In The Matter Of:

In the Matter of the NorthMet Project Permit to Mine Application - 60-2004-37824

Evidentiary Hearing before Judge LaFave March 28, 2023 Volume 2 - 3-28-23

> Shaddix & Associates 7400 Lyndale Avenue South Suite 190 Richfield, MN 55423

> **Min-U-Script® with Word Index**

		ume 2 28-23	Evidentiary Hearing before Judge LaFav March 28, 202
	Page 1		Page 3
1	BEFORE THE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS	1	INDEX-VOLUME
2	OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA	2	WITNESS PAGE
3	FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES	3	TOM RADUE
4 5	EVIDENTIARY HEARING - VOLUME 2 - MARCH 28, 2023	4 5	Cont'd Cross-Examination by Mr. Holleman 5 Cross-Examination by Mr. Maccabee 9 Redirect Examination by Mr. Mills 95
6	In the Matter of the NorthMet Project Permit to Mine Application	6	JOHN HULL
7		7	Direct Examination by Mr. Mills 122 Cross-Examination by Mr. Smith 122
8	OAH DOCKET NO. 60-2004-37824	8	Cross-Examination by Ms. Cohen 144 Cross-Examination by Ms. Maccabee 187
9		9	
L0		10	EXHIBITS: Mrk'd Rec'd
11		11	
12	Met, pursuant to Notice, at 9:00 a.m.	12	
13	in the morning at the Office of Administrative	13	
14	Hearings, 600 Robert Street, St. Paul, Minnesota,	14	
15	on March 28, 2023.	15	
16		16	
17		17	
18		18	
19		19	
20		20	
21		21	
22		22	
23		23	
24 25	BEFORE: JUDGE JAMES LAFAVE REPORTER: LISA A. BLANKS, RPR, CSR, CRR	24 25	
	Page 2		Page 4
1	APPEARANCES:	_	HIDCE LAFAVE: Cood morning Managements
2	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	1	JUDGE LAFAVE: Good morning. My name is
3	Jon W. Katchen, Bryson C. Smith, Holland & Hart	2 3	Jim Lafave. I'm the administrative law judge from
4	***		the State Office of Administrative Hearings and
			the State Office of Administrative Hearings, and
5	PolyMet Mining, Inc.	4	we've reconvened for day 2 in the evidentiary
6	Monte A. Mills, Aaron Knoll, Farah Famouri, Greene Espel,	4 5 6	we've reconvened for day 2 in the evidentiary hearing in the matter of the NorthMet Project Permit to Mine Application. This is OAH Docket Number
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Per		ime 2 8-23	Evidentiary Hearing before Judge LaFave March 28, 202
	Page 5		Page 7
1	proceed.	1 A.	It is not.
2	MR. HOLLEMAN: Thank you.	2 Q.	Thank you.
3	TOM RADUE,	3	So now flipping to another portion of
4	called as a witness herein, having been previously sworn	4	your direct testimony, this is page 46, line 724 to
5	to speak the whole truth and nothing but the truth, was	5	726, and I believe you say that "The methods
6	examined and testified as follows:	6	proposed for the project's bentonite amendments
7	CONTINUED CROSS-EXAMINATION	7	mimic the approach normally required at solid waste
8	BY MR. HOLLEMAN:	8	management facilities in Minnesota and other
9	Q. And good morning, Mr. Radue. I promise this isn't	9	states."
10	the Hotel California. You can't check out anytime	10	Am I correct that none of these
11	you want, but you will be able to leave eventually,	11	facilities you had in mind are nonferrous metallic
12	and I only have a few short questions for you.	12	mining facilities?
13	So, first, I wanted to make sure I	13 A.	
14	understood some of your testimony from yesterday.	-	And am I correct that the solid wastes at the
15	Is it your testimony that you were not involved in	15	management facilities you had in mind are not
16	the water flow modeling through the flotation	16	reactive mine waste?
17	tailings basin?	17 A.	
	A. No, my testimony was that I did not perform the	~	And as a result, is it your understanding that none
19	modeling.	19	of those facilities were governed by the Reactive
	Q. Thank you.	20	Mine Waste Rule? That is correct.
21	And did I understand correctly, for that	21 A.	
22	reason, you can't really speak to the details of what was included in the model?	_	Now, flipping to yet another portion of your testimony; this time, your rebuttal testimony. On
23	A. Not to all the details, no.	23 24	page 20, lines 374 to 376, you describe the mixing
	Q. Okay. Thank you. That's helpful.	24 25	of cement with coal ash at a basin where you were
23	Q. Okay. Thank you. That's helpful.	25	of cement with coar asin at a basin where you were
	Page 6		Page 8
1	So now I'd like to look more specifically	1	the senior geotechnical engineer. That cement
2	at some of the elements of your prefiled testimony.	2	wasn't creating a barrier to prevent the
3	So in your direct prefiled testimony, page 56, lines	3	infiltration of water into the coal ash; was it?
4	904 to 915, you describe the role that organic	4 A.	It was not.
5	matter can have in ponds, including specifically the	5 Q.	Is it correct that that cement was being mixed to
6	role of the growth of algae in the Sibley Quarry in	6	stabilize the coal ash in the basin?
7	Michigan.	7 A.	
8	So am I correct that you don't know the	8 O.	
^			Thank you.
9	rate of water seepage through the algae layer in	9	I'd like to point to another example;
10	that quarry?	9 10	I'd like to point to another example; this now on pages 24 to 25 of your rebuttal
10 11	that quarry? A. I do not.	9 10 11	I'd like to point to another example; this now on pages 24 to 25 of your rebuttal testimony. This is on lines 457 to 459, and you say
10 11 12	that quarry?A. I do not.Q. And am I correct that you don't know the hydraulic	9 10 11 12	I'd like to point to another example; this now on pages 24 to 25 of your rebuttal testimony. This is on lines 457 to 459, and you say that you had personally observed the injection of
10 11 12 13	that quarry?A. I do not.Q. And am I correct that you don't know the hydraulic conductivity of that layer of algae?	9 10 11 12 13	I'd like to point to another example; this now on pages 24 to 25 of your rebuttal testimony. This is on lines 457 to 459, and you say that you had personally observed the injection of powdered lime into wastewater treatment plant
10 11 12 13 14	that quarry?A. I do not.Q. And am I correct that you don't know the hydraulic conductivity of that layer of algae?A. I do not.	9 10 11 12 13 14	I'd like to point to another example; this now on pages 24 to 25 of your rebuttal testimony. This is on lines 457 to 459, and you say that you had personally observed the injection of powdered lime into wastewater treatment plant sludge. And this lime was not being injected to
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	Ime 2Evidentiary Hearing before Judge LaFave March 28, 2023
Page 9	Page 11
 page 64 of your direct prefiled testimony, lines 1063 to 1066, you say that LTV fine tailings and slimes "could be used in place of bentonite if the latter did not meet performance expectations." PolyMet has never provided any description of how it would apply LTV fine tailings and slimes as a cover on the flotation tailings basin; has it? A. Not to my recollection. Q. To your recollection, is this the first time that anyone has ever proposed using LTV fine tailings and slimes for this purpose? A. I don't know the answer to that. Q. Okay. MR. HOLLEMAN: That concludes my cross-examination. Thank you. JUDGE LAFAVE: Thank you very much. Ms. Maccabee. MS. MACCABEE: Thank you, Your Honor. CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. MACCABEE: Q. Good morning, Mr. Radue. I'm Paula Maccabee, and I represent WaterLegacy. Let's start by just talking a little bit about the existing tailings basin. We 	 cell, with about 14 1450 acres? A. That's what it says there. That sounds about right. Q. And it also says there that cell 180 is about 900 acres. Is that about right, too? I'm sorry, 980 acres. I misspoke. A. That's what it says. It sounds about right. Q. And for cell 2E, where it says here it's at 620 acres, does that also sound about right, based on your knowledge? A. It does. Q. And when the flotation basin is completed, the NorthMet flotation basin's plan is to cover both cell 1A and 2B, correct? A. That is correct. Q. Now, let's look at the permit to mine application, and that is Exhibit 210. And that's the one right there, the Lidar, which is 65451. So if you could scroll that down a little bit. Have you seen this drawing before? A. I have not. Q. Are you familiar with how to read a cross-section like this?
a little bit about the existing tailings basin. Weuse the phrase "tailings basin" as a term of art.	24 like this? 25 A. I am.
Page 10	Page 12
 Isn't it correct that the LTV tailings basin is actually an elevated land form like a hill? A. It is, that's correct. Q. And I'm going to show you now, it's a schematic drawing from the final EIS. Let's get there. That is page 0715517 in the EIS. So this is the schematic drawing. And can you see isn't it correct that these three cells are the LTV? A. That's correct. 	 Q. Okay. And looking at this cross-section from the permit to mine application and you can see the writing is pretty small but the data is taken from 2010 and 2011. Can you see that, Mr. Radue? A. Where are you looking? Q. I'm looking at the notes on the bottom left. A. Okay, I see them. Q. And so would this have been at least about ten years after the LTV plants ceased operations?
 10 Q. And isn't it also correct that cell 2W is taller 11 than the other two cells, cell 1, which is in the 12 front, which is south; and cell 2, which is in the 13 back, which is north, on the eastern side of 14 cell 2W? 15 A. That is correct. 	 10 A. That's correct. 11 Q. Okay. And let's look back at the if you could 12 scroll up again so we can see the field 13 illustration. 14 Is it correct that the taller outline, 15 where it says "tailings," that is a depiction of the
 16 Q. And isn't it correct that by the time the flotation table clearing space is built out, that that 18 flotation tailing space will be about the same size, 19 the same height as rather, as cell 2W? 20 A. That is correct. 21 Q. And, now, let's turn to the next page. I want to 22 get a few more details to make sure I understand it 23 in the record. 	 16 cell 2W at the existing tailings basin? 17 A. Again, where are you looking? 18 Q. The taller outline, right in the middle there 19 where it says "tailings," but that is a depiction of 20 the existing cell 2W? 21 A. It may be. I see no indication of where this 22 cross-section is located, so it's difficult for me 23 to say.
 Looking at the highlighted portion and isn't it correct that the cell 2W is the largest 	 24 Q. Well, you know the site, don't you, Mr. Radue? 25 A. I do.

In the Matter of the NorthMet Project Permit to Mine Application - 60-2004-37824	Volume 3-28-23	3 March 28, 2023
Pa	age 13	Page 15
 Q. And so you can see that the existing surface o west on the east side, there is a taller surface and there is a lower surface, and then there's higher surface. Does that help you get oriented a little bit to the direction from where the plot (ph) i taken? It's based on the fact that you know th site. MR. MILLS: I'm going to object on foundation to all the questions about this docum He says he's never seen it before. MS. MACCABEE: Your Honor, he said he knew how to read a Lidar document, and he si yesterday in conversation with Mr. Katchen tha familiar with the site itself. JUDGE LAFAVE: The objection is overruled. You may answer, if you know. THE WITNESS: Would you scroll up so I can see the bottom of the picture again? Typic there would be a plan B that would show where cross section was taken. BY MS. MACCABEE: 	ce, 2 a 3 4 5 is 6 he 7 8 9 ment. 10 11 12 said 13 at he's 14 15 16 17 18 19 21 cally, 20 e this 21 e this 22	 site. BY MS. MACCABEE: Q. And you would say you would understand, though, that the taller end form of tailings would be the cell 2W, just based on what we discussed, correct? A. Yes. Q. And you can see to the right side, which, directionally, is east, that that lower tailings would be the cell 1E, based on your knowledge of the geometry of the sites. A. Agree. Q. And you can see that line, the dark blue line, and it says it has the words on it, "surficial groundwater." And you would agree that that term would refer to the level of water in the tailings, correct? A. That's what it would suggest. Q. And you understand, don't you, based on your own knowledge of the site, that the surficial groundwater does not reach to the top of cell 2W, correct? A. That's correct.
24 BY MS. MACCABEE:25 Q. Just looking at this cross-section, you said y		Q. And you also understand, based on your knowledge, as well as just reflected on this image, that surficial
 Pa can't tell where it is. Is that what you're sayin You don't know the site well enough to deter that the tailings on the site in the permit to m 	mine 2	2 correct? 3 A. There is a pond in cell 1E, and surficial
 4 application include the LTV on a existing ce 5 on the western side and the existing cell 1E or 6 eastern side, you don't know the site well enoug 7 make that decision? 2 MD MULES: Object to form foundation 	n the 5 gh to 6 7	Q. Which would read, just from your own experience, which has also been depicted here, you'll notice in the diagram that the tailings used in cell 1E are
 8 MR. MILLS: Object to form, foundation. 9 JUDGE LAFAVE: Go ahead, Ms. Maccabe 10 THE WITNESS: I can see it's a 11 cross-section of the same. 	10 11	 pond on cell 1E are saturated? A. It's a reasonable conclusion, yes. Q. And from this drawing, if you look maybe you can
 JUDGE LAFAVE: Please wait until we rule on the objection, sir. Ms. Maccabee. MS. MACCABEE: I'm just asking the 	e 12 13 14 15	the sides are a little bit easier to read. There you go.
 witness if, based on his understanding of the he can identify the forms there because of his knowledge of the site and knowledge of the loc 	site, 16 s 17	see, because those are you can see on the right side, those are are you familiar enough to know that those numbers reflect mean feet above sea
 20 application. 21 JUDGE LAFAVE: The witness can answer, 22 he knows. 	, if 20 21	 A. The scale on the right-hand, yes. Q. And so just looking at that scale, this makes it look like cell 1E is about 90 feet shorter than the
 THE WITNESS: Well, I can see it appears to be a cross-section of the site with tailings indicated in the cross-section. I just don't known 	23 24 0W 25	Is that consistent with your

In the Matter of the NorthMet Project	Volume 2	Evidentiary Hearing before Judge LaFave
Permit to Mine Application - 60-2004-37824	3-28-23	March 28, 2023
	Page 17	Page 19

		Page 17		Page 19
1	Δ.	That's reasonable.	1	JUDGE LAFAVE: Ms. Maccabee?
		Now, if we could turn to the next page of the	2	MS. MACCABEE: Your Honor, there's a
3		excerpt here, and that's also from the permit to	3	great deal of discussion about the need to maintain
4		mine, and that is, in the record, number 67113. And	4	the pond. This record contains quite a bit of
		you can see the highlighted language, "Based on the		
5			5	information, including information from Mr. Radue,
6		difference in the site of flotation tailings	6	about the need to pump water from the pond to avoid
7		elevation from current elevation of 1570 feet."	7	changing the pond edge or overtopping.
8		And that 1570 feet, does that reflect,	8	And so this is just establishing the
9		then, the starting point for the north dam that is	9	basis of what the parameters are supposed to be, and
10		going to be built for the flotation tailings basin?	10	that provides some context for his own testimony
		I don't recall the exact elevation. It's in the	11	about the necessity of pumping the pond in order to
12		ballpark.	12	prevent overflow.
13		So, in other words, based on your knowledge, 1570 is	13	JUDGE LAFAVE: But how does that relate
14		the right ballpark, or the starting point.	14	to the issues at the hearing?
15		And so cell 2E right now would be about	15	MS. MACCABEE: It relates to the issues
16		170 feet lower than cell 2W. Just doing the math,	16	at hearing, Your Honor, because there are several
17		from, you know, 1740 minus	17	witnesses who have testified in several experts
18		It's about right.	18	who have testified in the record that the only way
19	Q.	Now, just turning to the next page of this excerpt,	19	to avoid either drying out the pond or overtopping
20		which is in the record as 67128, and looking at the	20	would be to have continuous pumping.
21		highlighted numbers, that are these also	21	And that this is one of the important
22		consistent with your understanding that the final	22	questions about bentonite: Can it maintain a pond?
23		dam crest elevation of the flotation tailings pond	23	And if so, is it going to require pumping the water
24		would be about 1,732 feet?	24	both in and out?
25	A.	Yes.	25	JUDGE LAFAVE: Say that again, please.
		Page 18		Page 20
1	0	-	1	
		And there's also an emergency overflow inlet	1	MS. MACCABEE: In order to understand the
2		And there's also an emergency overflow inlet elevation of 1,729 feet, correct?	2	MS. MACCABEE: In order to understand the question of whether bentonite will be a feasible and
2	A.	And there's also an emergency overflow inlet elevation of 1,729 feet, correct? Yes.	2 3	MS. MACCABEE: In order to understand the question of whether bentonite will be a feasible and practical alternative at closure, Mr. Radue has
2 3 4	A. Q.	And there's also an emergency overflow inlet elevation of 1,729 feet, correct? Yes. And is it correct that the elevation, the target	2 3 4	MS. MACCABEE: In order to understand the question of whether bentonite will be a feasible and practical alternative at closure, Mr. Radue has already testified that they're pumping water into
2 3 4 5	A. Q.	And there's also an emergency overflow inlet elevation of 1,729 feet, correct? Yes. And is it correct that the elevation, the target elevation of the pond is lower than the dam crest to	2 3 4 5	MS. MACCABEE: In order to understand the question of whether bentonite will be a feasible and practical alternative at closure, Mr. Radue has already testified that they're pumping water into the existing LTV ponds and pumping the water out.
2 3 4 5 6	A. Q.	And there's also an emergency overflow inlet elevation of 1,729 feet, correct? Yes. And is it correct that the elevation, the target elevation of the pond is lower than the dam crest to avoid going into the emergency overflow level and	2 3 4 5 6	MS. MACCABEE: In order to understand the question of whether bentonite will be a feasible and practical alternative at closure, Mr. Radue has already testified that they're pumping water into the existing LTV ponds and pumping the water out. And so part of this is to establish
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23 34 55 66 77 88 99 100 111 122 133 144 155 166 177 188 199 200	A. Q. A. Q. A. Q.	And there's also an emergency overflow inlet elevation of 1,729 feet, correct? Yes. And is it correct that the elevation, the target elevation of the pond is lower than the dam crest to avoid going into the emergency overflow level and discharging water through that emergency overflow channel? Yes. And is it correct that the beach so that is correct that the pond elevation target that is about 1,723 feet, correct? Yes. And is it also correct that the target beach length will be 625 feet? That is correct. And is that target beach length also intended to provide to prevent either overtopping or use of the emergency overflow? MR. MILLS: Objection, Your Honor. We've	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	 MS. MACCABEE: In order to understand the question of whether bentonite will be a feasible and practical alternative at closure, Mr. Radue has already testified that they're pumping water into the existing LTV ponds and pumping the water out. And so part of this is to establish what's the hydrology going to be like for the flotations ponds once the pond is in closure and has the bentonite amendment? And it's one of the issues that is really important to see whether this pond is going to be practical and workable to satisfy the Reactive Mine Waste Rule. JUDGE LAFAVE: Explain to me why the water going in and out affects the bentonite amendment. MS. MACCABEE: Two different things. There's one there's the question of the hydrology: Will the pond be maintained, and will it require water pumping into it to be maintained?
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		ume 2 28-23	Evidentiary Hearing before Judge LaFave March 28, 2023
	Page 21		Page 23
1	or pumping?	1 (2. Assuming that's correct, would you agree that the
2	JUDGE LAFAVE: Isn't that one step beyond	2	pond enclosure would have an acreage larger than
3	the issue we're being asked to address, I'm being	3	twice the size of Bde Maka Ska?
4	asked to address?	4	MR. MILLS: Objection. Again, we're
5	MS. MACCABEE: Your Honor, I don't	5	spending time on things that aren't at issue. It's
6	believe it is one step beyond. I believe it's a	6	a 905-acre lake, he's testified. Comparing it to
7	part of the issues that you're being asked to	7	Maka Ska seems beyond the scope of this.
8	address, because we're trying to figure out what is	8	JUDGE LAFAVE: Ms. Maccabee?
9	going to happen. How is this pond going to work?	9	MS. MACCABEE: Your Honor, there are
9 10	JUDGE LAFAVE: We've had several	10	experts, consultants in the record that refer to it
	discussions about admissibility of evidence and what	11	as a lake, and I wanted to get some context. That's
11	•		
12	evidence is relevant.	12	all. It's not a really big point. It's just one
13	I have stated that, and ruled, that	13	question.
14	this and I've been very clear, I think, that this	14	JUDGE LAFAVE: The objection is
15	hearing is limited solely to the issues as set forth	15	sustained. Please move on.
16	in the Amended Notice of Hearing.	16	BY MS. MACCABEE:
17	I've allowed additional evidence in as		2. I would like to call your attention now to
18	context, which I think is important to understand	18	Attachment 1 in PolyMet's Exhibit 30. And this
19	the effect of the bentonite amendment and how it	19	contains some historic images of the tailings basin.
20	will work. And I find that that is helpful for me	20	And if you want to look at a 1972 photo.
21	to understand context and for me to do my job.	21	It's correct looking at that photo,
22	I'm also able to determine what's	22	there are tailing ponds on most of cell 2W, and cell
23	relevant, what's not relevant, and what weight to	23	2E had not been developed yet, correct?
24	give to the evidence.	24 A	A. That's correct.
25	That said, I will allow a little of this,	25 (2. May I turn to the 1989 photo, which is still when
	Page 22	2	Page 24
1	but don't make a meal out of it.	1	LTV is in operations, correct?
2	MS. MACCABEE: Thank you, Your Honor.	2 A	A. Yes.
3	BY MS. MACCABEE:	3 (2. And, again, there are ponds on cell 2W, as well as
4 Q	2 . So I will ask one more question, and we can move on.	4	on 1E and 2E, correct?
5	Is it correct that I think you already	5 A	A. Yes.
6	said that the talked about pond elevation. Is it	6 (2. I'd like to ask if we could turn to Exhibit 328,
7	correct that the target beach length will be	7	which has some additional photos of the tailings
8	625 feet?	8	basin, historically. If you go one more page, that
	A. That is correct.	9	is the image from DNR, and that is from the year
	2. And the parties have used the phrase "flotation	10	1981 (ph). I think it shows at the top.
11	tailings pond" in this record.	11	And at that time, there was also ponding
12	Isn't it correct that the predicted size	12	on top of cell 2W, correct?
13	of that flotation tailings pond is more than		A. Yes.
14	900 acres?		2. And now we turn to the next page, which is from the
	A. My testimony, I believe it says 905 acres.	15	2009 EIS, and everything is really well-marked. And
	2. Okay. And I'm going to this is just for	15	this time, this is a picture taken for the PolyMet
	demonstrative. I'm going to show you a picture from		Draft Environmental Impact Statement, which was
17		17	-
18	the Department of Natural Resources. I don't know,	18	published in 2009.
19	are you familiar with Bde Maka Ska, which is	19	And would you agree that there's no pond
20	Minneapolis' largest lake?	20	on cell 2W, but there are ponds on the two other
	A. I am.	21	cells, correct?
22 (2. If you want to scroll down a little bit lower, the	22 A	A. That's correct.

- **22** Q. If you want to scroll down a little bit lower, the
- 23 other way, according to the DNR, Lake Fond Du Lac is
- 419 acres. Do you see that? 24

25 A. I see that.

24

23 Q. And it's correct that this is about eight years

after the plant shut down, correct?

