how this works? Is there an in-stream pond where final treatment takes place? In addition, on page 9 the permit stipulates monitoring for temperature. However, on page 7 of the Authorization to Discharge where the actual DMR parameters are spelled out, temperature is missing. It seems this should be added to that list as temperature is very critical and affects many other parameters. In addition, would it be reasonable to add a requirement that the temperature of the discharge should be within a +/- range of the receiving water temperature before it can be discharged?

Temperature and pH: for all sampling points, the Authorization shows the sample type for temperature to be instantaneous and pH as grab. An instantaneous measurement means it should take place in the field in the actual location. pH should also be instantaneous and not a lab value which is inaccurate as the water ages during holding time.

Questions related to the treatment ponds: Water treatment for this permit relies heavily on skimming ponds and stilling wells which are subject to discharge during storm events. Did the DEQ review pond capacities? What criteria were used for capacity calculations? Was it the 10, 50 or 100-year storm criteria? This is very important in preventing excursions. The permit appears to have “boiler plate” wording on self-reporting actions to be taken by the permittee. Could the permit include additional requirements? For example, could additional in-stream testing (in addition to sampling at the outfall) be required in the event of an excursion because the permit is spread out over such a large area? Or could wording be added that stipulates that if an excursion occurs at one outfall, all outfalls should be checked? Given the Class 1 nature of the downstream waters, this would seem to be extra protective.

Reporting Questions: The frequencies for sampling for outlets 001-016 are set for quarterly or monthly “at a minimum.” Why then is reporting only required semi-annually? It seems that quarterly submission of DMRs would be more appropriate to detect problems or potential problems. This would also be consistent with the reporting frequencies set for the instreams and the Neptune treatment plant.

Dissolved Oxygen: The permit does not mention this parameter at all. This is the one parameter that can affect aquatic life more than any other. Given that Boysen Reservoir and the Wind River downstream of it are both world class fisheries that support other industries such as tourism, and given that the DEQ has established the importance of the “mixing zone” where Badwater Creek enters Boysen Reservoir by assigning a monitoring point named BWB1, can the DEQ address DO in the permit at BWB1? From an enforcement standpoint, the instreams are for data collection only and not for enforcement and there would not need to be limits set on DO. However, because the increased flow in Badwater Creek will be a direct result of the Aethon project, the company would be showing goodwill

and intent in mitigating the effects of their discharges by installing a mechanism to increase DO to improve the water quality as it enters the lake. There are many proven ways to increase DO such as using paddlewheels which are a passive process. The mechanism could be utilized only during the times of the hottest temperatures, and the company could report their DO levels during the times of mechanism operation. This would help to mitigate the algae blooms that develop in Boysen during the hot summer months and address many citizen concerns.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

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