



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98101

November 26, 2003

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Reply To
Attn Of OW-130

Joe Woods
Meridian Beartrack Company
P.O. Box 749
Salmon, Idaho 83467

Re: Minor Modification of NPDES Permit No. ID-0027022
Meridian Beartrack Company - Beartrack Mine

Dear Mr. Woods:

The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit that was reissued to Meridian Beartrack Company on October 31, 2003, is hereby modified as of the date of this letter to correct Section 1.C.1 and Table 3 found at the end of Section I.C of the final permit. The compliance schedule and associated interim effluent limitations in the final permit were intended to correspond with those provided in the proposed final permit sent to the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality on August 21, 2002. The state's final 401 certification submitted on October 18, 2002 and supplemented on November 8, 2002 contained the three year compliance schedules and interim limits for ammonia, arsenic, cadmium, copper, WAD cyanide, iron, mercury, pH, selenium, silver and zinc consistent with the proposed final permit and the enclosed modified permit.

The cover page as well as pages 7 and 8 are hereby replaced with the enclosed pages. These are your official copies of the modification. An entire copy of the updated permit is also enclosed for your records.

Sincerely,

Kelly Huynh, Acting Manager
NPDES Permits Unit

Enclosures

cc: Peter Dwelley, Meridian
Toni Hardesty, IDEQ-SO w/o
Steve Heaton, IDEQ-IFRO
Doug Conde, IDEQ-SO
USFWS
Ken Hefner, Salmon/Chellis National Forest

Edgar Smith, Meridian
James Johnson, IDEQ-IFRO w/o
Mark Shumar, IDEQ-SO
Kevin Harvey
Justin Hayes, ICL
David Chambers, Ctr for Public Participation



Permit No.: ID0027022

United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98101

AUTHORIZATION TO DISCHARGE UNDER THE
NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM

In compliance with the provisions of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. §1251 *et seq.*, as amended by the Water Quality Act of 1987, P.L. 100-4, the "Act",

Meridian Beartrack Company

Beartrack Mine

P.O. Box 749
Salmon, Idaho 83467

is authorized to discharge from the **Beartrack Mine** located near the historic town of Leesburg, Idaho, through Outfall 001 to receiving waters named Napias Creek at Latitude N 45°12'20", Longitude W 114°08'00" in accordance with the effluent limitations, monitoring requirements, and other conditions set forth herein.

This permit shall become effective **December 1, 2003**.

This permit and the authorization to discharge shall expire at midnight, **October 31, 2008**.

The permittee shall reapply for a permit reissuance on or before **April 30, 2008**, 180 days before the expiration of this permit if the permittee intends to continue operations and discharges at the facility beyond the term of this permit.

Signed this **31st** day of **October, 2003**.

/Randall F. Smith/

Randall F. Smith, Director
Office of Water, Region 10
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

This permit modified 26th day of November, 2003 (minor modification see pages 7 and 8)

Randall F. Smith, Director
Office of Water, Region 10
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

C. Compliance Schedule for Outfall 001 Effluent Limitations.

1. By November 1, 2006, the permittee must achieve compliance with the effluent limitations for ammonia, arsenic, cadmium, copper, WAD cyanide, iron, mercury, pH, selenium, silver and zinc in section I.B for Outfall 001 (Table 1). Until compliance with the final effluent limits is achieved, at a minimum, the permittee must:
 - a. complete the tasks required in Table 2;

Table 2: Tasks Required under the Compliance Schedule	
Completion Date	Task
November 30, 2003	Design and install pilot water treatment testing equipment.
June 30, 2004	Evaluate operational performance of pilot test for efficiency and consistency.
November 30, 2004	Evaluate treatment progress, in situ attenuation within the leach pad, and progress towards meeting final NPDES effluent limits.
June 30, 2005	Design full-scale treatment system.
June 30, 2006	Construct and install full-scale treatment system.
October 31, 2006	Start-up and testing of full-scale treatment system.
November 1, 2006	Comply with final effluent limits.

- b. report completion of tasks on the DMR for the month in which the task is due (e.g., if a task is due in March, then report on the March DMR that the task has been completed);
- c. submit an annual report of progress to EPA and IDEQ that outlines the progress made towards achieving compliance by April 1st of each year, which includes the following:
 - (1) an assessment of the previous years data and comparison to the final effluent limitations,
 - (2) a report on the progress made toward meeting the final effluent limitations, and
 - (3) further actions and milestones targeted for the upcoming year.
- d. limit discharges from outfall 001 as specified in Table 3 at all times unless otherwise indicated, regardless of the frequency of

monitoring or reporting required by other provisions of this permit;
and

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- e. monitor the effluent in accordance with the monitoring requirements specified in Table 1.

Table 3. Outfall 001 Interim Effluent Limitations					
Parameter³	Units	Low Flow¹		High Flow²	
		Average Monthly Limit	Maximum Daily Limit	Average Monthly Limit	Maximum Daily Limit
Ammonia ⁴	mg/L	51	103	22	44
Arsenic	mg/L	5.8	9.5	5.8	9.5
Cadmium ⁴	µg/L	5.0	9.0	5.0	9.0
Copper ⁴	µg/L	40	60	40	60
Cyanide, WAD ⁴	µg/L	61	123	60	120
Iron	mg/L	30.4	50.0	30.4	50.0
Mercury ⁴	µg/L	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.6
pH	µg/L	6.0 - 9.0			
Selenium ⁴	µg/L	59	118	58	116
Silver ⁴	µg/L	2.1	4.2	2.4	4.8
Zinc ⁴	µg/L	300	500	300	500

Footnotes:

1. The effluent limitations for the low flow period apply from July 1 through April 30.
2. The effluent limitations for the high flow period apply from May 1 through June 30.
3. Metals are to be measured as total recoverable, except for mercury which is to be measured as total.
4. Reporting is required within 24 hours of a maximum daily limit violation. See Part III.G.

D. Whole Effluent Toxicity Testing Requirements.

1. The permittee must coordinate toxicity sampling with the effluent sampling in Table 1 and with surface water sampling in Table 2. A split of the toxicity sample must be analyzed for the chemical and physical parameters required in Table 1, which can be used to fulfill the monitoring requirements of section I.A.
2. The permittee must conduct chronic toxicity tests with the following species:
 - a. Water flea (*Ceriodaphnia dubia*): survival and reproduction;
 - b. Green algae (*Selenastrum capricornutum*): growth; and

- c. Fathead minnow (*Pimephales promelas*): larval survival and growth.

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