25 A. What was the date of this photo?

Per		1me 2 8-23	Evidentiary Hearing before Judge Larave March 28, 2023
	Page 25		Page 27
	-		
	Q. If you could make it a little smaller it's the	1	fall?
2	draft EIS, which is 2009.		. I don't know the answer to that.
	A. Eight years is about right.	-	. That's just not something that you're familiar with,
	Q. Now, turning to the next image, which is from 2013,	4	correct?
5	which is the supplemental draft EIS. And you can		. I don't have the detailed documents on that.
6	see there, in that situation, in that at that	-	. Just if we could flip back real quickly to
7	time, there was no ponding on cell 2W, and also it	7	Exhibit 328, I have one more question. And if you
8	looks like a very small pond on cell 2E; is that	8	look at make it pretty big because you have to
9	correct?	9	read the words "emergency basin outflow."
	A. That's correct.	10	If you're looking at this drawing, this
	Q. And you would agree that since closure in 2001, the	11	illustration, which is from the final EIS, it's in
12	existing LTV tailing space has not consistently	12	Exhibit 28. It is PDF page 11. Is that blue
13	maintained a pond on cell 2W, correct?	13	indication on the left, the emergency basin alcove,
	A. That is correct.	14	the place from which the water is discharged when
	Q. And also, just from your understanding, as well as	15	it's necessary to pump water to maintain the pond?
16	looking at these images, it's correct that the	16	MR. MILLS: Objection. We're wandering
17	ponding on cell 1E and 2E has been variable;	17	outside the scope again. The emergency basin
18	sometimes it's been a bigger pond, and sometimes a	18	outflow isn't really an issue. I tried to be
19	smaller pond, correct? A. That's correct.	19	patient with this, but we haven't heard about
		20	bentonite in quite a while. JUDGE LAFAVE: Ms. Maccabee.
	Q. Isn't it correct that since 2011, ponding has been collecting scenare from the southern part of the LTV.	21	
22	collecting seepage from the southern part of the LTV tailings basin and pumping that seepage into cell	22	MS. MACCABEE: This is the last question on that issue.
23 24	1E, in order to comply with the consent decree for	23 24	JUDGE LAFAVE: What's the relevance?
24 25	the existing tailing space?	24 25	MS. MACCABEE: I'm just trying to figure
25	the existing taning space:	20	MS. MACCADEE. This just drying to figure
	Page 26		Page 28
1		1	
	Page 26 A. They've collected a small amount of seepage, yes. Q. And that seepage, when they collect it, is pumped	1 2	Page 28 out where the water's going. That's all. But I can move on.
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Volume 2

Evidentiary Hearing before Judge LaFave

In the Matter of the NorthMet Project

	lume 2 28-23	Evidentiary Hearing before Judge LaFave March 28, 2023
Page 2	9	Page 31
 because the existing pond may the existing LTV cell 1E retains the pond. JUDGE LAFAVE: The objection is overruled. 	2 This i3 sent to	if we could turn to Exhibit 284. s an email string, including an email that you o Dana Dostert, DNR senior engineer for dam y, on June 6, 2017. Do you see that?
 4 overruled. 5 You may proceed. 6 THE WITNESS: Would you repeat the 7 question, please. 8 BY MS. MACCABEE 9 Q. Sure. Looking at the DNR project status update, the 10 third bullet point, do you agree with DNR's 11 statement that Cell 2W surface water drainage to 12 cell 2E and 1E via outlet structures is also going 13 into the ponds in 1E, as well as groundwater, via 14 seepage? 15 A. The all the structure from cell 2W to 1E is 16 filled with tailings. I don't know to what exten 	5 A. I see 6 Q. And 7 comm 8 to DN 9 amen 10 issues 11 A. This 12 Sutto 13 Q. Let's 14 There 15 bento	e that. in your role as principal engineer, were you in unications with Donald Sutton, the subcontractor R's consultants, EOR, regarding the bentonite dment, as well as regarding other stability s that are outside the scope of this hearing? email indicates some communication with Don
 16 Infed with tanings. Full t know to what exten 17 it is any longer functional. I have not personally observed drainage from cell 2W into cell 1E via the outlet structure. There may be there may be (mi glitch) more seepage. 21 Q. So you would agree that there is groundwater seepage, and you don't really have enough persona knowledge about whether there is spilled water flowing through the outlet structure; is that correct? 	17record18larger19highli20it is n21effica22or ove23Do yo24needed	I number 266095. And if you make it a little you can see this is Mr. Sutton's ghted language, and you can read the part, "If ot managed, then depending on the bentonite cy, the pond could either periodically dry up erfill." bu agree that management will be ed at the flotation tailings basin pond, ading on bentonite efficacy?
Page 3	0	Page 32
 A. Let me expand that. I have also not observed any seepage from the west excuse me, the east side of cell 2W into cells 1E and 2E. There is no surface seepage from cell 2W into 1E and 2E. And, likewise, I have not observed 	1 A. Yes, 1 2 the p 3 Q. And 4 water 5 A. Tha	the system is designed to manage water level at ond. that system will include necessarily pumping in and pumping water out at different times? t may be required, yes.
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In the Matter of the NorthMet Project Permit to Mine Application - 60-2004-37824	Volume 2 3-28-23	Evidentiary Hearing before Judge LaFav March 28, 202
P	age 33	Page 35
 MR. MILLS: Objection, scope. We're not talking about bentonite. MS. MACCABEE: That's exactly what we' talking about. Mr. Sutton is talking about depending on the bentonite's efficacy and what effects would be on the geochemistry modeling, is precisely what we're talking about in this of JUDGE LAFAVE: The objection is overruled. You may answer. BY MS. MACCABEE: Q. Do you need the question to be reread again A. Yes, please. Q. So you see Mr. Sutton's sentence, "If the will level drops lower than designed due to highe infiltration rates or lower precipitation, geochemistry assumptions will change as the tai dry up and oxidize." Do you see that statement? A. I do. Q. Do you agree that if the water levels are lowed designed, either due to climate change or bem efficacy, that it will change the geochemistry assumptions? 	$\begin{array}{cccc} & & & & & \\ \text{at the which } & & & & \\ \text{scase.} & & & & & \\ & & & & \\$	Is it correct that there's nothing in this record that has approved a specific time when passive maintenance would be provided or allowed? MR. MILLS: Same objection, outside the scope.
1 permit from Colton Lake is to avoid that	Page 34 very 1	JUDGE LAFAVE: Ms. Maccabee? Page 30 MS. MACCABEE: Just getting a
2 situation.3 Q. And the mention of water appropriation from Q		clarification of the witness' last statement, Your Honor.
4 Lake, is the intent meant to pump water from 05 Lake in order to make sure that this problem		JUDGE LAFAVE: The objection is sustained.
6 Mr. Sutton identifies won't happen?	6	BY MS. MACCABEE:
7 A. If this issue were to occur, there are	7 Q.	Now, let's turn to your rebuttal testimony, at lines
8 accommodations to resolve it.	8	1019. We can start at 1022. That's fine. And it'
9 Q. And that accommodation is pumping water from (in response to in your rebuttal testimony, you
Lake to make up for to make the pond achiedesired height, correct?		say that Dr. Benson's use of the term "potential" i evapotranspiration, in the environs of the NorthMe
2 A. That's my understanding, yes.	11 12	site, is misleading or confusing because he doesr
3 Q. And do you agree that with Mr. Sutton, that		discuss annual precipitation. Do you recall that
4 is the situation of verifying the pond heigh		testimony?
5 putting water in, if necessary, is likely to be	15	MR. MILLS: Objection, misstates the
6 perpetual? MP MULS: Objection How the pend	16	testimony.
 7 MR. MILLS: Objection. How the pond 8 works, as she's Ms. Maccabee has identified 	17 ed her 18	JUDGE LAFAVE: Ms. Maccabee, please rephrase your question.
works, as she's Wis. Maccabee has identifiedtheme here, is not in the scope of this procee		BY MS. MACCABEE:
We're not talking about bentonite here.	-	In your testimony you said Dr. Benson's use of th
JUDGE LAFAVE: Ms. Maccabee?	21	word "potential" in front of evapotranspiration
MS. MACCABEE: Let me rephrase.	22	causes confusion relative to the common compariso
BY MS. MACCABEE:	23	of evapotranspiration, not potential
24 Q. Do you agree that, over time, the pond bott		evapotranspiration. Do you remember that testimony?
25 bentonite plan is likely to require maintenand	ce 25	

Pern	e Matter of the NorthMet Project Volu nit to Mine Application - 60-2004-37824 3-2		tiary Hearing before Judge LaFa March 28, 20
	Page 37		Page 3
1,	A. Ido.	A. What I'm stating	g here is that the atmosphere ha
2 (Q. And you recall and you recall that you explained		hold moisture than moisture ma
3	that in the area of the NorthMet actual in the	be available.	
4	NorthMet project, actual annual precipitation	4 Q. And would you	agree that it is possible perhap
5	exceeds actual evapotranspiration by 4.5 to	5 this is in the next	section continue.
6	5.7 inches; is that correct?	5 If you look at lin	es 1036 to 1038 this
7	A. Yes.	7 may be the sourc	
8 (Q. And these numbers of actual precipitation and actual	•	gree that it is possible
9	evapotranspiration are an average over the course of		is, even if the actual precipitatio
.0	seasons; aren't they?		her than evapotranspiration, that
L 1 /	A. They are the values presented by the DNR.		ry to some depth beneath the
12 (Q. Do you know whether they're averaged over seasons or		will vary from year to year,
L3	averaged over years, Mr. Radue?	3 correct?	5 5 5 5
L4 /		4 A. Yes, that's corr	rect.
	Q. And then you further testified and let's look at		knowledge about whether, if the
6	your testimony in right at the bottom there		from year at different portions
.7	that there are even when you're considering		would affect wet-dry cycling in
.8	actual precipitation and actual evapotranspiration,	bentonite?	
.9	there are periods of the year, including portions of		testimony the reasons that wet-dr
20	the summer, when precipitation would be frequent or		concern here. I stated the
21	lacking, making it possible in summer months for the	•	l the characteristics of bentonit
22	ground to dry to some depth below the surface, which		. I talked about the thick th
23	will vary from year-to-year based on site-specific	_	tonite-amended layer.
24	conditions. Do you remember that testimony?		oken about the limited
25	MR. MILLS: Objection, misstates the		he plants at the site.
_	Page 38		Page 4
1	testimony.		it one step at a time. Just
2	JUDGE LAFAVE: Ms. Maccabee?	2 looking at this	
3	MS. MACCABEE: No, it doesn't. I'm		bjection. She didn't let
4	reading from the testimony.		his answer to her question. Sh
5	MR. MILLS: I stand on the objection.	5 interrupted him.	
6	JUDGE LAFAVE: Please restate please		EE: Your Honor, I asked a very
7	re-ask your question.	-	I'm going to get to other issues
	BY MS. MACCABEE	6	said that it's possible that the
9 (Q. Looking at your testimony		
.0	MS. MACCABEE: Do you want to show him	wet-dry cycling.	I didn't ask for the whole thing
.0 .1	the entire screen?	wet-dry cycling.	
0 1 2	the entire screen? BY MS. MACCABEE	 wet-dry cycling. JUDGE LAFAY overruled. 	I didn't ask for the whole thing /E: The objection is
.0 .1 .2 .3 (the entire screen? BY MS. MACCABEE Q. Would you agree, even when you're talking about	 wet-dry cycling. JUDGE LAFAY overruled. Please do let the 	I didn't ask for the whole thing /E: The objection is witness finish their
.0 .1 .2 .3 (.4	the entire screen?BY MS. MACCABEEQ. Would you agree, even when you're talking about evapotranspiration, there are periods of the year	 wet-dry cycling. JUDGE LAFAY overruled. Please do let the answer. You ma 	I didn't ask for the whole thing E: The objection is witness finish their y proceed with your question.
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.0 .1 .2 .3 .4 .5 .6	the entire screen?BY MS. MACCABEEQ. Would you agree, even when you're talking about evapotranspiration, there are periods of the year when much of the vegetation is dormant and precipitation is in the form of snow, rather than	 wet-dry cycling. JUDGE LAFAY overruled. Please do let the answer. You ma BY MS. MACC Q. Mr. Radue, I just 	I didn't ask for the whole thing /E: The objection is witness finish their y proceed with your question. ABEE: t asked a narrower question. We
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		lume 2 28-23	Evidentiary Hearing before Judge LaFave March 28, 2023
	Page 4	1	Page 43
1	A. You know, so I guess I disagree (ph).	1	from the permit to mine application, and it is
	Q. I want to go over some of the numbers in this case		page 65611. You can see the top left
3	and I hate to do this, but I want to make sure I	3	Maybe do you want make it a little bit
4	understand them all. Just looking at these numbers	4	bigger so it's easier to read.
5	in row 1, do you agree that the unamended dam size	5	The conductivity in-lab permeability of
6	and beaches in the percolation model is 7.7 inches	6	LTV SMC coarse tailings is 2.4 times 10 to the 3rd;
7	r J I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I	7	is that correct?
8			I see that, yes.
9			And the dam size and slopes before the bentonite is
10			amended, their conductivity would be approximately
11	11		the in-lab conductivity number that we just
12			discussed, the 2.4 times 10 to the negative 3?
13			
	A. That's what it says.	-	And then let's go back to the first page and make
15			sure we got the rest of the numbers that we talked
16	5		about. We've talked about the number of 5.56 times
	A. I'll take this		10 to the negative 6 that adds the permeability not
18			to be exceeded, according to the water model, correct?
19	1		
20			That was the values in the water modeling, yes. And those are values that you came up with that you
21 22			are familiar with, and you're just repeating them
22			from what you heard. You didn't choose those
23 24			numbers, correct?
24 25	•		Correct.
25		25 A.	conten.
	Page 4	2	Page 44
1			And, similarly, in row 2, at the far right, there's
2			a number from the water modeling data package that
3			the percolation rate that's modeled is 5.85 inches
4	8 1 8,		per year; is that correct?
5			That is correct.
6		-	And then the next row, which is the
7			bentonite-amended beaches and also look at the
8	11 5		bentonite-amended ponding, ponds.
9			Before the bentonite amendment is put on,
	A. Yes.		do you understand that in-lab permeability of
11			flotation tables is 4 times 10 to the negative 4th,
12	5		2.0 times 10 to the negative 5th, which I believe is
13			also the range that you included in your testimony.
14	*		
15			the model requires that the permeability of 5.56
16 17			times 10 to the negative six not be exceeded,
18	~		correct?
19			MR. MILLS: Object to the form.
20			JUDGE LAFAVE: Overruled.
20			THE WITNESS: That's what the document
22			says.
	A. It sounds about right.		BY MS. MACCABEE:
24			And the model also predicts that the percolation
25			rate modeled in inches per year, once the amendment

Permit to Mine Application - 60-2004-378243-28	Ime 2Evidentiary Hearing before Judge LaFave8-23March 28, 2023
Page 45	Page 47
1 is placed on the beaches, will be 5.85 inches per	1 into the model we just looked at, doesn't that say
2 year?	2 that there has to be a rate once the bentonite is
3 A. That's correct.	amended of 65 6.5 in year 30, once the bentonite
4 Q. Now, if the model we talked a little bit before	4 is on, correct?
5 about how other than what you did with other	5 A. That's what it says in the table, yes.
6 witnesses, that the model states that percolation to	6 Q. And it also has the same value of 6.5 at year 50 and
7 the pond bottom, once it's amended, cannot exceed	7 at year 500, correct?
8 6.5 inches, correct?	8 A. That's correct.
9 A. 6.5 inches is the input value to the model.	9 Q. And is that would it still comply with the model
10 Q. And would that be let's take a look at the model.	if the if there was less than 6.5 inches of water
11 Let's first look at catch one thing. This is	11 going through the pond bottom in a year; do you know
12 going back to the conductivity of the	12 that answer?
13 bentonite-amended tailings on the dam size and the	13 A. What do you mean "comply with the model"?
beaches, and is that 5.56 number we're talking	14 Q. Would the model still be valid in protecting water
about. If you move, you can see that that is	15 quality if there was less seepage to the pond bottom
derived from the highest model data research for	than 6.5 inches per year?
17 silty clay. Do you see that?	17 A. I didn't do the modeling. I don't know the answer
18 A. I see that.	18 to that.
19 Q. And you agree that that's where the model is derived	19 Q. Okay. Now, let's turn back to the first page of
20 from?	this exhibit, which is actually PDF 2. I'm sorry.
21 A. That's what it states here, yes.	And does the number 5.233 times 10 to the
22 Q. Can you move over it says that this is a	negative 7th, which is the permeability cap, which
23 deterministic value, correct?	is in that chart, suggested as the permeability that
24 A. That's correct.	will lead to a result of no more than 6.5 inches of
25 Q. And that means it's the that value can't change	25 percolation to the pond bottom; is that a number
Page 46	Page 48
1 throughout the duration of the project, which is	1 that's familiar to you?
2 modeled out to 500 years, correct?	2 MR. MILLS: Object to form.
3 MR. MILLS: Object to form.	3 JUDGE LAFAVE: Overruled.
4 JUDGE LAFAVE: The witness can answer, if	4 You can answer, if you know.
5 he knows.	5 THE WITNESS: My recollection is that
6 THE WITNESS: I can't speak to the	6 it's the unsaturated hydraulic conductivity of
7 what modeling may show hundreds of years from now.	tailings below the bentonite amendment there.
8 BY MS. MACCABEE:	8 BY MS. MACCABEE
9 Q. Are you aware that this model was run for a duration	9 Q. And so in just to make sure I understand. That's
10 of 500 years?	10 what you said in your testimony yesterday.
11 A. Again, I can't say specifically to the variation.	11 Is that different from the saturated
12 Q. Okay. Now, let's look at PDF 9, which is another	12 hydraulic conductivity, if the number of that would
13 page of the model.	be determining permeability if the tailings were
14 And that talks about the pond seepage	saturated beneath the tailings basin?
rate, and it refers back to another model, which is	15 A. Yes, unsaturated would vary from the saturated
15 Table 131, and that's on the next page of this	16 value.
17 exhibit. And if you'll look at the bottom left.	17 Q. And, generally, just to make sure I understand this,
18 So the model is actually referring to	18 does "saturated" mean wet all the way through?
19 50 the model is actually referring to19 6.5 inches per year. And you have to show the	19 A. "Saturated" means a percent saturation associated
 MS. MACCABEE: Slide up so the witness 	20 with it.
	21 Q. So when you say "unsaturated tailings," how are you defining that?
	22 defining that?
23 Q. Pond seepage rate in inches per year.	23 A. Unsaturated is less than 100 percent saturation.
24 Now let's go back down to the bottom.25 And that table, which is incorporated	24 Q. Okay. And is there another calculation in this25 record of what the permeability to attain or the
A DE LEALER WHICH IS INCORDORATED	25 record of what the permeability to attain or the

In the Permi		ime 2 8-23	Evidentiary Hearing before Judge LaFave March 28, 2023
	Page 49		Page 51
5	 hydraulic conductivity to attain 6.5 inches of percolation through the tailings basin would be if the tailings were saturated? There is an example computation in the record in that regard, yes. And I'm going to ask you to please show Exhibit H1, and I will hold on a second. I want to show where that's coming from. We want to see that. That is from the Waste Characterization Data Package, which is already in the record. And that is is that exhibit turn to the front page, because I don't remember the exhibit numbers it's Exhibit Number 217, and let's turn to the highlighted page keep going. And this is a statement, the waste characterization data actually, is this in the water management? I'm sorry, that was a saturated unsaturated, I'm sorry. Unsaturated is a waste characterization. Saturated is in the adaptive management plan, which is in Exhibit 221. And this states, "The performance 	4 5 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	 times 10 to the negative 8 centimeters per second, correct? A. Well, the performance modeling is based on an infiltration of 6.5 inches per year, and not based on a specific hydraulic conductivity. Q. But what this model shows, then, is that just the percolation, but in order to create a barrier that limits percolation to that rate, that has to be achieved by as a result of the permeability in that period, correct? MR. MILLS: Object to the form. JUDGE LAFAVE: Overruled. You may answer. THE WITNESS: Well, this is an illustration of one permeability value that could be used to achieve the 6.5 inches. As I've previously testified, there are a number of combinations of hydraulic conductivity and layer thickness and pond depth that could be used to achieve 6.5 inches. BY MS. MACCABEE Q. And in order to evaluate a plan for bentonite,
21 22	and this states, "The performance parameter for the bentonite-amended flotations	21 22	Q. And in order to evaluate a plan for bentonite, whether it's for the beaches or for the dams or for
23	tailings is hydraulic conductivity, otherwise known	23	the pond bottom, one needs to do the calculation to
24	as permeability," correct?	24	figure out what level of permeability, in this case,
25 A	. That's what it says.	25	will limit percolation to 6.5 inches, correct?
	Page 50		Page 52
2 3 4 A 5 Q 6 7 8 9 10 11 Q 12 A 13 14 15 Q 16 17 A 18 Q 19 20 A. 21 22	 And so and this calculation is meant to be used as a performance parameter for the bentonite, correct? Yes. And scrolling down a little lower, these are the computations. I'm not going to ask you to explain them because I wouldn't understand. But this basically is making an assumption of a bentonite-amended layer thickness of 0.2 feet, correct? That's in the middle paragraph. This was an example computation, and, yes, it says bentonite-amended layer thicknesses greater than 2 feet. And in this example the average pond depth is 5 feet, correct? Yes. Mell, this is an example computation. I don't know what relation it is to the eight feet, but it's currently eight feet. And so with a five-foot average pond depth, the calculation for the average hydraulic conductivity required for the performance modeling would be 2.1 	7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	 MR. MILLS: Objection, misstates his testimony. JUDGE LAFAVE: Please rephrase your question. BY MS. MACCABEE: Q. In order to evaluate how a bentonite amendment will work and whether it will achieve 6.5 inches of percolation, doesn't one need to know what the permeability is following, what you called before, Darcy's Law? MR. MILLS: Objection, misstates his testimony. JUDGE LAFAVE: Overruled. The witness may answer the question. THE WITNESS: In the input value to Darcy's Law is permeability, yes. BY MS. MACCABEE Q. Do you know of any other number in the record for permeability for this performance modeling, other than this number that we just talked about in the adaptive water management plan on record, page 0067041? A. Would you repeat your question, please. Q. Other than this number right here, 2.1 times 10 to the negative 8th, which is which is contained in

	ume 2 28-23	Evidentiary Hearing before Judge LaFave March 28, 2023 Page 55
1 the adaptive water management plan, and I gave the		MS. MACCABEE: Your Honor, I would
2 page as 0067041, do you know of any other hydraulic		what I would like to do, rather than ask that this
3 conductivity number in the application which		exhibit be admitted, is I would like to make the
4 provides a different performance modeling number for		changes that are necessary consistent with this
5 the bentonite on the pond bottom?		witness's testimony so I don't try and put something
6 A. I said I'm not aware of another value. There may		into the record that is incomplete.
7 be, but I'm simply not aware of them.		Is that an appropriate way to handle that, sir?
8 Q. Thank you.9 You wouldn't have the expertise yourself		JUDGE LAFAVE: I'll poll the other
10 to do the calculations and provide us with another		parties. Mr. Mills?
11 value or to challenge this one, would you, sir?		MR. MILLS: Just so I can understand, the
12 A. I'm certainly capable of using Darcy's Law, yes.		point is to move the admission of this demonstrative
13 Q. And have you used Darcy's Law to make calculations	-	exhibit?
14 of any other permeability rate that would achieve	14	JUDGE LAFAVE: I believe Ms. Maccabee
the 6.5 inches percolation rate, which is required		Ms. Maccabee intends to offer the exhibit. However,
16 by the model?		she wants to tweak it to reflect the testimony that
17 A. I don't recall.		was given this morning; is that fair?
18 Q. Sitting here today, can you say what hydraulic		MS. MACCABEE: Your Honor, what I would
19 conductivity other than that number of 2.1 times 10		suggest is perhaps I should compare in Exhibit 349A, which contains what I think it should contain to
to the minus 8, the bentonite amendment of the pondbottom would have to achieve in order to achieve the		reflect that the difference between unsaturated and
6.5 percolation rate that is contained in the model?		saturated conductivity and all the supporting
23 A. Generally, there's a wide range of hydraulic		documents, rather than moving the exhibit as is
24 conductivities that would achieve 6.5 inches per		currently intended or even asking counsel to
25 year.		speculate on something they haven't seen yet.
Page 54		Page 56
 1 Q. And that would depend on the thickness of the bentonite amendment, correct? 	1	Page 56 JUDGE LAFAVE: Ms. Maccabee, why don't you prepare Exhibit 249A, and we can discuss its
 Q. And that would depend on the thickness of the bentonite amendment, correct? 3 A. That is correct. 	1 2 3	JUDGE LAFAVE: Ms. Maccabee, why don't you prepare Exhibit 249A, and we can discuss its admissibility when you've completed it.
 Q. And that would depend on the thickness of the bentonite amendment, correct? A. That is correct. Q. And what is the thickness of the bentonite amendment 	1 2 3 4	JUDGE LAFAVE: Ms. Maccabee, why don't you prepare Exhibit 249A, and we can discuss its admissibility when you've completed it. MS. MACCABEE: Your Honor, I might have
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 Q. And that would depend on the thickness of the bentonite amendment, correct? A. That is correct. Q. And what is the thickness of the bentonite amendment that's planned for the NorthMet tailing space? A. The current plan is 2 to 3 inches AquaBlok. Q. And you say 2.3 inches, that's 8 A. 2 to 3 inches. Q. Is that consistent with 0.2 feet in this example here? A. It is. Q. So the current plan, which is consistent with this equation, is would be require a permeability 	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 Q. 10 11 12 13	JUDGE LAFAVE: Ms. Maccabee, why don't you prepare Exhibit 249A, and we can discuss its admissibility when you've completed it. MS. MACCABEE: Your Honor, I might have misspoken, it's 349. JUDGE LAFAVE: I'm sorry, 349A. MS. MACCABEE: Thank you, sir. BY MS. MACCABEE: I'd like to change gears now, make something a little simpler. If we could turn to Mr to your rebuttal testimony, and that's line 941 to 945. And in your in this rebuttal testimony, based on the
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 1 Q. And that would depend on the thickness of the bentonite amendment, correct? 3 A. That is correct. 4 Q. And what is the thickness of the bentonite amendment that's planned for the NorthMet tailing space? 6 A. The current plan is 2 to 3 inches AquaBlok. 7 Q. And you say 2.3 inches, that's 8 A. 2 to 3 inches. 9 Q. Is that consistent with 0.2 feet in this example here? 11 A. It is. 12 Q. So the current plan, which is consistent with this equation, is would be require a permeability rate as low as 2.1 times 10 to the minus 8, correct? 15 A. For use of AquaBlok, that's correct. 16 Q. And you would agree that this 2.1 times 10 to the negative 8th is considerably less permeable than the 3.9 times 10 to the negative 6 permeability, which is the lab value of LTV fine tailings and slimes that we've been using as representative of the 	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 Q. 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 A. 19 Q. 20	JUDGE LAFAVE: Ms. Maccabee, why don't you prepare Exhibit 249A, and we can discuss its admissibility when you've completed it. MS. MACCABEE: Your Honor, I might have misspoken, it's 349. JUDGE LAFAVE: I'm sorry, 349A. MS. MACCABEE: Thank you, sir. BY MS. MACCABEE: I'd like to change gears now, make something a little simpler. If we could turn to Mr to your rebuttal testimony, and that's line 941 to 945. And in your in this rebuttal testimony, based on the pond area of 905 acres and the basin average depth of 8 feet, you calculated that there would be 160 million gallons a year of seepage annually lost through the pond bottom each year, correct? That is correct. And you did that by multiplying, correct; you didn't go into hydraulic conductivity or anything like
 1 Q. And that would depend on the thickness of the bentonite amendment, correct? 3 A. That is correct. 4 Q. And what is the thickness of the bentonite amendment that's planned for the NorthMet tailing space? 6 A. The current plan is 2 to 3 inches AquaBlok. 7 Q. And you say 2.3 inches, that's 8 A. 2 to 3 inches. 9 Q. Is that consistent with 0.2 feet in this example here? 11 A. It is. 12 Q. So the current plan, which is consistent with this equation, is would be require a permeability rate as low as 2.1 times 10 to the minus 8, correct? 15 A. For use of AquaBlok, that's correct. 16 Q. And you would agree that this 2.1 times 10 to the negative 8th is considerably less permeable than the 3.9 times 10 to the negative 6 permeability, which is the lab value of LTV fine tailings and slimes that we've been using as representative of the 	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 Q. 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 A. 19 Q. 20	JUDGE LAFAVE: Ms. Maccabee, why don't you prepare Exhibit 249A, and we can discuss its admissibility when you've completed it. MS. MACCABEE: Your Honor, I might have misspoken, it's 349. JUDGE LAFAVE: I'm sorry, 349A. MS. MACCABEE: Thank you, sir. BY MS. MACCABEE: I'd like to change gears now, make something a little simpler. If we could turn to Mr to your rebuttal testimony, and that's line 941 to 945. And in your in this rebuttal testimony, based on the pond area of 905 acres and the basin average depth of 8 feet, you calculated that there would be 160 million gallons a year of seepage annually lost through the pond bottom each year, correct? That is correct. And you did that by multiplying, correct; you didn't
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 1 Q. And that would depend on the thickness of the bentonite amendment, correct? 3 A. That is correct. 4 Q. And what is the thickness of the bentonite amendment that's planned for the NorthMet tailing space? 6 A. The current plan is 2 to 3 inches AquaBlok. 7 Q. And you say 2.3 inches, that's 8 A. 2 to 3 inches. 9 Q. Is that consistent with 0.2 feet in this example here? 11 A. It is. 12 Q. So the current plan, which is consistent with this equation, is would be require a permeability rate as low as 2.1 times 10 to the minus 8, correct? 15 A. For use of AquaBlok, that's correct. 16 Q. And you would agree that this 2.1 times 10 to the negative 8th is considerably less permeable than the 3.9 times 10 to the negative 6 permeability, which is the lab value of LTV fine tailings and slimes that we've been using as representative of the existing ponds? 22 A. The 3.96 is the geometric mean of the fine tailings and slimes hydraulic conductivity, and that value is higher than the Sutton. 	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 Q. 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 A. 19 Q. 20 21 22 A. 23 Q. 24	JUDGE LAFAVE: Ms. Maccabee, why don't you prepare Exhibit 249A, and we can discuss its admissibility when you've completed it. MS. MACCABEE: Your Honor, I might have misspoken, it's 349. JUDGE LAFAVE: I'm sorry, 349A. MS. MACCABEE: Thank you, sir. BY MS. MACCABEE: I'd like to change gears now, make something a little simpler. If we could turn to Mr to your rebuttal testimony, and that's line 941 to 945. And in your in this rebuttal testimony, based on the pond area of 905 acres and the basin average depth of 8 feet, you calculated that there would be 160 million gallons a year of seepage annually lost through the pond bottom each year, correct? That is correct. And you did that by multiplying, correct; you didn't go into hydraulic conductivity or anything like that, correct? That's true. And to calculate how much water would percolate through the dam sides would be just one could
 1 Q. And that would depend on the thickness of the bentonite amendment, correct? 3 A. That is correct. 4 Q. And what is the thickness of the bentonite amendment that's planned for the NorthMet tailing space? 6 A. The current plan is 2 to 3 inches AquaBlok. 7 Q. And you say 2.3 inches, that's 8 A. 2 to 3 inches. 9 Q. Is that consistent with 0.2 feet in this example here? 11 A. It is. 12 Q. So the current plan, which is consistent with this equation, is would be require a permeability rate as low as 2.1 times 10 to the minus 8, correct? 15 A. For use of AquaBlok, that's correct. 16 Q. And you would agree that this 2.1 times 10 to the negative 8th is considerably less permeable than the 3.9 times 10 to the negative 6 permeability, which is the lab value of LTV fine tailings and slimes 20 that we've been using as representative of the existing ponds? 22 A. The 3.96 is the geometric mean of the fine tailings and slimes hydraulic conductivity, and that value is 	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 Q. 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 A. 19 Q. 20 21 22 A. 23 Q. 24	JUDGE LAFAVE: Ms. Maccabee, why don't you prepare Exhibit 249A, and we can discuss its admissibility when you've completed it. MS. MACCABEE: Your Honor, I might have misspoken, it's 349. JUDGE LAFAVE: I'm sorry, 349A. MS. MACCABEE: Thank you, sir. BY MS. MACCABEE: I'd like to change gears now, make something a little simpler. If we could turn to Mr to your rebuttal testimony, and that's line 941 to 945. And in your in this rebuttal testimony, based on the pond area of 905 acres and the basin average depth of 8 feet, you calculated that there would be 160 million gallons a year of seepage annually lost through the pond bottom each year, correct? That is correct. And you did that by multiplying, correct; you didn't go into hydraulic conductivity or anything like that, correct? That's true. And to calculate how much water would percolate

In t Per	he l mit	Matter of the NorthMet ProjectVoluto Mine Application - 60-2004-378243-24	ime 8-23	March 28, 2023
		Page 57		Page 59
1		5.85 inches per year of percolation, correct?	1	that value, hydraulic conductivity, applies to the
2	A.	That's correct.	2	basin sides and beaches and a 6.5 inch per year
3	Q.	And basin size will cover about 380 acres. I	3	percolation or seeded (ph) value was applied to the
4		believe you said this in your direct testimony. I	4	L
5		don't think we need to find it. Does that sound	5	5
6		familiar?	6	y 1 U
7		Sounds familiar.	7	1
8	Q.	And the beach area will cover about 427 acres,	8	
9		correct?	9	
		That sounds right.	10	5
11		And is it also correct that if the permeability of	11	1 2
12		the bentonite amendment tailings on either the dam	12	
13		sides, slopes or beaches were to be less than or	13	1
14		equal to 5.6 times 10 to the 6, that result would be	14	
15		within the bounds of the model?	15	
	А.	That would be over value than what was used in the	16	A
17	0	model, yes.	17	v 1
18	Q.	1	18	
19		consistent with the model, correct?	19	
20	А.	I believe the model used a specific value, but it		Q. Based on the discussion we just had, would you agree
21	0	would be less than or equal to the model.	21	
22	Q.	1 5	22	1
23		bentonite-amended tailings on the dam sides, slopes	23	
24 25		or beaches were to be higher than or allowed more water than 5.56 times 10 to the minus 6 centimeters	24 25	
50		water than 5.50 times 10 to the minus 0 centimeters	25	With Willieb. Same objection.
		Page 58		Page 60
1		per second, that permeability would not be	1	J
2		consistent with the model, correct?	2	5
3	A.	It would be different than what was used in the	3	
4	~	model, yes.	4	1 8 1 8
5	Q.	Let's turn to rebuttal testimony, 223 to 225. In	5	1 2 /
6		your rebuttal testimony of the pages you say, "The	6	
7		hydraulic conductivity value shown in row 9, which	7	
8		is" can you see above	8	
9		MS. MACCABEE: Why don't you show it to	9	
.0		him. There you go.	10	
1	C	BY MS. MACCABEE:	11	A
	Q.	*		A. If AquaBlok is used for the pond bottom and specific
.3		second," you state, "is the value used in tailing	13	
-4		spaces in performance modeling of future		Q. In your testimony
.5		bentonite-amended basin sides, beaches and pond	15	
L6		bottom."	16	
.7		Do you agree with that, that the	17	BY MS. MACCABEE:
18	٨	statement contains an important error?	18	
	А.	(Witness nods.)	19	8 8
20	0	BY MS. MACCABEE:	20	
21	_	Isn't it correct that the conductivity value 5.56	21	
22		times 10 to the minus 6 centimeters per second only	22	
23		applies to the bentonite-amended sides and beaches		A. Yes, I recall it.
24	٨	and does not apply to the pond bottom?		Q. And in this testimony you concluded that,
25	А.	In our prior discussion my understanding is the	25	"permeability of the bentonite-amended pond bottom

In the Matter of the NorthMet Project Permit to Mine Application - 60-2004-37824	Volume 2 3-28-23	Evidentiary Hearing before Judge LaFave March 28, 2023
Pa	ige 61	Page 63
1 of equal to or less than 3.9 times 10 to the 6th	1 1	time for a break because I'm going to go into a
2 will maintain a permanent pond that acts as a w		different topic.
3 cover over the stored tailings."	3	JUDGE LAFAVE: We are in recess for 15
4 Is that attempting to refer to the	4	minutes. Thank you.
5 flotation tailings basin in the future?	5	(Recess taken.)
6 A. It is not. I say, "demonstration of the cur	rent 6	JUDGE LAFAVE: Good morning. We are back
7 condition that's maintaining a pond."	7	on the record. Mr. Radue, I would remind you that
8 Q. So if this statement were interpreted to mean	that 8	you are still under oath.
9 the existing the factors of pond on the exist		Ms. Maccabee.
10 tailings basin predicts that that flotation tailin	-	MS. MACCABEE: Thank you, your Honor.
11 basin pond will be maintained, that would not	be a 11	BY MS. MACCABEE:
12 correct interpretation of this testimony?	12 (Q. Mr. Radue, we're going to talk a little bit about
13 A. This is a demonstration of existing conditions	that 13	change the subject and talk about some of the
14 maintains a pond.	14	studies you discuss. Let's turn to your direct
15 Q. And this demonstration is not however, it's	s not 15	testimony, and that's lines 308 to 318. I think we
16 intended to say that a pond will be maintained	d 16	did pull it up to make life easier for you.
similarly on the flotation tailings basin?	17	Do you see that?
18 A. This is an example of a hydraulic conduct	ivity 18	Maybe you can find your testimony in the
19 3 times 10 to the minus 6 that may be capable	le of 19	Woyshner and Yanful study while we're worrying about
20 maintaining the pond with flotation tailings ba		the technical. Have you found it?
21 Q. Now, isn't it correct that the flotation tailing		A. I have it.
basin would be on top of flotation tailings bas		Q. In your testimony you stated that the 1995 Woyshner
23 flotation tailings rather than LTV fine tailings	s as 23	and Yanful study showed positive results after field
24 slimes?	24	testing a cover system that is similar to PolyMet's
25 A. That's correct.	25	bentonite amendment.
	ige 62	Page 64
	-	
1 Q. And isn't it also correct that the hydrology o	f the 1	Isn't it correct that this 1995 study,
 1 Q. And isn't it also correct that the hydrology o 2 flotation tailings basin at closure at its new 	f the 1	Isn't it correct that this 1995 study, Woyshner and Yanful, used a composite cover with a
 Q. And isn't it also correct that the hydrology o flotation tailings basin at closure at its new height would be different from that of the LTV per 	f the 1 2 onds 3	Isn't it correct that this 1995 study, Woyshner and Yanful, used a composite cover with a 60 centimeters or approximately two foot thick layer
 1 Q. And isn't it also correct that the hydrology o 2 flotation tailings basin at closure at its new 3 height would be different from that of the LTV per today upon cell 1E and 2E? 	f the 1 2 onds 3 4	Isn't it correct that this 1995 study, Woyshner and Yanful, used a composite cover with a 60 centimeters or approximately two foot thick layer of virus natural clay?
 Q. And isn't it also correct that the hydrology o flotation tailings basin at closure at its new height would be different from that of the LTV per today upon cell 1E and 2E? A. It would be different, yes. 	f the 1 2 onds 3 4 5	Isn't it correct that this 1995 study,Woyshner and Yanful, used a composite cover with a 60 centimeters or approximately two foot thick layer of virus natural clay?A. I don't recall the specifics of the barrier layer.
 Q. And isn't it also correct that the hydrology o flotation tailings basin at closure at its new height would be different from that of the LTV period today upon cell 1E and 2E? A. It would be different, yes. Q. Well, one question. Isn't it correct that the 	f the 1 2 onds 3 4 5 6	 Isn't it correct that this 1995 study, Woyshner and Yanful, used a composite cover with a 60 centimeters or approximately two foot thick layer of virus natural clay? A. I don't recall the specifics of the barrier layer. Q. Well, actually, if you look at your own testimony, I
 Q. And isn't it also correct that the hydrology o flotation tailings basin at closure at its new height would be different from that of the LTV period today upon cell 1E and 2E? A. It would be different, yes. Q. Well, one question. Isn't it correct that the proposed NorthMet bentonite amendment is not supposed NorthMet bentonite amen	f the 1 2 onds 3 4 5 6 0 not 7	 Isn't it correct that this 1995 study, Woyshner and Yanful, used a composite cover with a 60 centimeters or approximately two foot thick layer of virus natural clay? A. I don't recall the specifics of the barrier layer. Q. Well, actually, if you look at your own testimony, I believe it does discuss what those specifics are.
 Q. And isn't it also correct that the hydrology o flotation tailings basin at closure at its new height would be different from that of the LTV period today upon cell 1E and 2E? A. It would be different, yes. Q. Well, one question. Isn't it correct that the proposed NorthMet bentonite amendment is a scheduled to be applied until up to 10 years a 	f the 1 2 onds 3 4 5 6 0 0 0 1 0 1 7 fter 8	 Isn't it correct that this 1995 study, Woyshner and Yanful, used a composite cover with a 60 centimeters or approximately two foot thick layer of virus natural clay? A. I don't recall the specifics of the barrier layer. Q. Well, actually, if you look at your own testimony, I believe it does discuss what those specifics are. A. What number are you looking at?
 1 Q. And isn't it also correct that the hydrology o 2 flotation tailings basin at closure at its new 3 height would be different from that of the LTV performance 4 today upon cell 1E and 2E? 5 A. It would be different, yes. 6 Q. Well, one question. Isn't it correct that the 7 proposed NorthMet bentonite amendment is a 8 scheduled to be applied until up to 10 years a 9 operations have ceased? 	f the 1 2 onds 3 4 5 4 6 0 0 0 7 fter 8 9	 Isn't it correct that this 1995 study, Woyshner and Yanful, used a composite cover with a 60 centimeters or approximately two foot thick layer of virus natural clay? A. I don't recall the specifics of the barrier layer. Q. Well, actually, if you look at your own testimony, I believe it does discuss what those specifics are. A. What number are you looking at? Q. 308 to 318.
 1 Q. And isn't it also correct that the hydrology o 2 flotation tailings basin at closure at its new 3 height would be different from that of the LTV performance 4 today upon cell 1E and 2E? 5 A. It would be different, yes. 6 Q. Well, one question. Isn't it correct that the 7 proposed NorthMet bentonite amendment is a 8 scheduled to be applied until up to 10 years a 9 operations have ceased? 10 A. What area are you speaking of? 	f the 1 2 onds 3 4 5 4 6 0 0 7 fter 8 9 0 10	 Isn't it correct that this 1995 study, Woyshner and Yanful, used a composite cover with a 60 centimeters or approximately two foot thick layer of virus natural clay? A. I don't recall the specifics of the barrier layer. Q. Well, actually, if you look at your own testimony, I believe it does discuss what those specifics are. A. What number are you looking at? Q. 308 to 318. A. The testimony says that the study uses a two foot
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 Q. And isn't it also correct that the hydrology o flotation tailings basin at closure at its new height would be different from that of the LTV performance today upon cell 1E and 2E? A. It would be different, yes. Q. Well, one question. Isn't it correct that the proposed NorthMet bentonite amendment is a scheduled to be applied until up to 10 years a operations have ceased? A. What area are you speaking of? Q. I'm speaking of do you want to look at the direct, lines 387 to 389? And amended North bentonite amendment of the pond. So I'll re-as I'hat's a very good clarification. Isn't it correct that the proposed NorthMet bentonite amendment of the pond bottom 	f the 1 2 3 4 5 4 6 6 6 not 7 fter 8 10 2 10 2 11 10 12 6 11 12 11 14 15 16 15 16	 Isn't it correct that this 1995 study, Woyshner and Yanful, used a composite cover with a 60 centimeters or approximately two foot thick layer of virus natural clay? A. I don't recall the specifics of the barrier layer. Q. Well, actually, if you look at your own testimony, I believe it does discuss what those specifics are. A. What number are you looking at? Q. 308 to 318. A. The testimony says that the study uses a two foot thick natural clay layer. Q. That's correct. And isn't it correct that PolyMet is not proposing to apply a composite cover with a 2 foot thick layer of natural clay to the NorthMet dam sides or the NorthMet beaches? A. I'm not seeing it at the moment in my testimony
 Q. And isn't it also correct that the hydrology o flotation tailings basin at closure at its new height would be different from that of the LTV performance today upon cell 1E and 2E? A. It would be different, yes. Q. Well, one question. Isn't it correct that the proposed NorthMet bentonite amendment is a scheduled to be applied until up to 10 years a operations have ceased? A. What area are you speaking of? Q. I'm speaking of do you want to look at the direct, lines 387 to 389? And amended North bentonite amendment of the pond. So I'll re-as Int's a very good clarification. Isn't it correct that the proposed NorthMet bentonite amendment of the pond botton not scheduled to be applied until up to 10 years 	f the 1 2 2 2 5 4 5 5 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 7 5 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 7 5 6 6 6 6 7 5 6 6 7 5 7 5 6 6 7 5 7 5 6 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7	 Isn't it correct that this 1995 study, Woyshner and Yanful, used a composite cover with a 60 centimeters or approximately two foot thick layer of virus natural clay? A. I don't recall the specifics of the barrier layer. Q. Well, actually, if you look at your own testimony, I believe it does discuss what those specifics are. A. What number are you looking at? Q. 308 to 318. A. The testimony says that the study uses a two foot thick natural clay layer. Q. That's correct. And isn't it correct that PolyMet is not proposing to apply a composite cover with a 2 foot thick layer of natural clay to the NorthMet dam sides or the NorthMet beaches? A. I'm not seeing it at the moment in my testimony where I use the word composite. Can you point me to
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 Q. And isn't it also correct that the hydrology o flotation tailings basin at closure at its new height would be different from that of the LTV period today upon cell 1E and 2E? A. It would be different, yes. Q. Well, one question. Isn't it correct that the proposed NorthMet bentonite amendment is a scheduled to be applied until up to 10 years a operations have ceased? A. What area are you speaking of? Q. I'm speaking of do you want to look at the direct, lines 387 to 389? And amended North bentonite amendment of the pond. So I'll re-ase That's a very good clarification. Isn't it correct that the proposed NorthMet bentonite amendment of the pond bottom of the teating. Q. Have you calculated how many millions of gat will seep through the bottom of the tailings period. 	f the 1 f the 1 ponds 3 4 5 6 6 not 7 fter 8 9 6 10 4 5 10 6 11 nMet 12 sk it. 13 14 15 pm is 16 17 18 19 10 llons 20 ond 21 is 22	 Isn't it correct that this 1995 study, Woyshner and Yanful, used a composite cover with a 60 centimeters or approximately two foot thick layer of virus natural clay? A. I don't recall the specifics of the barrier layer. Q. Well, actually, if you look at your own testimony, I believe it does discuss what those specifics are. A. What number are you looking at? Q. 308 to 318. A. The testimony says that the study uses a two foot thick natural clay layer. Q. That's correct. And isn't it correct that PolyMet is not proposing to apply a composite cover with a 2 foot thick layer of natural clay to the NorthMet dam sides or the NorthMet beaches? A. I'm not seeing it at the moment in my testimony where I use the word composite. Can you point me to that, please? Q. Again, I wish I had access to the documents. JUDGE LAFAVE: I'm going to see if I can get someone here to help with that. Thank you. BY MS. MACCABEE: Q. All right. Let's ask a few questions that don't
 Q. And isn't it also correct that the hydrology o flotation tailings basin at closure at its new height would be different from that of the LTV performance today upon cell 1E and 2E? A. It would be different, yes. Q. Well, one question. Isn't it correct that the proposed NorthMet bentonite amendment is a scheduled to be applied until up to 10 years a operations have ceased? A. What area are you speaking of? Q. I'm speaking of do you want to look at the direct, lines 387 to 389? And amended North bentonite amendment of the pond. So I'll re-ast That's a very good clarification. Isn't it correct that the proposed NorthMet bentonite amendment of the pond botton not scheduled to be applied until up to 10 years after the operations have ceased? A. That's my understanding. Q. Have you calculated how many millions of gat will seep through the bottom of the tailings performance applied to the pond? 	f the 1 f the 1 ponds 3 4 5 6 6 not 7 fter 8 9 6 10 2 11 12 nMet 12 sk it. 13 14 15 pm is 16 rrs 17 18 19 Illons 20 ond 21 is 22 23 24	 Isn't it correct that this 1995 study, Woyshner and Yanful, used a composite cover with a 60 centimeters or approximately two foot thick layer of virus natural clay? A. I don't recall the specifics of the barrier layer. Q. Well, actually, if you look at your own testimony, I believe it does discuss what those specifics are. A. What number are you looking at? Q. 308 to 318. A. The testimony says that the study uses a two foot thick natural clay layer. Q. That's correct. And isn't it correct that PolyMet is not proposing to apply a composite cover with a 2 foot thick layer of natural clay to the NorthMet dam sides or the NorthMet beaches? A. I'm not seeing it at the moment in my testimony where I use the word composite. Can you point me to that, please? Q. Again, I wish I had access to the documents. JUDGE LAFAVE: I'm going to see if I can get someone here to help with that. Thank you. BY MS. MACCABEE:

In ti Peri		ume 2 8-23	
	Page 65		Page 67
6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	 conductivity of the single sampling had was well, bentonite mixed with LTV tailings was 1.8 times 10 to the minus 7 centimeters per second. Do you recall that testimony? A. Yes, I do. Q. Is it correct that there are no specifications in PolyMet's permit to mine application to achieve a 1.9 times 10 to the minus 7 centimeters per second conductivity with the construction of either bentonite-amended dam sides or beaches? A. The current documents focus on the basin dam sides which will be constructed first. They have specifications we have specifications for the thickness of the bentonite-amended clay layer. We have specifications for the percent compaction of the bentonite-amended clay layer. We have a geometric mean hydraulic conductivity specification for that layer upon zero times 10 to the minus 6 centimeters per second, and there's some other specifications associated with that. Q. Mr. Radue, is that 1.10 to the negative 6 centimeters per second specification contained in 	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	 A. Correct. We're proposing a 1.5 foot thick cover with bentonite-amended tailings. Q. And do you know what percentage of bentonite is in the layer of two foot thick natural clay that Woyshner and Yanful used in their study? A. If it's natural clay, it would not have any bentonite in it. Excuse me, if it's natural clay, it may not have bentonite in it. Q. And that would depend where it's mined from, correct? A. Correct. Q. And if it's mined from Wyoming, it could very well have bentonite in it, correct? A. It depends on the source of the clay. Q. And you don't have any information on the percentage of the clay that would be in a two foot thick natural layer of clay, correct? A. For that specific study? Q. Yes. A. I do not. MS. MACCABEE: Are we still trying to get
23	centimeters per second specification contained in	23	
24	the permit mine application?	24	
25	Page 66		Q. Now, you testified earlier today that PolyMet is now Page 68
1 2 3 4 5 6	times 10 to the minus 6. It is in the permit to mine application, yes.Q. And is there any specification contained in the permit to mine application for the hydraulic conductivity of the bentonite amendment to the beaches?		 using two to three inches of AquaBlok, correct? A. That's correct. Q. Is it also correct that you have no personal experience with applying AquaBlok to the bottom of a
7	A. I believe the specifications focused on the dam	7	A. I do not. Colleagues of mine have used AquaBlok.
10 11 12	 sides which would be constructed first. Q. So the answer to that is that at this point there is no specification for the bentonite amendment to the beaches? A. I don't recall. Q. To the best of your knowledge, is there isn't it correct that there's no specification yet for the 	8 9 10 11 12 13 14	 applying AquaBlok to the flotation tailings water column to limit permeability to 6.5 inches per year or less? A. I do not know. Q. And I would turn now to, I think it's your testimony
15	starting conductivity as constructed for the	15	the rebuttal, I'm sorry. I'm going to read to you
16	bentonite amendment of beaches?	16	
	A. That's my recollection. Again, the document focuses	17	
18 19	on the basin sides, which will be constructed first, and has a specification for the hydraulic	18	
20	conductivity of basin sides.	19 20	
	Q. Okay. Let's see if we can do this: I think with	21	
22	the Woyshner study, let's just go back and do it	22	
23	really quickly without the evidence.	23	1 2
24	So would you agree that PolyMet is not	24	
25	proposing to apply a cover with a two foot thick	25	5 Do you recall that testimony?

In the Matter of the NorthMe Permit to Mine Application - (Evidentiary Hearing before Judge LaFa March 28, 20
-	Page 69		Page
1 A. I do.		1	Are you relying primarily on Mr. Hull's
	onal knowledge of application of	2	testimony and examples of use of AquaBlok for pon
	al to a 905-acre pond without	3	sealing?
4 defects?	a to a 905 acre pond without	4	MR. MILLS: Objection, asked and
5 A. I do not.		5	answered.
6 Q. And isn't it correct th	hat you're relying on	6	MS. MACCABEE: Was that asked and
	and examples of the use of	7	answered?
8 AquaBlok or PondSe	-	8	MR. MILLS: Yes.
	stated earlier, my colleagues	9	BY MS. MACCABEE:
 have used AquaBlok 		-	Do you agree that
-		11	JUDGE LAFAVE: Wait. Give me just a
2 precisely what they u		12	second. The objection is sustained. Please
3 A. I have general know	-	13	continue.
		14	MS. MACCABEE: I'm just asking the court
		15	reporter. Was that asked and answered?
A		16	COURT REPORTER: I don't know.
tailings pond for mine	÷ .	17	BY MS. MACCABEE:
÷ .			Is it correct with the examples in Mr. Hull's
basin for mine waste		10 Q. 19	testimony, broadcasting AquaBlok products to th
• Q. And when did you le		20	water column primarily pertains to sediment
A. Close in time, but I		20	sequestration?
2 Q. Who was overseeing			That would be a question for Mr. Hull to answe
A. Minntac.	g the project?	22 A.	MS. MACCABEE: Your Honor, at this point
4 Q. Minntac, Minnesota	.9	23 24	I don't have I'm going to need to be able to us
5 A. Yes.		24 25	the exhibits. I'm not really sure what's the next
	Page 70		Page
o	_		-
	aled with Minntac or lime?	1	step.
-	I'm not that familiar with the	2	JUDGE LAFAVE: We're in the process of
3 project.		3	trying to remedy that problem. Are there other
	e in a Minntac project AquaBlok	4	questions you can ask?
5 was used?		5	MS. MACCABEE: I will try.
0	sed in the tailings basin. I'm	6	I'm sorry, Your Honor, everything I've
	th the details of the project.	7	got here refers back to something that needs to b
	wledge of any tailings pond at	8	seen.
	sealed to reduce permeability	9	JUDGE LAFAVE: Let's go off the record
-	percolation rate in terms of	10	for just a moment, please.
1 inches per year?		11	(Recess taken.)
_	-	12	JUDGE LAFAVE: We are now back on the
	I do not know the details of	13	record. Again, Mr. Radue, I would remind you yo
4 that.		14	are still under oath.
5 Q. So you don't know wh	nether that application was used	15	Ms. Maccabee.
		16	BY MS. MACCABEE:
1 1	a son fan meine A sus Dlals is to	17 Q.	If you would turn to the Hull direct. That's at
7 A. That would be the rea			
7 A. That would be the rea8 make something less	s permeable.	18	lines 348 to 354, is that where we are?
 7 A. That would be the reasonable and the something less 9 Q. I'm saying specifical 	s permeable. lly you don't know if it was	18 19	And isn't it correct that one example
 7 A. That would be the reasonable and the something less 9 Q. I'm saying specifical used to make the Min 	s permeable.		And isn't it correct that one example that Mr. Hull provided in his testimony regardin
 7 A. That would be the reamination 8 make something less 9 Q. I'm saying specifical used to make the Minipermeable; do you? 	s permeable. Ily you don't know if it was intac tailings pond less	19	And isn't it correct that one example that Mr. Hull provided in his testimony regardir sealing of the pond was a project completed for th
 7 A. That would be the reamination make something less 9 Q. I'm saying specifical used to make the Minipermeable; do you? 	s permeable. lly you don't know if it was	19 20	And isn't it correct that one example that Mr. Hull provided in his testimony regardin
 7 A. That would be the reama and a make something less 9 Q. I'm saying specifical used to make the Minipermeable; do you? 2 A. I stated it was used 	s permeable. Ily you don't know if it was intac tailings pond less	19 20 21	And isn't it correct that one example that Mr. Hull provided in his testimony regardin sealing of the pond was a project completed for th City of Columbus park systems? MR. MILLS: Objection, Your Honor. She's
 7 A. That would be the reamake something less 9 Q. I'm saying specifical used to make the Minipermeable; do you? 2 A. I stated it was used 	s permeable. Ily you don't know if it was intac tailings pond less I at Minntac tailings basin.	19 20 21 22	And isn't it correct that one example that Mr. Hull provided in his testimony regardin sealing of the pond was a project completed for the City of Columbus park systems?

Matter of the NorthMet ProjectVolut to Mine Application - 60-2004-378243-2	ume 2Evidentiary Hearing before Judge LaFav28-23March 28, 202
Page 73	Page 75
It seems like we should be moving on to other	1 sediment, correct?
witnesses.	2 A. That is correct.
JUDGE LAFAVE: Ms. Maccabee.	3 Q. And you would agree that placing the reactive core
MS. MACCABEE: I will try and make this	4 mat on contaminated sediments is different from
real quick.	5 lining a pond with GCL to create a low permeability
JUDGE LAFAVE: What's the relevance of	6 there to water percolation, correct?
this question?	7 A. I disagree.
MS. MACCABEE: The relevance of this	8 Q. Has your testimony identified any is it correct
question is whether Mr. Hull's examples informed	9 that your testimony has identified no examples where
Mr. Radue's opinion that PondSeal was an effective	10 low permeability, a liner for pond, was applied by
way to apply bentonite to a 905-acre pond without	11 placing a GCL from a barge to a water column?
defects.	12 A. I've provided photos in my testimony demonstrating
JUDGE LAFAVE: You may answer the	13 that.
question.	14 Q. Were those there's none of those photos
THE WITNESS: Would you repeat the	identifying the purpose were any of them to
question, please?	16 provide a low permeability barrier similar to that
BY MS. MACCABEE:	17 in the NorthMet project?
. Isn't it correct that the one example that Mr. Hull	18 A. Well, that would be the reason for using a bentonite
provided in his testimony regarding sealing a pond	19 material to provide a low permeability barrier.
was a project completed for the City of Columbus	20 Q. Is it correct that no testimony or exhibits in this
park system where he said that the material was easy	21 contested case proceeding have identified a mine
to place and performed when applied to a rough	22 project that has applied bentonite to a water column
surface similar to that anticipated for the NorthMet	23 from a barge, whether by broadcasting, injection or
project beach area?	24 DCL panels?
MR. MILLS: Objection to the extent it	25 A. Whether it's a mine project or any other project,
Page 74	Page 76
misstates Mr. Hull's testimony.	1 the process is the same.
JUDGE LAFAVE: You may answer based on	2 Q. Isn't it correct that you that this record
the question as it appears on the screen the	3 identifies no projects that are mine projects that
testimony appears on the screen.	4 have used that method of applying bentonite from a
THE WITNESS: I'm not familiar enough	5 barge?
with Mr. Hull's testimony to provide an opinion.	6 A. Well, again, the method is equally applicable,
BY MS. MACCABEE:	7 it's whether it's a lake or mine project or
. Your testimony, and then this is in the rebuttal 598	8 anything else.
to 602, refers you can see it up there. There it	9 Q. If it's a project that's not a mine project, isn't
is. You can see it up there. Your testimony	10 it correct that the Minnesota Reactive Mine Waste
MR. MILLS: Counsel, I object. If he	11 Rule would not apply?
wants to look at the book, please refrain from	12 A. That's correct.
requiring him to look at your screen and your	13 Q. If the project is not a mine project, isn't it
highlighting. Thank you.	14 correct that the need to achieve a specific rate of
JUDGE LAFAVE: Mr. Mills, please direct	15 percolation from water modeling is not applied
your objections to me, but the point was well taken.	16 either, correct?
MR. MILLS: Your Honor, I apologize. I	17 A. I disagree.
	18 Q. On what basis would you disagree?
did not state that properly.	
did not state that properly. JUDGE LAFAVE: No worries.	19 A. There very well may be a project where modeling is
JUDGE LAFAVE: No worries.	•
JUDGE LAFAVE: No worries. Mr. Radue, let us know when you're ready.	19 A. There very well may be a project where modeling is20 required that requires a specific performance that's
JUDGE LAFAVE: No worries. Mr. Radue, let us know when you're ready. THE WITNESS: Would you restate your	 19 A. There very well may be a project where modeling is 20 required that requires a specific performance that's 21 not a mine project.
JUDGE LAFAVE: No worries. Mr. Radue, let us know when you're ready. THE WITNESS: Would you restate your question, please?	 19 A. There very well may be a project where modeling is 20 required that requires a specific performance that's 21 not a mine project. 22 Q. But you don't know of any specific project or
JUDGE LAFAVE: No worries. Mr. Radue, let us know when you're ready. THE WITNESS: Would you restate your	 19 A. There very well may be a project where modeling is 20 required that requires a specific performance that's 21 not a mine project.
	t to Mine Application - 60-2004-37824 3-2 Page 73 It seems like we should be moving on to other witnesses. JUDGE LAFAVE: Ms. Maccabee. MS. MACCABEE: I will try and make this real quick. JUDGE LAFAVE: What's the relevance of this question? MS. MACCABEE: The relevance of this question is whether Mr. Hull's examples informed Mr. Radue's opinion that PondSeal was an effective way to apply bentonite to a 905-acre pond without defects. JUDGE LAFAVE: You may answer the question. THE WITNESS: Would you repeat the question, please? BY MS. MACCABEE: Isn't it correct that the one example that Mr. Hull provided in his testimony regarding sealing a pond was a project completed for the City of Columbus park system where he said that the material was easy to place and performed when applied to a rough surface similar to that anticipated for the NorthMet project beach area? MR. MILLS: Objection to the extent it Page 74 misstates Mr. Hull's testimony. JUDGE LAFAVE: You may answer based on the question as it appears on the screen the testimony appears on the screen. THE WITNESS: I'm not familiar enough with Mr. Hull's testimony to provide an opinion. BY MS. MACCABEE: Your testimony, and then this is in the rebuttal 598 to 602, refers you can see it up there. There it is. You can see it up there. Your testimony MR. MILLS: Counsel, I object. If he wants to look at the book, please refrain from requiring him to look at your screen and your highlighting. Thank you. JUDGE LAFAVE: Mr. Mills, please direct your objections to me, but the point was well taken.

in the Perm		ume 2 8-23	
	Page 77		Page 7
1	modeling requirements where a GCL or other	1	A. Would you repeat your question, please?
2	application of bentonite has been used to achieve a		Q. Is there any indication in the listing of ponds that
3	specific rate of percolation, correct?	3	suggests that any of these ponds were lined by
4 A	A. I personally do not.	4	providing bentonite to the water column rather than
5 (2. Turn to your rebuttal, lines 48 to 52. Do you see	5	on a dry application?
6	your testimony at lines 58 to 52?	6	A. Not to my knowledge, no.
7 A	A. Excuse me, 58 to 52?	7	MS. MACCABEE: If you could turn back,
8 (2. 48 to 52. Thank you.	8	Ms. Guenther, to PDF page 4.
9 A	A. I do.	9	BY MS. MACCABEE:
.o (2. And in your testimony you cite the Chapuis paper,	10	Q. And this is from the Wyo-Ben brochure and
.1	2002 paper, to demonstrate the use of soil bentonite	11	Exhibit 17, and doesn't that describe the standard
L 2	liners?	12	mixed membrane method for applying bentonite
.3 A	A. Yes.	13	Do you see the text, sir?
L4 (2. Isn't it correct that all the field testing methods	14	A. You're looking at the right-hand column?
.5	for creating a pond bottom bentonite liner,	15	Q. That's correct, under "How to Apply ENVIROGEL," th
.6	discussion of Chapuis paper involved dry	16	right hand column, the first paragraph, and line
.7	installation of the bentonite?	17	number 1 item number 1.
	A. That's my recollections, yes.	18	And doesn't this appear to a conventional
.9 (2. Would you agree that the standard method of creating	19	application on a dry surface that is visible where
20	a liner for a pond nevermind, strike that. I	20	the soil is prepared beforehand?
21	don't need that.	21	A. Yes, and that's the case we have for the basin side
22	Yesterday Mr. Katchen asked you about the	22	and basin beaches.
23	projects in the Wyo-Ben brochure, Exhibit 17, and	23	Q. Correct. That would be very similar to trying to
24	the listing of sites where Wyo-Ben had supplied	24	work on at least the basin sides. We don't know ye
25	bentonite for pond and landfill liners.	25	about the beaches, correct?
	Page 78		Page 8
1	Do you recall that testimony?	1	A. It is generally applicable to basin sides and
	A. I recall discussing it.	2	beaches. We discussed the beaches being somewha
з (2. And you told Mr. Katchen that you had no personal	3	more challenging.
4	knowledge of any of these Wyo-Ben projects, correct?	4	Q. All right. And if you turn back one page before
5 A	. Correct. I stated that I talked to Richard Brown to	5	that in the Wyo-Ben ENVIROGEL brochure, and does it
6	obtain information on such projects.	6	in fact, in the Wyo-Ben brochure say that, "In areas
7 (2. If we could turn to Exhibit 17 briefly. Do you	7	where water cannot be removed, ENVIROGEL is
8	remember Mr. Katchen was talking about scale of		
-		8	broadcast, and it's or poured across the surface
9	projects, if you look at 5 through 10.	9	broadcast, and it's or poured across the surface While not as efficient as the mixed
9 .0 A	projects, if you look at 5 through 10. A. Yes.	9 10	broadcast, and it's or poured across the surface While not as efficient as the mixed membrane method, this technique is effective for
9 .0 A .1 (projects, if you look at 5 through 10. Yes. Do you see, I think I've highlighted the ones 	9 10 11	broadcast, and it's or poured across the surface While not as efficient as the mixed membrane method, this technique is effective for leaks identified in areas like gravel pockets or or
9 .0 A .1 (projects, if you look at 5 through 10. A. Yes. Do you see, I think I've highlighted the ones that are pond liners. 	9 10 11 12	broadcast, and it's or poured across the surface While not as efficient as the mixed membrane method, this technique is effective for leaks identified in areas like gravel pockets or or dam faces."
9 LO A L1 (L2 L3	 projects, if you look at 5 through 10. A. Yes. Do you see, I think I've highlighted the ones that are pond liners. MS. MACCABEE: If you'll scroll through 	9 10 11 12 13	 broadcast, and it's or poured across the surface While not as efficient as the mixed membrane method, this technique is effective for leaks identified in areas like gravel pockets or or dam faces." Do you see that?
9 10 A 11 Q 12 13	 projects, if you look at 5 through 10. A. Yes. Do you see, I think I've highlighted the ones that are pond liners. MS. MACCABEE: If you'll scroll through please, Ms. Guenther. 	9 10 11 12 13 14	 broadcast, and it's or poured across the surface. While not as efficient as the mixed membrane method, this technique is effective for leaks identified in areas like gravel pockets or or dam faces." Do you see that? A. I see that.
9 .0 A .1 (.2 .3 .4 .5	 projects, if you look at 5 through 10. Yes. Do you see, I think I've highlighted the ones that are pond liners. MS. MACCABEE: If you'll scroll through please, Ms. Guenther. BY MS. MACCABEE: 	9 10 11 12 13 14 15	 broadcast, and it's or poured across the surface. While not as efficient as the mixed membrane method, this technique is effective for leaks identified in areas like gravel pockets or or dam faces." Do you see that? A. I see that. Q. Do you agree that using a sealing method for grave
9 .0 A .1 (.2 .3 .4 .5 .6 (projects, if you look at 5 through 10. Yes. Do you see, I think I've highlighted the ones that are pond liners. MS. MACCABEE: If you'll scroll through please, Ms. Guenther. BY MS. MACCABEE: Do you see that most of these are just a couple of 	9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	 broadcast, and it's or poured across the surface. While not as efficient as the mixed membrane method, this technique is effective for leaks identified in areas like gravel pockets or or dam faces." Do you see that? A. I see that. Q. Do you agree that using a sealing method for grave pockets or dam faces is different from lining an
9 10 A 11 (12 13 14 15 16 (17	 projects, if you look at 5 through 10. A. Yes. Do you see, I think I've highlighted the ones that are pond liners. MS. MACCABEE: If you'll scroll through please, Ms. Guenther. BY MS. MACCABEE: Do you see that most of these are just a couple of acres in size and there are a couple then 	9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	 broadcast, and it's or poured across the surface. While not as efficient as the mixed membrane method, this technique is effective for leaks identified in areas like gravel pockets or or dam faces." Do you see that? A. I see that. Q. Do you agree that using a sealing method for grave pockets or dam faces is different from lining an entire 905-acre pond?
9 L0 A L1 (L2 L3 L4 L5 L6 (L7 L8	 projects, if you look at 5 through 10. Yes. Do you see, I think I've highlighted the ones that are pond liners. MS. MACCABEE: If you'll scroll through please, Ms. Guenther. BY MS. MACCABEE: Do you see that most of these are just a couple of acres in size and there are a couple then there's the largest pond in terms of size is 	9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	 broadcast, and it's or poured across the surface. While not as efficient as the mixed membrane method, this technique is effective for leaks identified in areas like gravel pockets or or dam faces." Do you see that? A. I see that. Q. Do you agree that using a sealing method for grave pockets or dam faces is different from lining an entire 905-acre pond? A. Well, the AquaBlok was proposed for the pond, which
9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	 projects, if you look at 5 through 10. Yes. Do you see, I think I've highlighted the ones that are pond liners. MS. MACCABEE: If you'll scroll through please, Ms. Guenther. BY MS. MACCABEE: Do you see that most of these are just a couple of acres in size and there are a couple then there's the largest pond in terms of size is 29.5 acres? 	9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	 broadcast, and it's or poured across the surface. While not as efficient as the mixed membrane method, this technique is effective for leaks identified in areas like gravel pockets or or dam faces." Do you see that? A. I see that. Q. Do you agree that using a sealing method for grave pockets or dam faces is different from lining an entire 905-acre pond? A. Well, the AquaBlok was proposed for the pond, which is a different product.
9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 A	 projects, if you look at 5 through 10. Yes. Do you see, I think I've highlighted the ones that are pond liners. MS. MACCABEE: If you'll scroll through please, Ms. Guenther. BY MS. MACCABEE: Do you see that most of these are just a couple of acres in size and there are a couple then there's the largest pond in terms of size is 29.5 acres? I see that, yes. 	9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	 broadcast, and it's or poured across the surface. While not as efficient as the mixed membrane method, this technique is effective for leaks identified in areas like gravel pockets or or dam faces." Do you see that? A. I see that. Q. Do you agree that using a sealing method for grave pockets or dam faces is different from lining an entire 905-acre pond? A. Well, the AquaBlok was proposed for the pond, which is a different product. Q. Okay. Now, is it correct that you I want to turn
9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 (17 18 19 20 A 221 (projects, if you look at 5 through 10. Yes. Do you see, I think I've highlighted the ones that are pond liners. MS. MACCABEE: If you'll scroll through please, Ms. Guenther. BY MS. MACCABEE: Do you see that most of these are just a couple of acres in size and there are a couple then there's the largest pond in terms of size is 29.5 acres? I see that, yes. And is there anything on this list of ponds 	9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	 broadcast, and it's or poured across the surface. While not as efficient as the mixed membrane method, this technique is effective for leaks identified in areas like gravel pockets or or dam faces." Do you see that? A. I see that. Q. Do you agree that using a sealing method for grave pockets or dam faces is different from lining an entire 905-acre pond? A. Well, the AquaBlok was proposed for the pond, which is a different product. Q. Okay. Now, is it correct that you I want to turn now to Exhibit 66 and 67. We can put them up here
9 A 10 A 11 (12 13 14 15 16 (17 18 19 20 A 21 (22 22	 projects, if you look at 5 through 10. Yes. Do you see, I think I've highlighted the ones that are pond liners. MS. MACCABEE: If you'll scroll through please, Ms. Guenther. BY MS. MACCABEE: Do you see that most of these are just a couple of acres in size and there are a couple then there's the largest pond in terms of size is 29.5 acres? I see that, yes. And is there anything on this list of ponds indicating that any of these pond liners have been 	9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	 broadcast, and it's or poured across the surface. While not as efficient as the mixed membrane method, this technique is effective for leaks identified in areas like gravel pockets or or dam faces." Do you see that? A. I see that. Q. Do you agree that using a sealing method for grave pockets or dam faces is different from lining an entire 905-acre pond? A. Well, the AquaBlok was proposed for the pond, which is a different product. Q. Okay. Now, is it correct that you I want to turn now to Exhibit 66 and 67. We can put them up here if you wish.
9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 (17 18 19 20 A 21 (22 23 23 23 23 25 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20	 projects, if you look at 5 through 10. Yes. Do you see, I think I've highlighted the ones that are pond liners. MS. MACCABEE: If you'll scroll through please, Ms. Guenther. BY MS. MACCABEE: Do you see that most of these are just a couple of acres in size and there are a couple then there's the largest pond in terms of size is 29.5 acres? I see that, yes. And is there anything on this list of ponds indicating that any of these pond liners have been created by applying bentonite to the pond column 	 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 	 broadcast, and it's or poured across the surface. While not as efficient as the mixed membrane method, this technique is effective for leaks identified in areas like gravel pockets or or dam faces." Do you see that? A. I see that. Q. Do you agree that using a sealing method for grave pockets or dam faces is different from lining an entire 905-acre pond? A. Well, the AquaBlok was proposed for the pond, which is a different product. Q. Okay. Now, is it correct that you I want to turn now to Exhibit 66 and 67. We can put them up here if you wish. A. It's easier for me to see here.
9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	 projects, if you look at 5 through 10. Yes. Do you see, I think I've highlighted the ones that are pond liners. MS. MACCABEE: If you'll scroll through please, Ms. Guenther. BY MS. MACCABEE: Do you see that most of these are just a couple of acres in size and there are a couple then there's the largest pond in terms of size is 29.5 acres? I see that, yes. And is there anything on this list of ponds indicating that any of these pond liners have been 	 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 	 broadcast, and it's or poured across the surface. While not as efficient as the mixed membrane method, this technique is effective for leaks identified in areas like gravel pockets or or dam faces." Do you see that? A. I see that. Q. Do you agree that using a sealing method for grave pockets or dam faces is different from lining an entire 905-acre pond? A. Well, the AquaBlok was proposed for the pond, which is a different product. Q. Okay. Now, is it correct that you I want to turn now to Exhibit 66 and 67. We can put them up here if you wish.

Permit to Mine Application - 60-2004-37824	Volume 2 3-28-23	Evidentiary Hearing before Judge LaFave March 28, 2023
Page	ə 81	Page 83
 Kim Lapakko at DNR regarding the NorthMet benton amendment? A. Are you referring to a specific contact? Q. Were you aware that Mr. Lapakko, geochemist for DN had sought Dr. Benson's advice on the NorthM bentonite amendment? A. I don't believe I was aware of that. Q. So did you seek Dr. Benson's consultation, based his expertise, on the subject of bentonite and covers for mine waste? A. As I stated yesterday, he was retained by Foth contribute to the project, and so there was a connection via that means. So I was in occasion communication with Dr. Benson. Q. Turning to Exhibit 66 at it's PDF 14. Isn't it correct that at your request, Dr. Benson provided you with examples of geomembrane covers used for mine waste? A. I don't recall specifically what was requested He provided examples of geomembrane covers and soil bentonite covers. Q. And to the best of your knowledge, were any of th examples of covers for mine waste applied to ti distance of the solution of the so	$ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	 September 20, 2012, in response to your email about a bentonite product, and then you he said, "Great. This could be a perfect material." And then you wrote back. On the next page you can see your response at 9:38. "For your information," do you see that? MR. MILLS: Objection, you're going backwards. This is misstating the order of the emails. MS. MACCABEE: I think I put numbers on them as far as the sequence. JUDGE LAFAVE: So continue with your question. BY MS. MACCABEE: 2. Is it correct that you wrote back to Benson at 9:38 saying, "The product that I've seen is called AquaBlok PondSeal. It's actually fine gravel-coated bentonite. No further searching for information on this is necessary." A. I have to would you repeat the question? I need to read the string of emails. 2. Isn't correct that at 9:38 a.m. you responded to Dr. Benson saying that the product you've, "seen is
 examples of covers for mine waste applied to the water column rather than to a dry prepared surfact A. These are dry cover systems. 		Dr. Benson saying that the product you've, "seen is called AquaBlok PondSeal. It's actually fine gravel." And, "No further searching for information
Page	e 82	Page 84
 Q. And is it correct that Dr. Benson did not provi you with any examples of AquaBlok products? A. He was unfamiliar with the AquaBlok product, to recollection. Q. And isn't it true that you and Dr. Benson had a brief email exchange about the AquaBlok produt A. That's correct. Q. And isn't it correct that after Dr. Benson wrote you saying that the product might be the perfect product, you wrote back to him within a very br time identifying the product you had cited as AquaBlok PondSeal and stating that no further information on this is necessary, and that's page 66.16. MR. MILLS: Objection to the extent the question misstates what Dr. Benson wrote in hi email. JUDGE LAFAVE: Let's see what he did write in the email. BY MS. MACCABEE: Q. Why don't we show first the email on 66.15 so t you can see the context. Can you see, Mr. Radue, let's go a little further, can you see, Mr. Radue, at the very top that Craig Benson wrote an email at 9:02 a.m. 	2 A my 3 4 Q a 5 ct? 6 7 8 eto 8 ief 10 11 Q 12 13 14 15 15 Q 18 Q 19 20 hat 21 23 Q 0, 24	 on this is necessary"? A. Do I see that? I see a prior email where he indicates he had a sample in his lab apparently. Q. Yes, and you see the prior email also where he says, "This could be the perfect material," right, that prior email? MR. MILLS: Objection, she's calling the prior email, and that's not necessarily how email strings work. BY MS. MACCABEE: Q. Mr. Radue, did you put together this email string yourself, or was it put together by somebody else? A. I believe I searched our email and located this email. Q. If you could look at page 66.15. A. Yes, and I see he says, "Great, this could be the perfect material." Q. What time is that email? MR. MILLS: Objection, she didn't ask objection, vague. JUDGE LAFAVE: Please rephrase your question. BY MS. MACCABEE: Q. What time is indicated on the email from Craig Benson to you regarding bentonite coated sand?

n th Pern		Ime 2Evidentiary Hearing before Judge LaFave March 28, 2023
	Page 85	Page 87
1	MR. MILLS: Same objection, vague as to	1 A. That is not stated in the objective, no.
2	time.	2 Q. And you can see below that doesn't explain what
3	JUDGE LAFAVE: Please rephrase your	3 those numbers are, use efficient porosity method in
4	question.	4 Chapuis 1990, correct?
5	Wait a minute. No, that's you can	5 A. Yes.
6	the witness can answer.	6 Q. And can you see, then, that Dr. Benson is in
7	THE WITNESS: His email is a little	7 these in this document, applying the methods in
8	unclear to me, but it says September 20th, 2012. It	8 this 1990 Chapuis paper to calculate properties
9	appears to be 9:03 a.m.	9 based on information for the pond?
.0	BY MS. MACCABEE:	10 A. Yes.
	2. And your email on September 12 September 20th,	11 Q. And turn to page 4. And that page includes
.2	2012, on the next page, at 9:38 a.m., says that the	12 Dr. Benson's summary of Chapuis' method and makes a
.3	product that we called bentonite coated sand, it	recommendation to use Chapuis' method in the model,correct?
.4	identifies the name of the product. It also says, "No further searching for information on this is	
L5	necessary," correct, Mr. Radue?	 MR. MILLS: Objection, foundation. JUDGE LAFAVE: Overruled. The witness
L6	A. That's what it says, yes.	
	Q. Is it correct that you never followed up after this	 17 may answer. 18 THE WITNESS: His recommendation says,
L8 (L9	from Dr. Benson to ask him to search for any	 "Use Ks of this estimated for coarse tails and
20	information on AquaBlok or PondSeal products?	bentonite for bulk tails and bentonite."
	A. I don't recall if that's the case.	21 BY MS. MACCABEE:
	Q. Do you recall any instance where you followed up	22 Q. Do you understand that is a recommendation to use
23	with Dr. Benson to find out what he thought or asked	the model that's gives that paragraph a Chapuis'
24	him to do any research on the AquaBlok or PondSeal?	24 model rather than to use any particular product for
	A. I don't recall asking him to do any research on	25 the project, correct?
	Page 86	Page 88
1	that, no.	1 A. He is providing recommendations on modeling. That's
	Q. Thank you.	 a not a specific product, that's correct.
3	MS. MACCABEE: Ms. Guenther, let's show	3 Q. New topic; let's talk about vegetation.
4	Mr. Radue rebuttal testimony, lines 1326 to 1330.	4 Is it correct that the flotation tailings
5	If you could show this.	5 dam sides, slopes, beach areas and a transition zone
6	BY MS. MACCABEE:	between the beaches and the pond all have vegetation
	Q. Do you see	7 on them?
	A. This is rebuttal testimony?	8 A. That is correct.
9 (Q. That's correct.	9 Q. In response to Dr. Benson's testimony that plant
10	Do you see your testimony that, "Years	10 roots will penetrate the bentonite-amended layer and
11	ago, Benson recommended a 3 percent amendment for	11 reduce dry cycling, did you provide a response that
12	the NorthMet project, which he estimated would have	12 it is unlikely that roots would penetrate below
13	a hydraulic conductivity of 3.10 to the negative 7"?	13 30 inches in the new basin sides?
	A. I see that.	14 A. That is correct.
15 (Q. If you could turn to Exhibit 67. And looking at	15 Q. And did you do a brief study for PolyMet on the
16	those handwritten notes I think these are easier	16 question of root penetration?
17	to understand than the ones in 66 does it say,	17 A. PolyMet did a study and provided a memorandum with
18	"The Objective - Estimate hydraulic properties of	18 their findings.
19	tailings - bentonite and mixture"?	19 Q. So you didn't do the study yourself? You didn't dig
	A. Yes.	20 the holes?
21 (Q. And that's not an objective to provide a	21 A. I did not.
22	recommendation on any specific content of bentonite	22 Q. Are you familiar with the study that PolyMet did?
23	is it? You would agree that that's not an objective	23 A. I am.
24	to provide a recommendation on the content of	24 MS. MACCABEE: Can we turn to page
25	bentonite, correct?	25 Exhibit 320 to Exhibit 30.

	lume 2 28-23Evidentiary Hearing before Judge LaFave March 28, 2023
Page 8	9 Page 91
1 BY MS. MACCABEE:	1 Q. Didn't you cite this NRC 2022 study, Exhibit 206.09
2 Q. And that describes the method of digging five holes	2 in your testimony?
3 in the lift, correct?	3 A. I believe I did.
4 A. That's correct.	4 Q. So let's turn now to page 4-6 of this. This is an
5 MS. MACCABEE: And then turn to the	5 excerpt so we don't have to look too far.
6 PDF 4.	6 And would you agree that this NRC study
7 BY MS. MACCABEE:	7 of whether earthen barriers degrade over time looked
8 Q. Does it appear that the process used was to dig9 holes and then visually inspect them with a	 at penetration by small roots that one might not see looking down into a hole
10 measuring tape?	10 A. I believe it did, but that's not the only evidence
11 A. That's what the photos show, yes.	11 from the test bits.
12 Q. And turning to page 10 of the exhibit. Isn't it	12 Q. And turn to the next page. Did the NRC study also
13 true that all the holes tested were on the west	13 do corings showing where the tap roots were and
14 sides of the existing dam's basin?	14 deliberately take locations near more woody plants?
15 A. That's my general understanding, yes.	15 A. That may be the case.
16 Q. And your understanding of the tailings basins on the	
17 west side the steeper slopes of the tailings	17 study design to find out the extent of root
18 basins as compared to the north slopes?	18 penetration cut away entire sections and excavate so
19 A. Compared to the north slopes of the existing dam and	
20 basin?	the root sizes and depths?
21 Q. Correct.	21 A. Yes. In our case we have excavations on the stock
22 A. I don't know that to be the case.	22 plot soil adjacent to the excavations (mic glitch)
23 Q. And isn't it true that the flotation tailings basin,	23 is clear and considering that's at depth.
slopes and beaches will be far less steep than the	24 Q. And the particular five holes that PolyMet sent
25 particular locations where the holes were dug for	examined in their study and for which Exhibit 30
Page 9	0 Page 92
1 this study?	1 provides the memo, however, did not include any
2 And I'm going to show you page 8 out of	2 excavation to look at the various soil profiles at
3 9, if you want to take a look at the system.	3 depth, correct?
4 A. The flotation tailings the slopes for the	4 A. They used the test holes that are shown in the
5 flotation tailings basin will be flatter than these	
6 slopes, yes.	6 Q. And didn't this NRC study conclude that medium fine
7 Q. And do you have any experience with what's the	
8 proper procedure to take to do a study of root	8 1,260 millimeters, coarse roots to a depth of
9 penetration?	9 900 millimeters and very fine roots to a depth of
10 A. I believe excavating holes and taking photograph	-
11 and measuring depth is a reasonable approach	
12 Q. Have you ever done a root penetration study?	12 A. Those are different sites in different vegetation
13 A. I have not.	13 conditions.
14 Q. Let's turn real briefly to Exhibit 206.09. And	14 Q. And they're also different methodologies, correct,
15 that's an excerpt and that's an excerpt from the	15 Mr. Radue?
16 Williams study for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission	
17 on in-service radon barriers over Uranium tailings	
18 and their their degree of degradation or change	
19 over a period of 20 years.	19 2022 NRC study explaining how they evaluate the
20 So let's just quickly you're familiar	20 degradation of soil bentonite barriers.
21 with this study; aren't you, Mr. Radue?	21 And do you see that this study and granted there were a number of different sites and
22 A. Generally.23 Q. In fact, didn't you cite it in your testimony	granted there were a number of different sites anddifferent locations found that plant growth is
 23 Q. In fact, didn't you cite it in your testimony 24 referencing 	23 different locations found that plant growth is24 the largest contributor to soil morphological
24 referencing25 (Reporter requests clarification.)	25 development score in the barriers, at least the

In the Matter of the NorthM Permit to Mine Application		olume 2Evidentiary Hearing before Judge LaFave March 28, 2023
	Page 93	93 Page 95
 3 see that. 4 Q. Those are specific to NRC study, correct? 6 A. Correct. 7 Q. And that others, in the roots were observed 9 observed barrier prodiction 10 A. And some are diffination 11 different vegetation 12 Q. Mr. Radue, do you hat actual composition of in the 2022 NRC studies 15 A. I don't recall at the G. You didn't participation that study, correct? 18 A. I did not. 19 Q. And the study also study study study study and the study also study. 12 C. M. Radue, do you hat a study also study and the study also study. 13 A. I did not. 14 A. I did not. 15 A. I did not. 16 C. SMDS, which is a hid development score, and the study also study. 	to the Radon barriers. Yes, I to the earthen barriers in the his study, with few exceptions, through the depth of the files, correct? Greent under conditions a conditions, that's correct. We any personal knowledge of the f the barriers of the vegetation idy? I e moment. It in exhuming the barriers of ays other contributors to a high igh soil morphological change include insect burrowing and associated with volume change	 3 Exhibit 30? 4 A. They are different methods, yes. 5 MS. MACCABEE: No further questions. 6 JUDGE LAFAVE: Mr. Mills, do you have any redirect? 8 MR. MILLS: I do, Your Honor. Thank you. 9 REDIRECT EXAMINATION 10 BY MR. MILLS: 11 Q. Good morning, Mr. Radue. I have a few questions for you. My first question is when you print an email string, isn't it standard that the last email in the string appears at the top, while the older emails appear below going on through the string? 16 A. That's correct, you generally read it from bottom up rather than top down. 18 Q. So the top email, when you print a string, is the last one in the string? 20 A. Yes. 21 Q. Showing you Exhibit 6615, which email appears at the top of this email string in Exhibit 6615?
22 desiccation cracking a23 induced by root wate		23 A. It would be the last email.
24 Do you see that?		24 Q. And is that the email from Craig Benson to you?
25 A. I see that, yes.		25 A. It is.
	Page 94	04 Page 06
 are hydrophilic and a water entrapped from A. It depends on the Q. Are you saying that y roots do not seek water entrapped from A. Root depth would of Q. Based on your known Would the roots of constant on the second second	ee that bentonite that plants that their roots would seek in the bentonite? type of vegetation. ou know of vegetation where the atter in order to sustain the butside depend on type of vegetation. All of vegetation, how deep oarse (ph) in grasses grow, or a of expertise. that if the burrowing was insect in that of a large animal, that insect into the ground would t looking for large holes? ut animal burrowing, it might be casual view but insect	 1 Q. And that appears there's a line and after 2 Craig Benson says, "Great, this could be perfect 3 material," there's a line that says, "Sent from 4 CHB's iPhone"; is that right? e 5 A. Yes. 6 Q. Do you know where that iPhone was when this email 7 was sent? a A. I do not. 9 Q. Is it possible that it was in a different time zone 10 than you were located when you were sending your 11 emails? 12 MS. MACCABEE: Objection, calls for 13 speculation. 14 JUDGE LAFAVE: The witness can answer if 15 he knows. 16 THE WITNESS: It's a possibility. I 17 don't know if it was or not. 18 BY MR. MILLS: 19 Q. Sure. We don't know. 20 Have you encountered situations where 21 emails appear when they are sent from different time 22 zones to have a different hourly time stamp than the 13 time zone you were in when you received it?

In the Matter of the NorthMet Project Permit to Mine Application - 60-2004-37824	Volume 2 3-28-23	Evidentiary Hearing before Judge LaFave March 28, 2023
	Page 97	Page 99
 When Craig Benson said, "Great, this could be perfect material," do you understa talking about AquaBlok? MS. MACCABEE: Objection. JUDGE LAFAVE: Grounds? MS. MACCABEE: It's not clear what H talking about, and Mr. Radue has alread doesn't remember the context of the con MR. MILLS: I asked him for his understanding of the conversation. JUDGE LAFAVE: The witness can an he knows. THE WITNESS: The prior emails were relation to AquaBlok or PondSeal so it's being discussed. BY MR. MILLS: So just to be clear, Craig Benson respo discussion of AquaBlok saying, "Great, thi perfect material"; is that right? A. It is. Q. I'll show you Exhibit 15. What does the 	and he was $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ 3 \\ 4 \\ 3 \\ 5 \\ 4 \\ 5 \\ 6 \\ 1 \\ 5 \\ 6 \\ 1 \\ 7 \\ 7 \\ 6 \\ 1 \\ 9 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 2 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1$	Exhibit 38. I think you were asked a number of uestions about the last paragraph. Are you on age 7, Mr. Radue? I am. I want to draw your attention to the last paragraph here. There's a sentence that refers to ototillers. Do you see that there? I do. Can you just read that sentence, please. "The only way to obtain truly effective in situ nixing is through the use of rototillers." And are rototillers part of what you would nticipate may be used to construct the bentonite mendment at the NorthMet basin? Yes, and early in the evaluation of bentonite entonite amendment evaluation we identified it, a ototiller type device. I believe it was called otogator (ph) rather than rototiller. And let's turn to your rebuttal testimony ranscript, please, at page 26, line 492. I see that.
1		And in that line, you're referring to rototill; is
23 A. It shows a cross section, the left side 24 the right side is south. It's through th		hat the rototiller? That's correct.
the right side is south. It's through thside of the basin.		Now, although you've been a bit challenged on
 Q. You have been asked a number of question construction of the bentonite amendment o of the future basin. Do you recall that? A. Yes. Q. Did any of the questioning change you about whether application of the bentonite a on the sides of the basin is practical and y MS. MACCABEE: Objection, outside scope of anybody's cross-examination. JUDGE LAFAVE: Overruled. THE WITNESS: My opinion remains to same. BY MR. MILLS: Q. And similarly, you were asked a lot of about the construction of the bentonite amendation. 	n the sides2bd 3 $A.$ 4 $Q.$ 1 $Q.$ 5 0 10 $0.$ 10 $Q.$ 10 $Q.$ 11 $M.$ 12 p 13 16 14 $M.$ 15 $8.$ 16 11 $N.$ 17 $8.$ 16	I want to show you Exhibit 19. What was the purpose f your providing the information in Exhibit 19 as t relates to the construction on the beaches? The purpose was to provide examples of typical onstruction equipment that would be used for bentonite application. And let's turn to Exhibit 68, please. <i>Ar.</i> Radue, what was the purpose of roviding this information in Exhibit 68 as it elates to the beaches? MS. COHEN: Excuse me, Mr. Mills, can we ee Exhibit 68? We can only see the cover page. CHE WITNESS: The example, there it's howing a dual axis mixer in operating in
 18 Q. Did any of the questioning about the constitution on the benchmark of the be	hange your19wrkable to20tobeaches?21Jworkable.2200yere asked23T24J	hallenging conditions. It was showing that even when conditions are challenging, there is a solution to executing a project. UDGE LAFAVE: Excuse me, sir, which page of Exhibit 68 were you referring to? CHE WITNESS: All of 68 in general. UDGE LAFAVE: Okay. Thank you for that.

In the M Permit t	Iatter of the NorthMet ProjectVoluo Mine Application - 60-2004-378243-28	me 1 8-23		Evidentiary Hearing before Judge LaFave March 28, 2023
	Page 101			Page 103
2 p 3 J 4 H 5 Q. 6 C 7 C 8 A. 9 r 10 Q. 11 a 12 A. 13 in 14 sp 15 b 16 Q. 17 e 18 A. 19 c 20 th 21 m 22 J 23 A	 MR. MILLS: I'm trying to paint a big picture and be efficient. JUDGE LAFAVE: Thank you. BY MR. MILLS: So this coal ash example, the point was to show the capability of the contractors to operate in challenging conditions? Yes, I've showed a number of exhibits in that regard. So it wasn't intended to show coal ash is the same as the tailings mixture with bentonite? No. It was intended to show, again, the operations in challenging conditions. In this specific case, a pecific piece of equipment that can be used for the pentonite application as well. And please describe that potential piece of equipment. Well, it's a coal, a modified backhoe, and it's called a dual axis mixer. It's got a mixer head on the bottom that rotates in one direction to mix the naterial. I don't know if the backhoe rotates in 180-degree opposite direction. 	6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	A. Q. A. Q.	We're now on 293.9, and you were asked some questions. I just wanted to clarify that one of the
	nixing head to mix with the, in this case, with the	23 24		objectives does relate to the pond water chemistry
25 C	coal ash. This can be applied to tailings as well.	25		effects on bentonite hydration. Do you see that in
	Page 102			Page 104
2 C 3 C 4 e 5 A. 6 N 7 C 8 J 9 C 10 N 11 m 12 J	So in your experience as an engineer, you've seen contractors operate in conditions at least as hallenging or more challenging than what they would encounter on the beaches of the NorthMet basin? In more challenging conditions, yes. MR. MILLS: Do we want to break for lunch or should I go into another topic? UDGE LAFAVE: So let's how much more do you have? MR. MILLS: I'm not sure. More than five minutes. UDGE LAFAVE: Why don't we break et's break for lunch, but I want to have a	3 4 5 7 8 9 10	Q. A. Q.	 the fifth bullet point? Yes. And you agree that is one of the other objectives of the testing, correct? When pond water is available, yes. And turning to just to be clear, turning to 293.14, this page also confirms that part of the testing process does relate to the pond water chemistry? Yes. And finally on this document, let's turn to page 12. It's 293.12. You were asked some questions about testing yesterday on cross-examination, and I just
14 d 15 a 16 V 17 (18 J 19 b 20 V 21 ss 22 M 23 M 24 H	 liscussion with counsel, though, about where we are and what we need to get done. We're off the record. Recess taken.) JUDGE LAFAVE: Good afternoon. We are back on the record. You're probably going to guess what I say next. I'd like to remind you that you're still under oath. Mr. MILLS: Thank you, Your Honor. BY MR. MILLS: Good afternoon again, Mr. Radue. I want to talk 	14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	Q. A.	wanted to point you to the final sentence of that paragraph under 3.2.3. If you could please read that sentence. Are you speaking about the last sentence on excuse me. Are you speaking about the last sentence on the bottom of the page?

In the Matter of the NorthMet Project Permit to Mine Application - 60-2004-37824	Volume 2 3-28-23	Evidentiary Hearing before Judge LaFav March 28, 202
Page	105	Page 107
 page geotechnical engineer.'' Q. So it's not necessarily only if DNR orders additional testing. It's also possible that PolyMet's geotechnical engineer would determine additional testing is warranted; is that right? A. That's correct. Q. I want to turn your attention to Exhibit 200.24 This is the Song and Yanful study. I believe you were asked a number of questions about this M. Yes. Q on cross. Despite all those questions, do you still consider this study to be informative? A. I do. Q. And why is that? A. They executed a field program and they identifies some challenges with that program. I believe some configuration, we're not able to color the backsion of the stock pond (ph), the air infiltration intication the covered material. They acknowledge that the hadn't adequately mixed the bentonite with the covered material. 	1 2 Q 3 . 2 6 . 7 00 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 A 15 A 16 e I 17 Q 18 de 19 0 20 ey 21	 work, it looks like. I'd like to move to Exhibit 253, and we'll go to the first page of that exhibit. I think there was some confusion yesterday in the cross-examination questioning over if we could zoom in on the application of bentonite paragraph. It's the last paragraph on the bottom of the page. I want to focus in on the meaning of the word "application" in this paragraph because I think there was some confusion in the questioning yesterday. Does the first sentence indicate that the word "application" is used to refer to the application of the bentonite to the pond bottom? The first sentence refers to application to the pond bottom, yes.
23 layer.	23	JUDGE LAFAVE: Overruled.
24 But despite that, they also indicated	24	MR. MILLS: And I'm bringing clarity to
they had significant improvement in water quality	as 25	the problems that were

	Page 106			Page 108
1	a result of that cover system, and they had even	1	J	UDGE LAFAVE: The objection is
2	even had the 65 percent I believe it was roughly	2	0	verruled.
3	65 percent degree of saturation. They still had	3	Μ	IR. MILLS: Thank you.
4	adequate they still had improved water quality.	4	Т	HE WITNESS: It's speaking about the
5	So I view that as being informative,	5	ap	pplication of bentonite to the pond bottom.
6	despite the issues they encountered.	6	В	Y MR. MILLS:
7	Q. Now I want to move to Exhibit 261, please. I want	7	Q. 5	So the third sentence, the beginning says the
8	to turn to the first page of the exhibit. If we	8	sp	pecific application method. That word
9	could zoom in on the first paragraph, I want to draw	9	"a	application" is referring to application of the
10	your attention to the last sentence in that	10	be	entonite, right?
11	paragraph. I don't think that was covered	11	A. 7	That's correct.
12	yesterday. I just wanted you to read that last	12	Q. (Okay. And that sentence continues, "when we further
13	sentence of the first paragraph.	13		valuated in the years preceding its application."
14	A. "My understanding is that bentonite is used widely	14	"I	ts application" is continuing to refer
15	to create layers that retain water and reduce	15	to	the application of the bentonite, correct?
16	hydraulic conductivity, so I assume that it will	16	Μ	IS. COHEN: Objection, calls for
17	work in this role, provided that it is installed	17	sp	peculation.
18	correctly."	18	J	UDGE LAFAVE: Overruled. The witness
19	Q. And for the NorthMet project, do you believe the	19	m	nay answer.
20	bentonite amendments can be installed correctly?	20	Т	HE WITNESS: It is speaking to
21	A. I do.	21		pplication of the bentonite.
22	Q. And who was it that sent you this message?	22	B	Y MR. MILLS:
23	A. It indicates it's from Houston Kempton, and I	23	Q. 5	So it's not talking about the permit application,
24	believe he was I don't recall exactly. I believe	24		prrect?
25	he was consulting to the DNR at the time of the EIS	25	A. 7	That's correct.

	ume 2Evidentiary Hearing before Judge LaFave March 28, 2023
Page 109	Page 111
1 Q. Okay. Mr. Radue, you were asked a number of	1 confidence in their work.
2 questions about the pond cell 2W of the existing LTV	2 Q. And do you consider this test to be informative
3 basin earlier. Do you recall that?	3 about the performance of the bentonite amendment on
4 A. Yes.	4 the sides of the basin?
5 Q. And currently the LTV basin cell 2W does not have a	5 A. I do.
6 pond on it; is that right?	6 Q. And do you consider this test to be informative
7 A. That is correct.	7 about the performance of the bentonite amendment on
8 Q. Please explain what happened with respect to cell 2W	8 the beaches of the NorthMet basin?
9 at the existing LTV tailings basin?	9 A. I do.
10 A. Well, my understanding is that cell 2W was drained	
11 after cessation of operations, so that's part of the	11 A. This test was on the LTV coarse tailings, and as I
12 reason it doesn't have a pond system.	12 stated previously, the coarse tailings were modified
13 Q. And when you say it was drained, is that that was	13 with 3 percent bentonite and received a low
14 intentionally drained, to your understanding?	14 hydraulic conductivity, and it's fundamental to
15 A. There was a discharge structure from cell 2W to cell	- 0
16 1E.	16 smaller, the hydraulic conductivity gets smaller.
17 Q. Turn, please, to Exhibit 16.	17 So if we mix 3 percent bentonite with the
18 Do you recall answering questions on	18 finer flotation tailings, it follows that it will
19 cross-examination about this Exhibit 16?	19 have a low hydraulic conductivity as well.
20 A. I do.	20 Q. I'd like to turn to Exhibit 17, the next one.
21 Q. Was and these were the test results of the	21 Mr. Radue, could you please explain what
22 3 percent bentonite amendment?	22 Exhibit 17 reflects?
23 A. This particular page is the gradation of the coarse	-
tailings that was was not tested with 3 percentbentonite.	24 on a bentonite product called Envirogel. There's
25 bentonite.	25 another part which is, I'll say, marketing
Page 110	Page 112
1 MS. COHEN: Objection, misstates the	1 information about the Envirogel and its uses.
2 prior testimony. His prior testimony was this	2 And the third part is examples of
3 gradation did not include bentonite.	3 projects where soil is amended with bentonite.
4 (Court reporter requested clarification.)	4 Q. Do you consider the examples where soil was amended
5 THE WITNESS: That's what I just stated.	5 with bentonite to be informative about the bentonite
6 This is the gradation of the LTV coarse tailings.	6 amendment at the NorthMet basin?
7 Excuse me.	7 A. I do.
8 JUDGE LAFAVE: Thank you. Please	8 Q. And why is that?
9 proceed.	9 A. For cover or liner liner or cover systems. As I
10 BY MR. MILLS:	10 stated previously in my testimony, there are
11 Q. So let's step back to the whole test document that's	11 standard construction there's construction
12 reflected in Exhibit 16. The testing was done by an independent labelie that right?	
13 independent lab; is that right?	13 procedures can be applied to a wide variety of
14 A. That's correct.	14 projects.
15 Q. Do you consider this test report to be reliable?	15 They've got over a hundred examples here and Liust find it informative. It's a clear
16 A. I do.17 Q. And why is that?	 and I just find it informative. It's a clear demonstration that the bentonite amendment soils
18 A. Soil Engineering Testing is a reputable lab that's	
18 A. Son Engineering resting is a reputable lab that s19 been in business for decades. We have used them for	
 decades. They follow ASTM specifications. They 	
21 are I don't know if the right word is	about that. I want to talk about the 6.5 inches per
accredited I'll use that by the Army Corps of	-
23 Engineers. Or certified is a better word.	22 year coming out of the point bottom. In order to 23 achieve that goal of the 6.5 inches per year, are
24 Certified by the Army Corps of Engineers.	there different hydraulic conductivity rates that
25 So we have a very high degree of	can be used to achieve that?

In the Matter of the NorthMet Project	Volur	 Evidentiary Hearing before Judge LaFave
Permit to Mine Application - 60-2004-37824	3-28	March 28, 2023
	Dogo 112	Dogo 115

1 A. There are. 2 Q. And what is the variable in play that would affect 3 the differences in the hydraulic conductivity rates 6 A. Tye spoken about in Darcy's law there are, in 6 addition to the hydraulic conductivity, the other 3 Q. And then with the dams, what is the infiltration 7 A. Tye spoken about in Darcy's law there are, in 6 Q. And then with the dams, what is the infiltration 6 addition to the hydraulic conductivity, the other 7 A. 123 gallons per minute. 7 A. Ty espoken about in Darcy's law there are, in 6 Q. And then with the dams, what is the infiltration 7 a million gallons per year. 3 A. 163 million gallons per year. 8 bentonite-amended layer and then the depth of the 9 water above that layer. 10 Q. So if you were to have a higher hydraulic 10 A. 1072 gallons per minute. 11 conductivity rate, for example, the 3.9 times 10 to 11 A. 1072 gallons per year. 13 achieve that? 12 A. 56 million gallons per year. 14 A. Yes, that's correct. 13 JUDGE LAFAVE: What's your question, 16 layer would have to be to achieve the 3.9 times 10 14 as a question about the demonstrative exhibit? 17 to the negative 6? A. Id o not. 14 <t< th=""><th></th><th>Page 113</th><th></th><th>Page 115</th></t<>		Page 113		Page 115
 2 Q. And what is the variable in play that would affect the differences in the hydraulic conductivity trates for the pond bottom? 5 A. Tve spoken about in Darcy's law there are, in addition to the hydraulic conductivity, the other two variables are the thickness of the bentonite-amended layer and then the depth of the water above that layer. Q. Soi f'you were to have a higher hydraulic conductivity rate, for example, the 3.9 times 10 to achieve that? A. Yes, that's correct. Q. And do you have an estimated number of how thick the layer would have to be to achieve the 3.9 times 10 to the negative 6? A. I do not. Q. You were asked a number of questions about scepage. I want to cover that topic a bit. MR. MILLS: Please bring up Exhibit 216 ar tecord number 741193, please. A. I do, what does it depict? A. I do, sper minute from the basin pond? A. It depicts the overall water balance for the minute from the basin pond? A. It's 304 gallons per minute. Page 114 Q. And what does it depict? A. It's 304 gallons per minute. Q. I want to show you a demostrative exhibit showing or correct? I A. Yes. Q. I want to show you a demostrative exhibit showing or correct? M. R. MILLS: Si that the 304 gallons per minute Q. You wat to show you a demostrative exhibit showing the first row. Is that the 304 gallons per minute A. Yes, Son MR. MILLS: M. Yes, Son MR. MILLS: Thank you, Your Honor. Son MR. Radue, what is the score are to a darks and dams, correct? M. Twat to show you a demostrative exhibit showing the first row. Is that the 304 gallons per minute Son MR. Radue, what is the scored water 				-
 the differences in the hydraulic conductivity rates for the pond bottom? A. Tve spoken about in Darcy's law there are, in addition to the hydraulic conductivity, the other two variables are the thickness of the addition to the hydraulic conductivity, the other two variables are the thickness of the swater above that layer. Q. So if you were to have a higher hydraulic 11 conductivity rate, for example, the 3.9 times 10 to the negative 6, would you need a thicker layer to the negative 6, would you need a thicker layer to achieve that? A. Tes, that's correct. Q. And do you have an estimated number of how thick the layer would have to be to achieve the 3.9 times 10 to the negative 6? A. I do not. Q. You were asked a number of questions about seepage. I want to cover that topic a bit. MR. MILLS: Please bring up Exhibit 216 at record number 741193, please. M. R. MILLS: Please bring up Exhibit 216 at record number 741193, please. M. I do, Page 114 Q. And what does it depict? A. It do, Page 114 Q. And what to ker is the seepage rate expressed in gallons per minute. G. A. It's 304 gallons per minute. G. A. Yes. Q. I want to show you a demonstrative exhibit showing 10 to first row. Is that the 304 gallons per minute. G. A. Yes. Q. I want to show you a demonstrative exhibit showing 12 the first row. Is that the 304 gallons per minute. G. A. Yes. Q. I want to show you a demonstrative exhibit showing 12 the first row. Is that the 304 gallons per minute. G. Ma the stored water 	1 /	A. There are.	1	gallons per year?
 4 for the pond bottom? 5 A. I've spoken about in Darcy's law there are, in 6 addition to the hydraulic conductivity, the other 7 two variables are the thickness of the 8 bentonite-amended layer and then the depth of the 9 water above that layer. 10 Q. So if you were to have a higher hydraulic 11 conductivity rate, for example, the 3.9 times 10 to 12 the negative 6, would you need a thicker layer to 13 achieve that? 14 A. Yes, that's correct. 15 Q. And do you have an estimated number of how thick the 16 layer would have to be to achieve the 3.9 times 10 17 to the negative 6? 18 A. I do not. 19 Q. You were asked a number of questions about seepage. 19 Q. You were asked a number of questions about seepage. 10 M. MILLS: Please bring up Exhibit 216 21 MR. MILLS: Please bring up Exhibit 216 22 A. I do. Page 114 1 Q. And what does it depict? 2 A. It depicts the overall water balance for the 3 flotation tailings basin during long-term closure. 4 Q. And what is the seepage rate expressed in gallons 5 per minute from the basin pond? 6 A. It's 304 gallons per minute. 7 Q. I believe there was testimony earlier about there 8 would also be seepage from beaches and dams, 9 correct? 10 A. Yes. 11 Q. I want to show you a demonstrative exhibit showing 12 the first row. Is that the 304 gallons per minute 	2 (Q. And what is the variable in play that would affect	2 A	. 73 million gallons per year.
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14 A. It is. 14 water?	11 (12	the first row. Is that the 304 gallons per minute	12	
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25 Q. And then for the beaches, what is the millions of 25 Q. And then what is the stored water volume in the zo	111 (12 13 14 A 15 (16 17 A 18 (19 A 20 (21 22 A 23 (24 A	 the first row. Is that the 304 gallons per minute from the pond? A. It is. Q. And then the second column, first row, that expresses it in million of gallons per year? A. That's correct. Q. And what is the million gallons per year for pond? A. It's 160 million gallons per year. Q. And then there's an infiltration number tied to the basin beaches in the second row; is that right? A. That's correct. Q. And what is the infiltration for the beaches? A. 139 gallons per minute. 	12 13 14 15 A 16 Q 17 A 18 19 Q 20 21 A 22 Q 23	 volume in millions of gallons per year in pond water? It's 2,170,000. I believe you may have misspoke. I did misspeak, excuse me. 2 billion. Those are million gallons per year, so 2,170,000,000. So to be clear, when there's 2, comma, 170, that's expressing it in billions, correct? Yes. And then what is the stored water volume in the basin below the pond?
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Perr		8-23	March 28, 2023
	Page 117		Page 119
1	in the beaches?	1	direct or on cross.
	A. 1,510,000,000.	2	I will allow Mr. Mills to get his
	Q. And what is the stored water volume of the	3	information in.
4	under in the zone under the dams?	4	But again, I would encourage everyone to
5	A. 520 million.	5	focus on the issues we're here to address because we
6	Q. And then there's also a stored water volume related	6	are running into a time crunch.
7	to the LTV cell 2W. What is that number?	7	MS. COHEN: Your Honor, can I ask one
8	A. 19,560,000,000.	8	more clarifying question?
9	Q. And then there's also a water volume in LTV cells 1E	9	JUDGE LAFAVE: Yes.
10	and 2E. What is that volume?	10	MS. COHEN: Is this bentonite amendment
11	A. 15,300,000,000.	11	figure, or is it the figures being provided, are
12	MS. COHEN: Excuse me again, Your Honor.	12	they previous you know, the pond before the
13	You know, this morning Mr. Mills had certain	13	bentonite amendment and the beaches before the
14	complaints about Ms. Maccabee's direct examination,	14	bentonite amendment being applied?
15	that it wasn't clearly related to bentonite and its	15	JUDGE LAFAVE: You may answer the
16	background, and I guess I'm going to hold up a	16	question.
17	mirror to this particular examination.	17	THE WITNESS: This is after the bentonite
18	I'm not sure how it is relating to bentonite. I'm not sure how it is relating to	18	amendment.
19	redirect testimony related to what the witness has	19 20	MR. MILLS: And, I mean, in the interest of time, I'll just say I'll propose to mark this
20 21	testified to to this point.	20 21	as Exhibit 81 and have it in the record, and I
21 22	JUDGE LAFAVE: Mr. Mills?	21	can
22	MR. MILLS: He was asked a lot of	23	THE COURT: Ms. Maccabee, I would ask
24	questions about seepage and infiltration.	24	that you, if you'd be kind enough to eFile
25	In order to understand the context of	25	Exhibits 349 and 350. And then, Mr. Mills, if you'd
	Page 118		Page 120
1	seepage and infiltration, you have to understand how	1	be kind enough to eFile Exhibit 81.
2	much water is in the basin because when you talk	2	MR. MILLS: We were, and I have no
3	about 160 million gallons of infiltration per year,	3	further questions at this time.
4	you have to look at the denominator to figure out,	4	JUDGE LAFAVE: Ms. Maccabee.
5	well, what's the context of the overall water in the	5	MS. MACCABEE: Your Honor, when you say
6	basin.	6	eFile, did you say file 349 and 349A?
7	MS. MACCABEE: And, Your Honor, in that	7	JUDGE LAFAVE: Yes, please.
8	case, I'm going to raise an objection because the	8	MS. MACCABEE: Thank you.
9	issue is compliance with the reactive mine waste	9	MR. MILLS: And so with Exhibit 81, I'll
10	pool, not how much water is in the wetlands or in	10	try to move things on.
11	the legacy tailing basin. So that's the context in	11	JUDGE LAFAVE: Thank you very much.
12	which the 160 million is relevant is the provisions of the reactive mine waste.	12 13	Mr. Katchen, based on Mr. Mills' questions, do you have any recross?
13 14	JUDGE LAFAVE: I'll give you a chance to	13 14	MR. KATCHEN: No, Your Honor.
15	respond before I rule. Go ahead.	15	JUDGE LAFAVE: Ms. Cohen?
16	MR. MILLS: Sure. They're making a lot	16	MS. COHEN: Your Honor, I'll pass, in the
17	out of how much seepage is coming out of this pond.	17	interest of time.
18	And in order to understand the materiality, if you	18	JUDGE LAFAVE: Ms. Maccabee.
19	will, of the seepage, you need to understand how	19	MS. MACCABEE: Your Honor, in the
20	much water there is that's not coming out of the	20	interest of time, no questions.
21	basin.	21	JUDGE LAFAVE: Thank you. Mr. Holleman?
22	JUDGE LAFAVE: I understand the	22	MR. HOLLEMAN: No questions.
23	objections, and I and in fairness to Mr. Mills, I	23	JUDGE LAFAVE: Thank you all. I
24	will allow him a chance to this topic was	24	appreciate that.
25	there was a lot of questions on this topic on	25	Mr. Mills, you may call your next

Volume 2

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Evidentiary Hearing before Judge LaFave

In the Matter of the NorthMet Project

In ti Peri		ime 2 8-23	Evidentiary Hearing before Judge LaFave March 28, 2023
	Page 121		Page 123
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	 witness. And, Mr. Radue, thank you very much for your time and testimony. You may step down. MS. MACCABEE: Your Honor, off the record, please. JUDGE LAFAVE: We're back on the record. Mr. Mills? MR. MILLS: Thank you, Your Honor. PolyMet calls John Hull to the stand. JUDGE LAFAVE: Good afternoon. THE WITNESS: Good afternoon, Your Honor. JUDGE LAFAVE: Please raise your right hand. JOHN HULL, called as a witness herein, having been first duly sworn to speak the whole truth and nothing but the truth, was examined and testified as follows: JUDGE LAFAVE: Please state and spell your name. THE WITNESS: John Hull. J-O-H-N, H-U-L-L. 	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 (14 15 4 16 (17 18 19	 Q. My name is Bryson Smith. I'm an attorney on behalf the DNR. I'll be asking you a few questions. Do you mind just I know it's in your testimony, but to give everybody here some background, just what your position is and what your relationship to the NorthMet project is. A. My current position is as a senior consultant with Verdantas LLC, which is an environmental engineering firm. That is my day job. My night job, if you will, is I am also the president and technical director of another company, AquaBlok, Limited. Q. And prior to this proceeding, had you had any involvement with the NorthMet project? A. No. Q. You provided several real-world examples in your prefiled testimony regarding subaqueous underwater applications of bentonite. Do you recall that testimony generally? A. I do.
21 22 23 24 25	JUDGE LAFAVE: Thank you. Mr. Mills. MR. MILLS: Thank you, Your Honor. May I approach the witness? JUDGE LAFAVE: You may.	21 (22 23 A	 2. And some of those examples included the Machado Lake in California, correct? A. Yes. 2. As well as the east branch of the Grand Calumet River in Indiana, the Ottawa River in Ohio, the
	Page 122		Page 124
8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. MILLS: Q. Mr. Hull, good afternoon. I have provided you a copy of your the transcripts of your direct testimony, and your prefiled rebuttal testimony. Do you see that in front of you? A. I do. Q. And can you please confirm that this is your testimony, both the prefiled direct testimony and the prefiled rebuttal testimony, this is truthful and accurate? A. It appears to be. Q. And you adopt the these transcripts as your testimony in this hearing? A. I do. MR. MILLS: With that, I don't have further questions at this time. JUDGE LAFAVE: Thank you. Mr. Katchen Mr. Smith. JUDGE LAFAVE: Mr. Smith. MR. SMITH: Thank you, Your Honor. CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. SMITH: Q. Good afternoon, Mr. Hull. A. Good afternoon. 	4 (5 6 7 8 <i>A</i> 9 (10 <i>A</i> 11 12 13 14 15 (16 17 <i>A</i> 18	 Grass River in New York, and the CERCLA site in Illinois. Do you recall those examples? A. I do. And in your view, these examples lend support to the conclusion that bentonite can be successfully applied to the NorthMet project pond bottom; is that correct? A. It is. Could you summarize why you think that's the case? A. Several of the projects were similar in terms of water depth. They're all freshwater applications that I provided as examples. They entail the type of logistical constraints that one would encounter at NorthMet, and they were successfully performed. And when you say they entailed similar logistical constraints, what are you referring to there? Water depth primarily. Side slopes, beaches, inclined areas. I'd like to call your attention to page 4, line 50, of your direct testimony, please. And starting on line 50, it's highlighted on the big screen here. You say, "I have personally incorporated bentonite and bentonite-based products in waste containment and water control projects. I have designed since at least the mid-1980s. In all

	me 2Evidentiary Hearing before Judge LaFave8-23March 28, 2023
Page 125	Page 127
1 instances the designs performed as intended."	1 A. Yes.
2 My first question is, is the examples	2 Q. What about long-term performance? So, you know,
3 you're giving here, are these the same examples we	3 some of these you say in your testimony the
4 just discussed including Machado Lake, or are these	4 bentonite was applied successfully.
5 different examples?	5 Are you aware of monitoring protocols at
6 A. Different examples, generally use of bentonite as a	6 these sites to determine if the hydraulic
7 geotechnical amendment.	7 conductivity is being maintained at a certain level
8 Q. And could you elaborate a little bit just on the	8 over the long run?
9 examples you're referring to here, what kinds of	9 A. The monitoring at the sites are probably different,
10 projects and applications you're referring to?	10 and in some cases that I have personal knowledge of,
11 A. Designed and permitted and overseen the construction	11 they are. They are different. They're site
12 of numerous landfills for municipal solid waste,	12 specific.
13 residual industrial waste, coal combustion	I am familiar with applications of
14 byproducts, those sorts of things.	14 bentonite amendments where the finished product has
15 And in some cases I incorporated	15 been product being the project has been
bentonite materials to either improve the naturalsoil conditions or to augment a liner system and	 monitored for years with evidence of continued success of typically providing a containment
 soil conditions or to augment a liner system and critical components such as under in a leaching 	success of typically providing a containmentfunction.
 19 collection sump where I wanted to have belt and 	19 Q. And in these various projects, was there some
 suspenders, if you will, to provide extra 	20 degradation of the bentonite application over time?
21 protection.	21 A. I don't recall any indication of any measurable
22 Q. Okay. And when you say in all instances, the	22 degradation over time.
23 designs performed as intended, were there	23 Q. And do you know if any field tests were conducted at
24 quantifiable metrics that were being targeted there,	these various example sites prior to the
or is that it might vary by case.	25 installation of the bentonite application?
Page 126	Page 128
Page 126	Page 128
1 And so, tell me, was it the general	1 A. They're typically
 And so, tell me, was it the general intent to reduce water infiltration or were there 	 A. They're typically JUDGE LAFAVE: Mr. Hull, why don't you
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In the Matter of the NorthMet ProjectVoPermit to Mine Application - 60-2004-378243-	ume 2Evidentiary Hearing before Judge I8-23March 23	
Page 12	Pa	ge 131
 Most of the tests are fairly short-lived. It doesn't take too long to determine the conditions in the field relative to permeability. BY MR. SMITH: Q. And we talked about, you know, these subaqueous applications. You think that supports the 	 A. First there was a field pilot test several year ago, and then last year there was an application of the previous year. I'm losing track of the quark of the quark of the previous how how large that tailings factors was? A. A very large facility. This was just a porting that the previous of the previous of the quark of the quar	tion. ime. cility
 conclusion that bentonite could be applied to the pond bottom in this case. Do you think the examples you've given also support the conclusion that bentonite can be successfully applied to the beaches and the dam sides at the flotations facility? 	 7 it. I'm not privy to how they determined whe 8 put it or why. I just saw the extent of it and 9 amount of material that was provided. 10 Q. And do you have a ballpark in terms of acreas 11 how big a portion AquaBlok was applied to? 12 A. I don't. 	re to l the ge for
 13 A. Yes. 14 Q. And why is that? 15 A. Several of the projects, examples provided included areas that were side slopes similar to the beaches and several of those areas, the opportunity for preparation of the surfaces was rather limited, but that could be overcome by application methods and the types of materials that you put on. 21 Q. And so for some of these examples, how were those obstacles overcome? 23 A. Some cases used sorry. 24 Q. It's not just you. We were having issues yesterday as well. 	 13 Q. And where is this facility located? 14 A. In Minnesota. I have not been there. I don't list exactly. It's a Cleveland-Cliffs property. 16 Q. Is that, generally speaking, northern Minnesota. I New York Yes. 18 Q. Are you aware of any real-world examples with bentonite has been mixed in-situ with tailing opposed to being applied on top of the tailing. 21 A. Just some of the literature that I reviewe 22 Q. And what were some of those sites; do you knot the top of your head? 24 A. The Whistle Mine report. 25 Q. Any others? 	sota? where s as gs? d.
Page 13	Pa	ge 132
Page 13 1 A. Some cases involve the use of mats to provide a proximity for general construction equipment to reach the areas. We worked off of pontoons of barges offshore to reach onshore in some areas Material could be applied remotely by telescoping conveyors that can reach out as much as 200 feet to reach an area. In my experience, materials applied by such means can be applied fairly accurately and uniformly over the surface. 10 Q. Are you aware of any real-world examples where theorem the surface of the su	 Page 1 A. Not in depth. 2 Q. And going back to the prior application when just on top of the tailings, you gave the Minor am I saying that right? 5 A. Yes. 6 Q. That mine. 7 Are there any other examples you're aware of to bentonite being applied on top of tailing. 9 A. Not tailings per se, but quarry waste mater. 10 Q. And do you know where those projects wer. 11 A. Illinois, several in Ohio. 12 Q. And we've heard some testimony about the beach 	e it's ca gs? rials. e?

In the Matter of the NorthMet Project Permit to Mine Application - 60-2004-37824	Volume 2 3-28-23	Evidentiary Hearing before Judge LaFave March 28, 2023
Pa	je 133	Page 135
 where bentonite's been applied subaqueously to be much smaller applications than what's bei proposed for the 900-acre pond bottom in this 	ng 2 deep, th rase? 3 most a	eally. Actually, after you get several feet e material seems to go on smoother through pplication methods.
 4 A. To date, that's correct. 5 Q. And do you think there are challenges regates a scalability, you know, going from the Machado b 	ding 5 aware of ake, 6 A. Five	what's the greatest depth of application you're of for bentonite being applied subaqueously? mundred feet.
 for example, which I believe is approximatel 45 acres, going to a 900-acre application her there any challenges that you foresee? 	e, are 8 A. That 9 drillin	vas in a well where it was applied through a g fluid to address a crack in the bedrock
 10 A. No. Actually, there are opportunities by g 11 larger. 12 Q. And what do you mean by that? 	11 fluids t 12 and plu	s causing the well drilling operation to lose oo fast. And so they needed to address that g that, seal that before they could continue
 A. Economies of scale come into play very quickly materials can be manufactured on-site, which r in significant cost savings. The contractor 	sults14Q.And ywill15A.It wa	
 typically learn a lot and refine their operation and end up with a much more uniform and eff process. 	cient 17 prefile 18 patents	on the exhibits you submitted along with your I testimony, it looks like you had several for various bentonite products; is that
 19 Q. Okay. So generally, if you're talking econom scale, you mean the bigger the application, the efficient things become on a per-unit basis in t 	more 20 A. That erms 21 Q. Includ	s correct. ing patents regarding the use of a product you
 22 of both labor and materials? 23 A. Yes, both. 24 Q. Do you think there's any potential for thing. 	23 A. That	ned earlier, AquaBlok, right? s correct. e you involved in the marketing operations of
25 wave action in a larger body of water to have	25 AquaE	lok? Page 136
impacts that could adversely impact the bentamendment?		rectly. I'm more involved with the technical
 3 A. The wave action that may occur on the prop 4 tailing basins is probably going to be fairly 5 minimal. That's a fairly small fetch, which is 	4 whethe	r opinion, does the type of bentonite used, r it's powdered, granulated, pelletized, or ok specifically versus some other brand, does
 distance the wind blows over the water to crea waves. And the water depth would allow for 	7 applica	tter in terms of the effectiveness of the tion? s matter. Typically, thought is given to the
9 dissipation of significant wave energy befor10 bottom were to be impacted.	the 9 type of 10 selecte	application, and the materials that are d for a particular performance is given eration.
 9 dissipation of significant wave energy befor 10 bottom were to be impacted. 11 Some of the beach areas could be perhaps 12 affected by wave action, but that to me wou 13 more of a maintenance activity to make sure 	e the9type of10selected11considd be12Q. So ifthat13succes	d for a particular performance is given eration. you had an example where AquaBlok was sfully applied to sufficiently restrict the
 9 dissipation of significant wave energy befor 10 bottom were to be impacted. 11 Some of the beach areas could be perhaps 12 affected by wave action, but that to me wou 13 more of a maintenance activity to make sure 14 didn't become detrimental to the overall product of the sure of the sure and the sure of the	e the9type o10selecter11considd be12Q. So ifthat13succesoject.14infiltrations that15support16similar	d for a particular performance is given eration. you had an example where AquaBlok was sfully applied to sufficiently restrict the tion of water, do you think that lends to the idea that a non-AquaBlok product can ly be successful in restricting water
 9 dissipation of significant wave energy befor 10 bottom were to be impacted. 11 Some of the beach areas could be perhaps 12 affected by wave action, but that to me wou 13 more of a maintenance activity to make sure 14 didn't become detrimental to the overall pro- 15 Q. And when you say a maintenance issue, what doe 16 maintenance process entail? 17 A. The current project, as I recall, does antice 18 some armoring of some of the beach areas 19 riprap, and that is intended to protect the 	e the9type of10selecter11considerd be12Q. So ifthat13successoject.14infiltrations that15support16similaripate17infiltrationwith18A. The A19high-var	d for a particular performance is given eration. you had an example where AquaBlok was sfully applied to sufficiently restrict the tion of water, do you think that lends to the idea that a non-AquaBlok product can ly be successful in restricting water tion? quaBlok product is challenging to deliver lue, fine-grain particles through water to a
 9 dissipation of significant wave energy befor 10 bottom were to be impacted. 11 Some of the beach areas could be perhaps 12 affected by wave action, but that to me wou 13 more of a maintenance activity to make sure 14 didn't become detrimental to the overall pro- 15 Q. And when you say a maintenance issue, what doe 16 maintenance process entail? 17 A. The current project, as I recall, does antic 18 some armoring of some of the beach areas 	e the9type o10selecter11considd be12Q. So ifthat13succesoject.14infiltras that15support16similaropate17infiltrawith18A. The A19high-va20wateran21Benton	d for a particular performance is given eration. you had an example where AquaBlok was sfully applied to sufficiently restrict the tion of water, do you think that lends to the idea that a non-AquaBlok product can ly be successful in restricting water tion? quaBlok product is challenging to deliver

In the Matter of the NorthMet Project Permit to Mine Application - 60-2004-37824	Volume 2 3-28-23	Evidentiary Hearing before Judge LaFave March 28, 2023
Page	e 137	Page 139
1 Q. Okay. But more specifically, when bentonite we	orks 1	permeability and existing tailings at the pond
2 in a specific application, do you think that lend	ds 2	bottom surface."
3 support to the use of bentonite more generical	ly 3	And then you cite to Mr. Radue's
4 beyond AquaBlok being used to limit water	4	testimony. And you continue, "Nonetheless, I do
5 infiltration?	5	believe the pond bottom could be amended with
6 A. Oh, yes.	6	bentonite to achieve a pond bottom hydraulic
7 Q. Why is that?	7	conductivity of less than 2 times 10 to the negative
8 A. It has a very long record of being used in a lo		8 centimeters per second if it were necessary."
9 different product applications for sealing, fr		Do you see that?
10 trench dams to grout slurry walls, manage soils		. I do.
11 building dams and liners.	11 Q	
12 There are other commercial products that	12	the hydraulic conductivity; I think your testimony
13 include bentonite components in them to prov		speaks for itself as to why you think these numbers
14 water sealing for basement walls or for	14	are attainable.
15 incorporation into liner systems that have differ tupog of loyers and functions		But I do want to address this idea that
16 types of layers and functions.	16	you say a lower hydraulic conductivity could be
17 Q. And do you know if PolyMet intends to use AquaE18 in regard to its flotation tailings basin?		achieved if it were necessary. And my question is, once you apply the
18 in regard to its flotation tailings basin?19 A. I'm sorry. Could you state that again?	18	bentonite, is it a static hydraulic conductivity, or
20 Q. Sure. Do you know if PolyMet intendeds to y	19 use 20	is there a way to modulate the hydraulic
21 AquaBlok in its bentonite application to the	use 20 21	conductivity in order to achieve a lesser or greater
22 NorthMet facility?	22	hydraulic conductivity?
23 A. I believe that the application is appropriate		We have actually had, at AquaBlok, customers select
the flotation tailings basin.	24	a permeability, and we've provided materials,
25 Q. Right, but to your knowledge, do you know if Polyl		different blends to achieve the permeability that
Page	e 138	Page 140
1 intends to use AquaBlok?	1	they wanted for a particular application.
2 A. They have included in their design an AquaB	lok 2	So there's quite a range that could be
3 product name as an option.	3	provided.
4 Q. But you don't know if they intend to use that	4 Q	. And what goes into that process of choosing the
5 definitively, correct?	5	select the targeted hydraulic conductivity?
6 A. No.	6 A.	The types of clay minerals that are applied can be
7 Q. And what is that AquaBlok-named product?	7	one factor. The particle sizes can be a second
8 A. PondSeal.	8	factor. And then the probably the major factor
9 Q. And everything you've testified about so far	9	is the amount of bentonite by weight relative to the
10 regarding the application of bentonite, would th		finished product.
statements be consistent as applied to the PondS	-	And when you come up with a different product for a
12 product?	12	different project, is that a different material
13 A. Yes.	13	every time or does it all fall under the same
		•
14 Q. I'd like to refer you to page 11 of your rebutta	al 14	AquaBlok brand, it's just a modification of the same
14 Q. I'd like to refer you to page 11 of your rebutta15 testimony, starting at line 206.	al 14 15	AquaBlok brand, it's just a modification of the same product?
 14 Q. I'd like to refer you to page 11 of your rebutta 15 testimony, starting at line 206. 16 A. I see it. 	al 14 15 16 A	AquaBlok brand, it's just a modification of the same product?Modification of the same product.
 14 Q. I'd like to refer you to page 11 of your rebuttants testimony, starting at line 206. 16 A. I see it. 17 Q. Okay, great. You're talking about the adaptive starting at line 206. 	al 14 15 16 A ve 17 Q	 AquaBlok brand, it's just a modification of the same product? Modification of the same product. If you could turn to page 21 of your rebuttal
 14 Q. I'd like to refer you to page 11 of your rebuttant testimony, starting at line 206. 16 A. I see it. 17 Q. Okay, great. You're talking about the adaptive water management plan, and at the end of that 	al 14 15 16 A ve 17 Q 18	 AquaBlok brand, it's just a modification of the same product? Modification of the same product. If you could turn to page 21 of your rebuttal testimony, line 408.
 14 Q. I'd like to refer you to page 11 of your rebuttatestimony, starting at line 206. 16 A. I see it. 17 Q. Okay, great. You're talking about the adaptive water management plan, and at the end of that paragraph you say, "I understand that the purpose 	al 14 15 16 A ve 17 Q 18 e of 19 A	 AquaBlok brand, it's just a modification of the same product? Modification of the same product. If you could turn to page 21 of your rebuttal testimony, line 408. I see it.
 14 Q. I'd like to refer you to page 11 of your rebuttatestimony, starting at line 206. 16 A. I see it. 17 Q. Okay, great. You're talking about the adaptive water management plan, and at the end of that paragraph you say, "I understand that the purpose the bentonite-amended layer for the pond bottom 	al 14 15 16 A ve 17 Q 18 e of 19 A n is 20 Q	 AquaBlok brand, it's just a modification of the same product? Modification of the same product. If you could turn to page 21 of your rebuttal testimony, line 408. I see it. Okay. And you say, "The bentonite amendment would
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 14 Q. I'd like to refer you to page 11 of your rebuttatestimony, starting at line 206. 16 A. I see it. 17 Q. Okay, great. You're talking about the adaptive water management plan, and at the end of that paragraph you say, "I understand that the purpose the bentonite-amended layer for the pond bottom to maintain a positive pond water balance. 22 To achieve this objective, a target permeability of approximately 3.9 times 10 to 	al 14 15 16 A ve 17 Q 18 e of 19 A n is 20 Q 21 22 the 23	 AquaBlok brand, it's just a modification of the same product? Modification of the same product. If you could turn to page 21 of your rebuttal testimony, line 408. I see it. Okay. And you say, "The bentonite amendment would not degrade rapidly, and while the system might increase in overall permeability over time, I believe the overall system mechanics anticipate and
 14 Q. I'd like to refer you to page 11 of your rebuttatestimony, starting at line 206. 16 A. I see it. 17 Q. Okay, great. You're talking about the adaptive water management plan, and at the end of that paragraph you say, "I understand that the purpose the bentonite-amended layer for the pond bottom to maintain a positive pond water balance. 22 To achieve this objective, a target 	al 14 15 16 A ve 17 Q 18 e of 19 A n is 20 Q 21 22 the 23 l 24	 AquaBlok brand, it's just a modification of the same product? Modification of the same product. If you could turn to page 21 of your rebuttal testimony, line 408. I see it. Okay. And you say, "The bentonite amendment would not degrade rapidly, and while the system might increase in overall permeability over time, I

	Low 2Evidentiary Hearing before Judge LaFave March 28, 2023
Page 14	1 Page 143
1 A. I do.	1 get into the specifics. I was just curious what the
2 Q. And so do you acknowledge that the bentonite	2 reference was to just to give us context on this
3 amendment may degrade over time?	3 quote.
4 A. Certain aspects of its performance may degrade over	-
5 time, but that is highly unlikely in this particular	c containment systems are not at issue in this trial
6 scenario, in my opinion.	6 but you can answer the question. And if you need to
7 Q. Why is that?	7 mention it for context, that's fine, but don't go
8 A. The material that will be reaching the amended	d 8 into the specifics of the seepage control.
9 barrier layer will be primarily rainwater. It may	
10 pick up some cations as it goes through the	10 comments to bentonite.
11 overlying layers, but that will be relatively	11 JUDGE LAFAVE: Thank you.
12 dilute, and my experience with the basic bentonite	
13 materials that we use and production of our products	
14 is that that would have a negligible impact on its	
15 performance from that aspect.	15 bentonite materials, particularly in the pond bottom
16 Q. Okay. But you do acknowledge there could be some	
17 degradation of the bentonite amendment over time?	
18 A. Bentonite is a geologic material, so the basic	18 BY MR. SMITH:
 material is not going to degrade over time as a function of any biological process. 	
 20 function of any biological process. 21 It keeps its properties basically 	20 from petitioners' and DNR's expert?21 A. I have.
22 forever.	22 Q. And after reviewing all that testimony, did any of
23 Q. In regard to potential cation exchange, which you	
24 mentioned, do you acknowledge there could be some	
increase in the hydraulic conductivity over time due	· ·
Page 14	2 Page 144
1 to some marginal diminishment of the performance	? 1 Q. I appreciate your time. I think that's all I have
2 A. In this particular application, on the side slopes	, 2 for now.
3 et cetera, I think it would be negligible.	3 A. Thank you.
4 Q. And do you consider yourself an expert on cation	•
5 exchange?	5 Ms. Cohen.
6 A. I know the basics.	6 CROSS-EXAMINATION
7 Q. Okay. Would Dr. Diedrich be a better person to as	
8 about the more specifics of cation exchange?	8 Q. Mr. Hull, I usually have the very same mic problems
9 A. She would. And I have had in my employ a PhD clay	
10 mineralogy expert helping with the development o	
11 the products and I've learned a lot from him.	11 don't like that.
12 Q. In this quote here you say, "I believe the overall	-
13 system mechanics anticipate and compensate for such14 an eventuality."	
16 the overall system mechanics?17 A. My understanding is that there's a seepage control	
17 A. Wy understanding is that there's a scepage control 18 system	18 rebuttal testimony and I assume you were not
MS. COHEN: Your Honor, we're going to	19 offended.
20 object to this.	20 A. No.
21 You beat me to it, Paula. Go ahead.	21 Q. So you are a licensed engineer, correct?
22 MS. MACCABEE: Objection. This one	22 A. I am.
23 this issue is very squarely in the area where you	23 Q. And you've been working with various waste
asked that there be no discussion at all.	24 containment and water projects for a very long time,
25 MR SMITH: Your Honor I'm not trying to	25 A0 years correct?

MR. SMITH: Your Honor, I'm not trying to

25

25

40 years, correct?

in the Perm		ıme 2 8-23	Evidentiary Hearing before Judge LaFave March 28, 2023
	Page 145		Page 147
1 A	A. Over 45.	1	BY MS. COHEN:
	2. And a lot of those involved your patented product		Q. But to your knowledge, they have not agreed to a
3	which is called AquaBlok, or a related product	3	proposal or signed a contract with your company,
4	called PondSeal, correct?	4	what you call your night business, which is the
5 A	. No, most of my experience has been with conventional	5	AquaBlok company?
6	containment liner systems.		A. I believe on the drawings it says PondSeal or
7 Ç	Okay. Is it liner systems mostly or cover systems?	7	equivalent. That could be any number of things.
	. It's the same thing depending on where you place it	8	But, no, there's been no discussion of a purchase
9	and what you're trying to accomplish.	9	order or really costs.
10 Ç	Okay. So you focus on cover systems such as what is	10	Q. Okay. But nevertheless, you seem to have at this
L1	being proposed here, correct?	11	point, you know, Mr. Radue apparently thinks that
12 A	. I have designed cap systems for waste containment	12	there's some kind of an arrangement, correct?
13	facilities.	13	MR. MILLS: Objection to the extent it
14 Q	2. And those involved, as you say, conventional	14	misstates Mr. Radue's testimony.
L5	bentonite?	15	JUDGE LAFAVE: Sustained.
16 A	. They have largely involved native soils. They have	16	THE WITNESS: I've had no discussions
17	included, in some instances, other products,	17	with Mr. Radue about any business applications here.
18	including bentonite and liner systems, to achieve	18	BY MS. COHEN:
L9	the design effect.	19	Q. Okay. And so at the your testimony, you said
20 Q		20	PolyMet didn't contact you about this product until
21	systems that you have described involve what we'll	21	this hearing, correct?
22	call, for lack of a better term, classic bentonite,	22	
23	not your patented products, just some of the systems		Q. And so can you please tell me what permit support
24	involved bentonite.	24	documents you reviewed for your testimony beside the
25	Others were other kinds of soil systems,	25	2019 testimony?
	Page 146		Page 148
1	maybe including natural clays, magnesium clays,	1	A. I've looked at a lot of information. I can't recall
2	calcium clays, clays that were just being compacted	2	the name of every document. I've seen some of the
3	and used for cover systems, correct?	3	plan drawings.
4 A	. By and large my experience is in native soil cover		Q. Okay.
5	systems.		A. Some of the supporting documents.
). Okay. By "native soil" you mean what?		Q. I've asked you this question because I think, like
7 A		7	Mr. Smith, I was struck by the fact that you
8 Q		8	referred to the targeted permeability of the pond
	A. Near the construction project.	9	bottom as 3.9 times 10 to the negative 6 centimeters
). Okay. So the engineers would set up a hydraulic	10	per second, but your citation for that was actually
11	conductivity standard and you would look for a	11	Mr. Radue's testimony.
12	source of that material that would be nearby and it		A. I don't understand the question.
13	could be placed and compacted and would meet that		Q. Well, I guess the question was, are you getting your information from Mr. Badua or are you getting your
L4.	standard, correct?	14	information from Mr. Radue or are you getting your information from the actual application documents
	A. Generally, yes.	15	information from the actual application documents that have been submitted?
	2. Okay. So today, for the first time during Mr. Radue's testimony. Lheard that PolyMet would	16	A. I believe I received most of the information from
17	Mr. Radue's testimony, I heard that PolyMet would		
18	use AquaBlok for the pond bottom. Are you aware of that?	18	the my review of the documents.
L9			Q. Okay. So but you don't recall which documents
20	MR. MILLS: Objection to the extent it misstates Mr. Radue's testimony	20	specifically you reviewed? A. No.
21 22	misstates Mr. Radue's testimony. JUDGE LAFAVE: Noted. You may proceed.		Q. Okay. Are you familiar with the modeling on this
22	THE WITNESS: It's been my understanding	44	Q. Okay. Are you familiar with the modeling of this

- 22 JUDGE LAFAVE: Noted. You may proceed.
- 23 **THE WITNESS:** It's been my understanding
- that it is one option that they have considered and 24 looked into. 25

23

24 A. No.

25 Q. Okay.

project?

In th Pern	e Matter of the NorthMet Project Volu nit to Mine Application - 60-2004-37824 3-2	ime 2 8-23	2	Evidentiary Hearing before Judge LaFave March 28, 2023
	Page 149			Page 151
1 /	A. I don't exist.	1	J	UDGE LAFAVE: Are you referring to the
2 (Q. You don't exist, but that is not one of the	2		ext line in the next question in the testimony?
3	documents that you've reviewed, correct?	3	\mathbf{M}	IS. COHEN: Actually, no, I'm not.
4 A	A. Reviewed is a relative term. I have been provided	4		UDGE LAFAVE: Then if the witness
5	with several feet of documents, and the amount of	5		nderstands the definition referred to, you may
6	time I've spent looking over individual documents	6		nswer. If you need more clarification, please ask.
7	has been variable.	7	\mathbf{M}	IS. COHEN: Well, I'll rephrase the
8 (Q. So I don't want to put you on the spot here,	8	-	uestion.
9	Mr. Hull, but if this figure that you're using in	9		Y MS. COHEN:
10	your testimony, the 3.9 times 10 to the negative 6,	10	_	Do you feel like you have a dispute with
11	was different from the modeling used, you would	11		etitioners' experts, any dispute over what
12	agree that it would make a difference in a couple of	12	-	ractical and workable means?
13	things, including the amount of water flowing			I have one major dispute.
14	through the bottom of the tailings pond and into the		-	And what's that?
15	groundwater, correct?			Ay reading of their definition seems to hinge on the
	A. It could.	16		rcumstance that if it hasn't been done before at a
	Q. And it would also probably make a difference in	17		ertain scale or exactly as is proposed, that it has
18	terms of how much AquaBlok would be necessary,	18		ot been demonstrated as being practicable or
19	correct?	19		orkable. And I took exception with that ualification.
	A. No, not necessarily.Q. And just to be clear, Mr. Hull, when I say AquaBlok,	20 21	-	Okay. I mean, we'll talk about that a little bit
21 0	I'm talking about the AquaBlok family. It could	21	-	ien.
22	include other products as well.	22		o I just wanted to ask you, you talked
23 24	All right. So I'd like to talk to you a	23		bout the Minorca mine, correct?
25	little bit about your definition of "practical		A. 1	
	·····		-	
	Page 150			Page 152
1	workable." And this was in your testimony. I hope	1	Q. A	And you're not deeply familiar with it but you knew
2	you've reviewed your testimony so we can talk	2	th	at a pilot test was conducted, for example?
3	quickly about this.	3	A.]	l am aware of that.
4	But I'll read to you from your rebuttal	4	Q. A	And so would you and when I was reading your
5	testimony what your definition was. It's,	5		stimony, it seems like most of the projects that
6	"Practical and workable is that it considers the	6		ou worked on involve some form of field testing or
7	materials and methods, e.g. equipment, skill sets,	7		lot testing before you went live, so to speak, and
8	et cetera, necessary to accomplish a goal are	8		uilt the project?
9	available, are relatively cost effective, can be	9		IR. MILLS: Object to form, foundation.
10	completed safely, and do not rely on challenges or	10		UDGE LAFAVE: Overruled.
11	performances that are not regularly achievable at	11		HE WITNESS: It's not uncommon to
12	full-scale applications."	12		omplete pilot tests or field tests to determine the
13	Does that sound familiar?	13		est means and methods to accomplish a design goal.
	A. It sounds familiar. Could you give me the	14		Y MS. COHEN:
15	reference, please?	15		And if a project is considered a complex one or a
	2. Sure. It's your rebuttal testimony, page 4,	16		rge one, would it be your recommendation that a
17	lines 67 through 70. And I think we have it on the screen for you, if you'd like to look there.	17	-	lot testing and the fairly you know, pilot sting be done? We can just leave it at that,
18	A. Okay.	18 19		ilot testing.
	Q. And Mr. Hull, I understand you might have looked		-	Actually, a large project of some duration and size
20 Q 21	also at Petitioners' expert's testimony and that's	20		nds itself to actually fine-tuning the means and
21	not too far off from what our expert said. Do you	21		ethods while you're in the process of project
23	agree?	23		ompletion.
24	MR. MILLS: Object to form and	24		But you would agree, Mr. Hull, on a project that
25	foundation.	25		volves environmental impacts more in the nature
1		1		r

	ume 2Evidentiary Hearing before Judge LaFave March 28, 2023
Page 153	Page 155
 almost of a remediation project, you can't really take your time to implement the cover system on the pond because all while you are adjusting and trying to make it work, the thing that you're trying to control is not being controlled? You would agree with that? A. On a remediation project, say a spill response project, then containing the issue, minimizing potential impacts, so time is of the essence, absolutely. On an existing facility that is being run and operated and maintained, I don't think that is critical. Q. But you would agree, Mr. Hull, we've we have here a situation where we have reactive mine waste, which if it isn't properly contained in closure, could be having an environmental impact? A. Any facility that isn't operated or contained in closure properly could have an impact. Q. Right, and you wouldn't want to rely on having to adapt the application at closure when you have an opportunity first to figure out whether it worked through pilot testing or field testing, correct? 	 3 your original design is still valid, correct? 4 A. That's not unreasonable. 5 Q. And you would further agree that if your design has 6 to change significantly, you might find out that, 7 for example, the permittee is not satisfied and 8 wanting to pay for it? 9 MR. MILLS: Object to form and to scope. 10 JUDGE LAFAVE: The objection is 11 overruled. You may answer. 12 MR. MILLS: Can I clarify? 13 JUDGE LAFAVE: Sure. 14 MR. MILLS: DNR specifically excluded 15 financial assurances from this proceeding, and I 16 think the reserves question 17 JUDGE LAFAVE: I didn't take that as a 18 financial reserve question. You may if you can 19 remember what the question was, repeat it. Please 20 re-ask the question. 21 BY MS. COHEN: 22 Q. So I will ask the question again, Mr. Hull. So you
through pilot testing or field testing, correct?	23 would not want to get to the point of having to
 24 A. I would not propose a remedy that I didn't think would work in the first place. 	close a facility only to discover that what youassumed was going to work isn't going to work and
Page 154 1 Q. I have	Page 156 1 you have to do something more expensive because the
 2 A. That's the engineer's job, is to identify 3 alternatives and do preliminary evaluations and 	2 permittee may not have anticipated that cost,3 correct?
4 select something.	4 A. You're asking a question of me as in what role,
5 Q. I agree with you, Mr. Hull, that's the engineer's	5 what capacity?
6 job. So you would want the engineer to do that job7 to the best of their ability before the project	6 Q. I'm putting you in the role of the engineer who's7 designing the closure plan for the purpose of
8 actually starts, correct?	8 submitting a permit application to the DNR to get
 9 A. The best of the ability oftentimes is when the 10 project starts where you have a particular 	9 this thing permitted, to get the mine permitted.10 And you're that is your role in this
10 project starts where you have a particular 11 contractor on board, you have the best knowledge of	10 And you're mat is you'role in this 11 question.
12 the existing conditions at that time, as opposed to	12 A. I have designed and permitted many, many waste
13 a projection of what the conditions will be, you	13 containment facilities, and I have provided cost
14 know, way down the road.	14 estimates to the clients, and the discussions
 It's very common in construction of large containment projects to have some design components 	between them and the state agencies on financialassurances is above my pay grade.
 selected, and then prior, just prior to the 	17 Q. I agree. And that's not what we're talking about
18 construction, completing field testing to verify	18 here today. But you agree as a responsible
19 your design approaches.	19 engineer, it is part of your job to advise your
20 Q. Mr. Hull, I don't disagree with you, but you would	20 client before they move forward with the project of
 also agree that you don't start a mine without knowing, having some idea of how you're going to do 	what the cost will likely be when it comes to thepoint of having to actually execute a plan?
the closure, right? That wouldn't be responsible	== point of having to actuary execute a plan.
25 the closure, light. That wouldn't be responsible	23 A. Typically, the engineer's job is to design something
24 engineering?	A. Typically, the engineer's job is to design somethingthat will work, that is cost efficient. That's one
C 1	

In the M Permit t		ime 2 8-23	Evidentiary Hearing before Judge LaFav March 28, 202
	Page 157		Page 159
1 tł	he client and we relay that information to the best	1	Oh, no, that's it. "Laboratory
2 0	of our ability.	2	conditions can almost never perform exactly as
зQ.	Right, and that's consistent with your definition of	3	large-scale field implementations."
4 p	practical and workable, it has to be cost effective,	4	THE WITNESS: Your Honor, could I correct
	correct?	5	that?
6 A.	Yes.	6	JUDGE LAFAVE: What would you
-	And that means the client has to know what the costs	7	MS. COHEN: Your Honor, I'm perfectly
8 a	are and be ready to pay for them at that time?	8	willing, if Mr. Hull wants to correct his testimony,
	There are typically contingents provided for in any	9	that's just fine with me. We want a good record
	estimates.	10	here.
	Sure. So, for example, if you if there was a	11	JUDGE LAFAVE: Thank you.
-	possibility, as a prudent engineer, that more	12	Mr. Hull.
	pentonite or more PondSeal might be needed, you	13	THE WITNESS: That was a little poorly
	would want your client to understand what the cost	14	worded. Laboratory conditions and field conditions
	of that might be?	15	rarely are exactly the same. It doesn't mean one
	Yes.	16	performs better than the other.
	And this segues very nicely into some questions I'd	17	JUDGE LAFAVE: Thank you.
	ike to ask you about testing.	18	Ms. Cohen.
	IUDGE LAFAVE: Is this a good time for a	19	BY MS. COHEN:
	preak, Ms. Cohen?		Q. Yes, but you also said that a practiced engineer
	MS. COHEN: No, it's fine.	21	never relies solely on laboratory outputs, correct?
	IUDGE LAFAVE: Let's we need to		A. Correct.
	give make sure our court reporter gets a break.		Q. Then laboratory outputs are just a place to start,
	MS. COHEN: Yes, we do. IUDGE LAFAVE: We're in recess for 15	24	correct?
25 J	UDGE LAFAVE: we le li lecess loi 15	25 /	A. When you say rely, that context makes that question
	Page 158		Page 160
1 n	ninutes.	1	difficult for me to answer.
2 (Recess taken.)	2	Q. Those are your words so hopefully you can explain
з Ј	UDGE LAFAVE: Good afternoon. We are	3	them better. I'm not getting the gist of them.
4 b	ack on the record. Mr. Hull, I remind you that you	4	But you said, "A practiced engineer,"
	re still under oath.	-	
6 Т		5	this is your line 32, "never relies solely on
	THE WITNESS: I understand.	6	laboratory outputs."
	UDGE LAFAVE: Ms. Cohen.	6	laboratory outputs." A. Through the execution of a project, while we may
8 E	IUDGE LAFAVE: Ms. Cohen. BY MS. COHEN:	6	laboratory outputs."A. Through the execution of a project, while we may rely on the laboratory results or modeling to design
8 E 9Q.	IUDGE LAFAVE: Ms. Cohen. 3Y MS. COHEN: Mr. Hull, I believe where we left off is I had just	6 7	 laboratory outputs." A. Through the execution of a project, while we may rely on the laboratory results or modeling to design something, during the execution of the project,
8 F 9 Q. 10 fi	IUDGE LAFAVE: Ms. Cohen. BY MS. COHEN: Mr. Hull, I believe where we left off is I had just inished asking you some questions about whether it	6 7 8 9 10	 laboratory outputs." A. Through the execution of a project, while we may rely on the laboratory results or modeling to design something, during the execution of the project, construction activities typically require quality
8 E 9 Q. 10 fi 11 v	IUDGE LAFAVE: Ms. Cohen. BY MS. COHEN: Mr. Hull, I believe where we left off is I had just inished asking you some questions about whether it would be advisable to know what the cost of a	6 7 8 9 10 11	 laboratory outputs." A. Through the execution of a project, while we may rely on the laboratory results or modeling to design something, during the execution of the project, construction activities typically require quality control, quality assurance activities that are done
8 E 9 Q. 10 fi 11 v 12 c	IUDGE LAFAVE: Ms. Cohen. BY MS. COHEN: Mr. Hull, I believe where we left off is I had just inished asking you some questions about whether it would be advisable to know what the cost of a closure plant is going to be at the time you start a	6 7 9 10 11 12	 laboratory outputs." A. Through the execution of a project, while we may rely on the laboratory results or modeling to design something, during the execution of the project, construction activities typically require quality control, quality assurance activities that are done at the time the activity is being complete.
8 F 9 Q. 10 fi 11 v 12 c 13 n	IUDGE LAFAVE: Ms. Cohen. BY MS. COHEN: Mr. Hull, I believe where we left off is I had just inished asking you some questions about whether it would be advisable to know what the cost of a closure plant is going to be at the time you start a nine or that kind of facility.	6 7 . 9 10 11 12 13	 laboratory outputs." A. Through the execution of a project, while we may rely on the laboratory results or modeling to design something, during the execution of the project, construction activities typically require quality control, quality assurance activities that are done at the time the activity is being complete. Q. Absolutely, and the purpose of that quality
8 F 9 Q. 10 fi 11 v 12 c 13 m 14 S	IUDGE LAFAVE: Ms. Cohen. BY MS. COHEN: Mr. Hull, I believe where we left off is I had just inished asking you some questions about whether it would be advisable to know what the cost of a closure plant is going to be at the time you start a nine or that kind of facility. So I'd like to now move on to some	6 7 9 10 11 12 13 14	 laboratory outputs." A. Through the execution of a project, while we may rely on the laboratory results or modeling to design something, during the execution of the project, construction activities typically require quality control, quality assurance activities that are done at the time the activity is being complete. Q. Absolutely, and the purpose of that quality assurance and quality control is to be sure that the
8 F 9 Q. 10 fi 11 v 12 c 13 m 14 S 15 q	TUDGE LAFAVE: Ms. Cohen. BY MS. COHEN: Mr. Hull, I believe where we left off is I had just inished asking you some questions about whether it would be advisable to know what the cost of a closure plant is going to be at the time you start a nine or that kind of facility. So I'd like to now move on to some questions about testing. And first I'd like to just	6 7 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	 laboratory outputs." A. Through the execution of a project, while we may rely on the laboratory results or modeling to design something, during the execution of the project, construction activities typically require quality control, quality assurance activities that are done at the time the activity is being complete. Q. Absolutely, and the purpose of that quality assurance and quality control is to be sure that the design is actually being met in the construction
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	Ime 2Evidentiary Hearing before Judge LaFave8-23March 28, 2023
Page 161	Page 163
 through your confirmation testing and you would require your contractor to make it right, correct? 	 exact number, although the regulations might say that you shall have a liner of three feet thickness,
 3 A. Correct. 4 Q. But when you're designing a project, you wouldn't want to roly colorly on your leb testing correct? 	 3 1 times 10 to the minus 7 centimeters per second. 4 We'll evaluate the native soils, for 5 instance and based upon our up deputer ding of the
 5 want to rely solely on your lab testing, correct? 6 You'd want to pilot that project or field test that 7 project, particularly if it was one that could be 	 5 instance, and based upon our understanding of the 6 compactive effort necessary to achieve a certain 7 permeability, we may design a field protocol that is
 affected by field conditions? A. Not necessarily. An experienced engineer is going 	 more rigorous than the laboratory protocol, because part of quality assurance sometimes is going out and
 to rely primarily on their experience of using the proposed design parameters and probable means and 	 taking a sample as the material has been placed and then sending that off to a laboratory.
12 methods, which would be fine-tuned in the field.	12 And we want to make sure that that passes
13 There are different ways to skin a cat14 and you have to consider the project objectives and	13 the tests appropriately.14 Q. So, Mr. Hull, you would agree if some of that
15 sometimes priorities of project objectives, other	15 material were available today, you would recommend
16 constraints, the time of the year construction is	to the DNR that the permit applicant go out and do
17 going to go under. There are many variables that	some tests of that material to discover, for
18 you don't want to pin things down too tight in a	18 example, its variability?
engineering design plan that is not reflective ofthe conditions under which you're going to construct	 19 A. The variability that is likely to occur, I believe, 20 has been addressed by the work plan that has been
21 the project.	 included as part of the application that notes that
22 Q. Correct, and you would agree that most large-scale	there may be a range of bentonite amendments to
environmental engineering designs are very	23 achieve the desired permeability for the constructed
24 site-specific, correct?	24 improvements.
25 A. They are all site-specific.	25 Q. But, Mr. Hull, you would agree that it would be best
Page 162	Page 164
1 Q. And so while components of means and methods might	1 in designing a cover system, if you have the
2 be similar to other projects that have been	2 material available, before you actually propose a
a supposed ful in field coole the enpropriete	
 3 successful in field scale, the appropriate 4 combination of materials configurations and 	3 design, you would go out and test that material.
4 combination of materials, configurations, and	3 design, you would go out and test that material.4 You would test it in lab, and, if appropriate, you
	3 design, you would go out and test that material.
 4 combination of materials, configurations, and 5 implementation are frequently unique. And I am 6 reading your own words. 7 A. I recognize them. 	 3 design, you would go out and test that material. 4 You would test it in lab, and, if appropriate, you 5 would do field testing of that material? 6 A. My understanding of the project is that much of it 7 is going to be built as the like the dams and
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In t Per	he Matter of the NorthMet Project nit to Mine Application - 60-2004-37824	Volum 3-28-2		Evidentiary Hearing before Judge LaFave March 28, 2023
	Page	e 165		Page 167
1	sir.		1	and I'm comfortable with a range of that material
2	It was kind of a compound question. If		2	and are anticipating that, I don't see any reason to
3	you'd be kind enough to rephrase, please.		3	do a lot of extra testing before I go out and start
4	MS. COHEN: Sure. So I'll just go back		4	construction.
5	to the beginning.			BY MS. COHEN
6	BY MS. COHEN		6	Q. Even if this was a unique, environmentally
7	Q. So you understand that there is material avail		7	complicated scene?
8	today that is going to be used to build the dam			A. They're all unique.
	A. That's my understanding.			Q. All right. Not a pond bottom for a park?
	Q. And you would agree that today that material co			A. I'm sorry?
11	be tested against various dosages and types of			Q. Not a pond bottom for a park, but instead a
12	bentonite to see what the results would be in te			thousand-acre mining tailings facility.
13	of permeability or oxygen saturation or	1		MR. MILLS: Object to form,
14	what-have-you? A. It could be.	1		argumentative. JUDGE LAFAVE: Sustained.
		1		
	Q. And you would agree that before you make a des			MS. COHEN: All right. I guess I should move on then.
17	because you're a prudent engineer, you would complete that testing and perhaps apply the rul			BY MS. COHEN:
18	thumb, which is to increase in order of magnit			Q. So if AquaBlok was going to be used for a project
19 20	your design specifications based on that testin			like this, would you want to design for that use?
	A. Not necessarily. It depending on my leve	-		Plan for that use?
22	comfort with an understanding of the materia			MS. COHEN: Can I have Exhibit
23	hand, that would determine whether or not I wou			PolyMet's Exhibit 9, please.
24	were going to do additional testing during t			BY MS. COHEN:
25	design stage.			Q. So, Mr. Hull, this is PolyMet's Exhibit 9. It's a
	Dag	e 166		Page 168
	-			-
	Q. But if you were a prudent engineer and you w		1	picture that Mr. Radue offered in his testimony.
2	following your own advice, you would do that		2	Have you seen this picture before?
3	testing; would you not?			A. I don't recall.
4	MR. MILLS: Object to form, and asked and			Q. So Mr. Radue testified that this shows the
5	answered.		5	conditions under which contractors can work.
6	JUDGE LAFAVE: I'll allow it. You may		6	MR. MILLS: Object to form, foundation.
7	answer the question.		7	JUDGE LAFAVE: Please rephrase your
8	THE WITNESS: The question again, please. BY MS. COHEN:		8	question. BY MS. COHEN:
9	Q. If you had following your own advice, Mr. F		9	
L0 L1	as stated in your testimony, you would test the			Q. Mr. Hull, you agree that this shows earth works on a site that's very wet, and it appears that splitter
LL 12	material that you have available and then you we			dams are being used to separate smaller ponded
12	increase it by an order of magnitude under your			areas, correct?
13 14	rule of thumb for your design?			MR. MILLS: Object to the form and
14 15	MR. MILLS: Object to form, and to the	1		foundation.
16	extent it misstates his prior testimony.	1		JUDGE LAFAVE: Overruled.
17	JUDGE LAFAVE: Overruled. You may ans			THE WITNESS: It could be a depiction of
18	the question.	1		that.
19	THE WITNESS: Not necessarily. Dependin			BY MS. COHEN
20	upon my level of comfort and understanding of	-		Q. And so if you were going to do a project that would
21	materials at hand, I would not necessarily feel			benefit from having smaller areas to work in, so you
22	obliged as a professional to conduct additiona			could work, for example, from land to deposit the
23	testing.	2		AquaBlok product, splitter dams might be something
24	If I know through experience that a	2		that you would want to have built into the design,
25	bentonite amendment will achieve the particular g			correct?
	sentonice unertainent win demove the particular g		2	

	t to while Application - 00-2004-57824 5-26	5-45		War ch 20, 2020
	Page 169			Page 171
1	MR. MILLS: Object to form, calls for	1		MS. COHEN: Your Honor, hopefully I can
2	speculation.	2		move on shortly. I mean, to me, it seems very
3	THE COURT: Where are we going with this	3		simple, and if you have a practical and workable
	testimony?			closure plan, you have to plan for the materials
4	-	4		
5	MS. COHEN: Your Honor, what I want to	5		that you're going to use, you have to test the
6	establish is that if you are going to use a	6		materials that you're going to use and design
7	particular product, it's important that the design	7		accordingly.
8	that's being approved reflect the use of the	8		That's all that's the point I'm trying
9	particular product.	9		to get the witness to either agree or disagree with.
10	In this case, AquaBlok you know, the	10		BY MS. COHEN:
11	examples that have been given all involve smaller	11	Q.	So do you agree that if you're going to use a
12	areas. And so it may be that if you're going to use	12		particular project, it makes sense to test
13	AquaBlok, you would design the tailings facility to	13		product, it makes sense to test that particular
14	include smaller areas, as we see here in this	14		product and design for that particular product and
15	exhibit.	15		not do that on the fly when you finally get to
16	MR. MILLS: Your Honor, the design of the	16		closure?
17	tailings facility is not at issue in this hearing.	17	A.	You only do testing of those aspects of the product
18	JUDGE LAFAVE: I was going to I mean,	18		as they pertain to the project at hand where there
19	I'm not following where I mean, I understand that	19		is some question as to the ability to apply the
20	there's you're questioning the scale; that	20		product in the manner prescribed.
21	there's a big difference, in your view, from a		Q.	± ±
22	40-acre pond or a 20-acre pond to a 940-acre pond.	22	Z.	So I'd like to explore some of your
23	That I understand.	23		testimony that you offered with regard to the
24	Does this get you there?	24		bentonite amendment plan. All right?
25	MS. COHEN: The object of the question is	25		So what you've indicated again, this
23	The object of the question is	2.5		50 what you ve indicated again, this
	Page 170			Page 172
	-			-
1	to establish that as a prudent engineer, designing a	1		is in your rebuttal, page 5, lines 90 to 94 you
2	to establish that as a prudent engineer, designing a closure system for a mine, if you you need to	2		is in your rebuttal, page 5, lines 90 to 94 you were in support of this plan because you said, "The
2 3	to establish that as a prudent engineer, designing a closure system for a mine, if you you need to take into account at the design stage what the	2 3		is in your rebuttal, page 5, lines 90 to 94 you were in support of this plan because you said, "The material is readily available. Its performance
2 3 4	to establish that as a prudent engineer, designing a closure system for a mine, if you you need to take into account at the design stage what the closure is going to look like, and if you need to	2 3 4		is in your rebuttal, page 5, lines 90 to 94 you were in support of this plan because you said, "The material is readily available. Its performance under a variety of geochemical exposures is
2 3 4 5	to establish that as a prudent engineer, designing a closure system for a mine, if you you need to take into account at the design stage what the closure is going to look like, and if you need to have smaller areas in which to work, you would want	2 3 4 5		is in your rebuttal, page 5, lines 90 to 94 you were in support of this plan because you said, "The material is readily available. Its performance under a variety of geochemical exposures is sufficiently well-known. It is relatively cost
2 3 4 5 6	to establish that as a prudent engineer, designing a closure system for a mine, if you you need to take into account at the design stage what the closure is going to look like, and if you need to have smaller areas in which to work, you would want that to be incorporated in the design.	2 3 4 5 6		is in your rebuttal, page 5, lines 90 to 94 you were in support of this plan because you said, "The material is readily available. Its performance under a variety of geochemical exposures is sufficiently well-known. It is relatively cost effective, and the means to incorporate the
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8	to establish that as a prudent engineer, designing a closure system for a mine, if you you need to take into account at the design stage what the closure is going to look like, and if you need to have smaller areas in which to work, you would want that to be incorporated in the design. Otherwise, it's not a reasonable it's not a prudent and workable solution.	2 3 4 5 6 7 8		is in your rebuttal, page 5, lines 90 to 94 you were in support of this plan because you said, "The material is readily available. Its performance under a variety of geochemical exposures is sufficiently well-known. It is relatively cost effective, and the means to incorporate the bentonite under various scenarios exists using specific special equipment. And in some cases,
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	to establish that as a prudent engineer, designing a closure system for a mine, if you you need to take into account at the design stage what the closure is going to look like, and if you need to have smaller areas in which to work, you would want that to be incorporated in the design. Otherwise, it's not a reasonable it's not a prudent and workable solution. MR. MILLS: Your Honor, if I may?	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9		is in your rebuttal, page 5, lines 90 to 94 you were in support of this plan because you said, "The material is readily available. Its performance under a variety of geochemical exposures is sufficiently well-known. It is relatively cost effective, and the means to incorporate the bentonite under various scenarios exists using specific special equipment. And in some cases, rather common construction equipment and
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	to establish that as a prudent engineer, designing a closure system for a mine, if you you need to take into account at the design stage what the closure is going to look like, and if you need to have smaller areas in which to work, you would want that to be incorporated in the design. Otherwise, it's not a reasonable it's not a prudent and workable solution. MR. MILLS: Your Honor, if I may? JUDGE LAFAVE: Yeah. MR. MILLS: The design of the tailings basin is not at issue here. JUDGE LAFAVE: No, I get that. I get that there's I don't think there's a dispute about the design no one's disputing that the design of the tailing basin is not at issue. The question Ms. Cohen is raising, as I understand it, is that this is going to the workable, practical and the size and scope. You can certainly proceed on that line. I'm not sure your line of questioning as to the compartmentalizing was getting you closer to	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	A. Q.	 is in your rebuttal, page 5, lines 90 to 94 you were in support of this plan because you said, "The material is readily available. Its performance under a variety of geochemical exposures is sufficiently well-known. It is relatively cost effective, and the means to incorporate the bentonite under various scenarios exists using specific special equipment. And in some cases, rather common construction equipment and techniques." Do you remember testimony? Yes. So is it fair to say that you are not testifying that this type of cover proposal is well-known; is that correct? MR. MILLS: Object to form, and to the extent it misstates his testimony. JUDGE LAFAVE: Overruled. You can answer the question. THE WITNESS: I'll need the question again. BY MS. COHEN:
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	to establish that as a prudent engineer, designing a closure system for a mine, if you you need to take into account at the design stage what the closure is going to look like, and if you need to have smaller areas in which to work, you would want that to be incorporated in the design. Otherwise, it's not a reasonable it's not a prudent and workable solution. MR. MILLS: Your Honor, if I may? JUDGE LAFAVE: Yeah. MR. MILLS: The design of the tailings basin is not at issue here. JUDGE LAFAVE: No, I get that. I get that there's I don't think there's a dispute about the design no one's disputing that the design of the tailing basin is not at issue. The question Ms. Cohen is raising, as I understand it, is that this is going to the workable, practical and the size and scope. You can certainly proceed on that line. I'm not sure your line of questioning as to the compartmentalizing was getting you closer to	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	A. Q.	 is in your rebuttal, page 5, lines 90 to 94 you were in support of this plan because you said, "The material is readily available. Its performance under a variety of geochemical exposures is sufficiently well-known. It is relatively cost effective, and the means to incorporate the bentonite under various scenarios exists using specific special equipment. And in some cases, rather common construction equipment and techniques." Do you remember testimony? Yes. So is it fair to say that you are not testifying that this type of cover proposal is well-known; is that correct? MR. MILLS: Object to form, and to the extent it misstates his testimony. JUDGE LAFAVE: Overruled. You can answer the question. THE WITNESS: I'll need the question again. BY MS. COHEN:

	Ime 2Evidentiary Hearing before Judge LaFave8-23March 28, 2023
Page 173	Page 175
 seemed rather hesitant in your endorsement of the proposal. You have these words in there that indicates some equivocation about it; is that fair? MR. MILLS: Object to form. JUDGE LAFAVE: Overruled. THE WITNESS: No. BY MS. COHEN: Q. So in some cases, you say common construction equipment and techniques work, correct? A. Yes. Q. But that means in other times they don't, correct? A. It may be very advantageous to use specialized equipment, especially on a project of this scale. Q. Right, because this is a difficult project with a complicating factor of permanent pond, for example, that might interfere with placing bentonite on the beaches? MR. MILLS: Object to form. JUDGE LAFAVE: Overruled. THE WITNESS: I think I testified earlier that there could be some advantages from applying materials on the beaches from the water. I don't 	 1 A. Every construction project has some challenges. 2 Q. And you would agree you had mentioned the Song and Yanful Whistle Mine studies. You would agree that the contractor there who was making the test plot encountered some challenges in mixing the material? 7 A. I wasn't there. I didn't see it. I didn't read enough detail of what those challenges particularly were. 10 When you're amending a product, you have a lot of options of doing a better job of straining and mixing materials that you're going to be using, applying different amounts of bentonite, applying different amounts of compaction. You have a lot of variables to make it work. 16 Q. Absolutely a lot of variables. And isn't this why on most of your projects you do some pilot testing and field testing before you decide on the design? 19 MR. MILLS: Object to form. 20 THE WITNESS: No. 21 MR. MILLS: And to the extent it misstates his prior testimony. I feel like we're
22 materials on the beaches from the water. I don't23 see that as a particular challenge in this area.	22 missiales his prior testimony. Thee like we re23 going over or around in circles and time is sort of
24 BY MS. COHEN25 Q. You have 625 feet of beaches.	 24 getting short. 25 JUDGE LAFAVE: You've kind of explored
Page 174	Page 176
 A. Yes. Q. So you're going to apply you're going to float a barge on the water and apply the material and somehow mix it, because it has to be uniformly mixed on 625 acres of beaches? MR. MILLS: Object to form. JUDGE LAFAVE: Overruled. THE WITNESS: I'm sorry, I still don't understand the question. BY MS. COHEN: Q. The question is whether or not you agree that you could use common construction equipment on this site. A. Portions of the site can be capped or bentonite amendments placed using common equipment. Q. And portions might be more complicated? 	 his you've explored his opinions on testing. I think you can move on. MS. COHEN: All right. Thank you, your Honor. I'll do that. BY MS. COHEN: Q. So let's just briefly talk about well, we've already touched on the Whistle Mine, I guess, even though you said the closest was the Whistle Mine in your testimony, and I'm trying to get you to agree that there were problems there, but you are reluctant to do that. So would you also agree that industry guidance documents maybe I should ask you. Are you familiar with mining industry guidance documents that address this type of a cover system, the soil cover system
 17 A. And portions might be more complicated? 17 A. And portions will require other equipment. 18 Q. And you're saying that equipment might have to be custom made? 20 A. No, I believe I said that the opportunity of having 	 16 Cover system 17 MR. MILLS: Object to 18 BY MS. COHEN 19 Q with bentonite? Are you familiar with those? 20 MR. MILLS: Apologies. I think the

n the Matter of the NorthMet Project Permit to Mine Application - 60-2004-37824	Volume 3-28-23	
	Page 177	Page 179
1 question.	1	A. I believe it has a chance of being successful at
2 MS. COHEN: I will.	2	2 3 percent. When you are doing a blended material,
3 BY MS. COHEN:	3	the amount of clay minerals or bentonite that may be
4 Q. So are you familiar with industry guidance do	ocuments 4	
5 with regard to covers systems for reactive		,
6 And I'll name them. There's amend guida	ince, the 6	5 fines is a very important factor.
7 "GARD Guide," all these they're various	industry 7	7 I've achieved recompacted natural soil
8 publications. Are you familiar with them	? 8	liners using basically sand materials that were very
9 A. I am familiar they are there. I have lool	ked over 9	9 uniformly well-distributed over the sand/silt range
some of them briefly. They are not documer	nts that I 10	with as low as 2 percent clay, and by providing
use on a regular basis.	11	appropriate compaction and construction techniques,
12 Q. So are you familiar with what they recomm	end with 12	I have achieved 10 to the minus 9 centimeters per
regard to soil-based cover systems?	13	3 second permeability.
14 A. No.	14	4 Q. All right. I won't beat the dead horse here, but
15 Q. All right. And you indicated you've done	research 15	5 wouldn't you want to test that blend against those
yourself on this subject of soil cover syste	ems? 16	5 particular soils before you made a design based on
17 A. I have.	17	7 that?
18 Q. And this is unpublished research, correct	t? 18	A. It's my understanding that they did do a test.
19 A. Some of the research was used to obtain a	patent. 19	9 Q. So would you want a regulatory agency to make a
20 Q. And you agree that this unpublished resea	arch that 20	regulating an important regulatory decision based
you speak of has never been you agree	this 21	L on one test?
research is not peer-reviewed, correct?	22	2 MR. MILLS: Object to form, foundation.
23 A. That's correct.	23	JUDGE LAFAVE: Sustained.
24 Q. And you agree the main reasons academ	ics, 24	THE WITNESS: Most regulatory reviewers
researchers publish in journals is to get th	e 25	
	Page 178	Page 180
1 approval of peers, correct?	1	JUDGE LAFAVE: Don't answer.
2 A. Academics seem to like to have approval		
3 peers.	3	
4 Q. And you would agree that it would be different to the second		
5 introduce these manuscripts today, right, a		
6 your testimony, your research?	6	
7 A. No.	7	
8 Q. And you would agree, and without disrespen		
9 would be difficult for the DNR to rely on		
unpublished studies, right, because they h	•	_
been peer-reviewed?	11	
12 A. That's correct.	12	
L3 Q. And you would want a regulator to rely of		
evidence when making an important perm		
15 decision?	15	
16 A. I'm not a regulator. I don't know the		
their reviews.	10	
18 Q. All right. I'd like to get back to your test		
on the efficacy of the 3 percent bentonite	-	
that's proposed here.	20	
Do you have an opinion about whether it		
22 going to work or not, 3 percent?	21	
A. I do.	22	
23 A. Do you know enough at this point to say w		
	-	
25 opinion is?	25	5 that your testimony, frozen ground?

	olume 2Evidentiary Hearing before Judge LaFav March 28, 202
Page 1	81 Page 183
1 A. You can apply it in winter.	1 misstates prior testimony.
2 Q. But you can't in-situ mix it in winter, correct?	2 JUDGE LAFAVE: Let's assume for the sake
3 Because the soils would be frozen.	3 of this question that the representation as to
4 A. You're assuming the soils are frozen?	4 the Dr. Diedrich's testimony was correct; you may
5 Q. I am. Otherwise, they wouldn't be very firm to g	
6 on.	6 BY MS. COHEN:
7 A. You could mix it in winter.	7 Q. So she had that wrong?
8 Q. Can you moisture condition it in winter?	8 A. Say the question again, please.
9 A. Yes.	9 Q. So Dr. Diedrich said we didn't have to worry about
LO Q. Have you been in Minnesota during a winter?	10 the chemical composition of the pond water affecting
11 A. Yes.	11 the bentonite that would be incorporated into the
12 Q. So okay. Can you discharge bentonite pellet	s 12 beaches because the pond water will not affect
13 through a frozen pond?	13 beaches. And I take your testimony to be the
14 A. No.	14 opposite?
15 Q. Okay. And in any case, it would be more expensiv	ve 15 MR. MILLS: Objection to the extent it
and slow the work, too, to have to work in the	16 misstates both testimonies.
17 winter, correct?	17 JUDGE LAFAVE: You can clarify the
18 A. Depends on what work you were doing in the winte	er. 18 your answer, or you can respond to that question.
19 Q. All right. We're almost at the end here.	19 THE WITNESS: I think that the other
So your testimony was that we don't have	20 statement that Dr. Diedrich made was in relation to
to worry about desiccation with regard to the beac	
and the dam bentonite amendments because "they woul	
be ceded in the pond and can benefit from capillar	•
24 action."	24 A. That's not what I'm speaking to.
25 Is that your testimony?	25 Q. What are you speaking to?
Page 1	82 Page 184
1 A. Yes.	1 A. The presence of the pond water.
2 Q. And when you say capillary action, you mean that t	
3 pond water will infiltrate into the beaches,	3 the beaches?
4 correct?	4 A. The potential for pond water to replace or replenish
5 A. Soil particles, soil particles that are completel	y 5 the moisture content of the bentonite-amended layer
6 dry will pull water up when they're in contact wit	6 over the beach area is what I'm referring to.
7 the water, and they coat the soil particle. It's	a 7 So if there is excess desiccation, one
8 surface tension phenomenon.	8 would expect the pond water to help replenish what
9 Q. Correct. And your testimony I'm sorry. Go	9 is lost through evapotranspiration and keep that
10 ahead.	10 more plastic.
11 MR. MILLS: Objection.	11 Q. I understand. So I'm going to ask you a last
JUDGE LAFAVE: Please let the witness	12 question here. You attached to your testimony a
L3 finish his answer.	13 dissertation that was prepared by now Dr. Roberts.
THE WITNESS: The bentonite is	14And I gather you were involved in the work that he
hydrophilic. It loves water. It has, if you will,	15 did to prepare that paper; is that correct?
a super surface tension phenomena and it will wic	
up water if there is bentonite in contact with water	
18 like the pond bottom and with other bentonite	18 that we had a relationship with.
19 particles. So it can literally be pulled up a slope	
20 out of the pond quite a ways.	20 covered two basic areas, the compaction of the
21 BY MS. COHEN:	21 AquaBlok, the gravel-coated bentonite and what
22 Q. Right. Are you aware that Dr. Diedrich testified	
the opposite, the pond water will not infiltrate or	
24 affect the beaches?	24 bentonite-coated product, correct?
MR MILLS Objection to the extent it	25 A Those were two grees that he investigated

- 25 MR. MILLS: Objection to the extent it
- 25 A. Those were two areas that he investigated.

In the Matter of the NorthMet Project Permit to Mine Application - 60-2004-37824	Volume 2 3-28-23Evidentiary Hearing before Judge LaFave March 28, 2023
Page	e 185 Page 187
 Q. Right, and so it's fair to say that his compacti research showed that if you overcompact the 	ion 1 CROSS-EXAMINATION 2 BY MS. MACCABEE:
 AquaBlok, it can become more permeable becaus cracks occurring in the gravel matrix, correct? 	
5 A. He did achieve a, I would say a ridiculous leve	
6 effort to compact material wherein he did cre	
7 some aggregate and described an increased	•
8 permeability to that factor.9 But he achieved overall really low	8 you said you didn't know.9 Do you have a sense for how much AquaBlok
 permeabilities by using compaction, moistu 	•
1 content, almost approaching the permeability of	10
12 plastic membrane layer, which is considered	
13 impervious.	13 economically viable to manufacture on-site and that
14 Q. Okay. And, but what I would like to draw yo	our 14 material was being manufactured off-site.
15 attention to is really the leachates. And you we	
agree that he tested the product against some	16 larger project? Or was that just the only project
17 artificial leachates that contained various	17 was the AquaBlok? I couldn't understand that in
18 combinations of dissolved solids, cations,	18 your testimony.
19 et cetera.	19 A. I was not a party to the project design. And it
And it's fair to say that these didimpact the swell of the bentonite product, correct	20 I understand that it may have been a particular areaect? 21 of a sidewall that they wanted to improve and
 21 impact the swell of the bentonite product, correct 22 A. His testing was, I believe, limited to a relat 	
23 swell	23 for a slope stability issue. And so sort of a
24 Q. Correct.	patch, if you will, was placed over a specific
25 A and not permeability.	25 portion of the area.
Dage	e 186 Page 188
	e 186 Page 188
1 Q. Correct, but it did affect the swell, correct?	1 Q. And as I understand the way you've described it,
2 A. It did affect the swell.	2 this was not a subaqueous application, correct?
3 Q. And would you agree that Dr. Roberts' conclusion	
 4 it's extremely important to conduct leachate 5 is extremely important to conduct leachate 	5 A. If I recall correctly, they had a long section of
6 compatibility tests on bentonite-coated gravel pr	•
to its usage in a landfill site. That was his	 some portion of that slope length was under water.
8 conclusion?	8 Q. And is that similar to how you described the project
9 A. His work was predominantly targeting municipal s	
10 waste landfills. The leachate that you get from	n an 10 was partially there were some areas where there
11 MSW landfill can be very complex and very stre	
12 It can have a lot of different things in there t	
13 could impact a bentonite-type material.	13 more of just very moist soils and it's kind of a
14 Q. Right, and you go ahead.	14 regular surface.
15 And so you would agree his conclusion was	15 Q. And when you say a regular project, do you mean that
16 test?17 A. His conclusion was to anticipate that there could	16 was not a no part of that wasd be17 (Court reporter requested
 importance of that impact in your liner system test. 	tem, 19 Q. When you said it was a normal project, am I
19 importance of that impact in your liner syste	tem, 19 Q. When you said it was a normal project, am I
importance of that impact in your liner systetest.	 19 Q. When you said it was a normal project, am I 20 understanding correctly that you're saying it's a
 importance of that impact in your liner system test. MS. COHEN: I have no further questions. JUDGE LAFAVE: Thank you. Ms. Maccabee. 	 Yem, 19 Q. When you said it was a normal project, am I understanding correctly that you're saying it's a moist soil rather than a subaqueous project? 22 A. Again, I don't recall using the phrase ''normal project.'' But that project, most of the area that
 importance of that impact in your liner system test. MS. COHEN: I have no further questions. JUDGE LAFAVE: Thank you. 	 Yem, 19 Q. When you said it was a normal project, am I understanding correctly that you're saying it's a moist soil rather than a subaqueous project? 22 A. Again, I don't recall using the phrase ''normal

In the Matter of the North Permit to Mine Application	n - 60-2004-37824 3-24	ime 2 8-23	March 28, 2023
	Page 189		Page 191
•	hat many of the soil covers that ompacted natural soil covers; is	1 2 3	Cleveland CTF, just came to my mind. We've used lysimeters to evaluate the potential for slope failures at completed landfills.
4 A. Yes.	ked about meeting performance		Q. I'm sorry. My question must have been too vague. Have you used lysimeters to measure the permeability
6 objectives.7 How did you meas	sure the median the	6 7	of cover and liners that you've installed? A. I have not used lysimeters to measure the
8 performance meas	ures at the time of construction?	8	permeability.
10 contractor build	truction, very common to have the a test pad using the actual	9 10	Q. One other question I'm trying to sorry, this may be something that was really obvious and I just
	oing to use at the appropriate	11	missed it.
	ng predetermined field quality	12	Do you still do you still have a
-	on and moisture testing ranges. ve field technicians	13 14	financial interest in the AquaBlok, Limited, company?
	ing a nuclear densitometer or		A. I do.
8	that's similar to determine the		Q. And what's the nature of that interest? Just in
	mpaction, establish the number of	17	general terms. I don't need to know dollars.
18 passes of the part	icular equipment as needed to	18	MR. MILLS: Objection, relevance and
	the appropriate target	19	beyond the scope.
20 compaction.		20	JUDGE LAFAVE: Overruled.
	exhumed any of those covers 10 or	21	THE WITNESS: I have an equity interest. MS. MACCABEE: I've cut a lot of this so
•	tested their conductivity in the mine what characteristics have	22 23	excuse me a second.
23 national of y to deter	mine what characteristics have	24	BY MS. MACCABEE
1	a situation where I have taken	25	Q. You also mentioned that let's take a look at the
	Page 190		Page 192
	p that I have constructed or	1	City of Columbus Park example that you provided, and
2 under my design. I	p that I have constructed or have taken field samples of caps	2	City of Columbus Park example that you provided, and that is I think it's in the direct, 347 to 351.
2 under my design. I3 that have been exist	p that I have constructed or have taken field samples of caps ing when we came onto a project,	2 3	City of Columbus Park example that you provided, and that is I think it's in the direct, 347 to 351. A. What pages?
 2 under my design. I 3 that have been exist 4 maybe an old closs 5 something like that 	p that I have constructed or have taken field samples of caps ing when we came onto a project, sed landfill or a fly ash facility, t, and we've assessed the existing	2 3 4 5	 City of Columbus Park example that you provided, and that is I think it's in the direct, 347 to 351. A. What pages? Q. About 347 to 351. I think it's where he was yes, that's right in the area. It's page 21, sir.
 2 under my design. I 3 that have been exist 4 maybe an old clos 5 something like that 6 cap for its relativ 	p that I have constructed or have taken field samples of caps ing when we came onto a project, sed landfill or a fly ash facility, t, and we've assessed the existing e performance.	2 3 4 5 6	 City of Columbus Park example that you provided, and that is I think it's in the direct, 347 to 351. A. What pages? Q. About 347 to 351. I think it's where he was yes, that's right in the area. It's page 21, sir. Do you need more time before I ask a
 2 under my design. I 3 that have been exist 4 maybe an old closs 5 something like that 6 cap for its relativ 7 Q. And that's so y 	p that I have constructed or have taken field samples of caps ing when we came onto a project, sed landfill or a fly ash facility, t, and we've assessed the existing re performance. ou just described the situations	2 3 4 5 6 7	 City of Columbus Park example that you provided, and that is I think it's in the direct, 347 to 351. A. What pages? Q. About 347 to 351. I think it's where he was yes, that's right in the area. It's page 21, sir. Do you need more time before I ask a question? You've got it?
 2 under my design. I 3 that have been exist 4 maybe an old closs 5 something like that 6 cap for its relativ 7 Q. And that's so y 8 where you came in 	p that I have constructed or have taken field samples of caps ing when we came onto a project, sed landfill or a fly ash facility, t, and we've assessed the existing e performance. ou just described the situations to fix a problem and that those	2 3 4 5 6 7 8	 City of Columbus Park example that you provided, and that is I think it's in the direct, 347 to 351. A. What pages? Q. About 347 to 351. I think it's where he was yes, that's right in the area. It's page 21, sir. Do you need more time before I ask a question? You've got it? A. I have it right here, yeah.
 2 under my design. I 3 that have been exist 4 maybe an old close 5 something like that 6 cap for its relative 7 Q. And that's so y 8 where you came in 9 and you would eval 	p that I have constructed or have taken field samples of caps ing when we came onto a project, sed landfill or a fly ash facility, t, and we've assessed the existing re performance. ou just described the situations	2 3 4 5 6 7 8	 City of Columbus Park example that you provided, and that is I think it's in the direct, 347 to 351. A. What pages? Q. About 347 to 351. I think it's where he was yes, that's right in the area. It's page 21, sir. Do you need more time before I ask a question? You've got it?
 2 under my design. I 3 that have been exist 4 maybe an old closs 5 something like that 6 cap for its relative 7 Q. And that's so y 8 where you came in 9 and you would eval 10 to fix it, correct? 11 A. Not necessarily 	p that I have constructed or have taken field samples of caps ing when we came onto a project, sed landfill or a fly ash facility, t, and we've assessed the existing re performance. You just described the situations to fix a problem and that those uate the problem before you tried Is that a fair assessment? a problem, but to assess	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	 City of Columbus Park example that you provided, and that is I think it's in the direct, 347 to 351. A. What pages? Q. About 347 to 351. I think it's where he was yes, that's right in the area. It's page 21, sir. Do you need more time before I ask a question? You've got it? A. I have it right here, yeah. Q. Okay. And so this is the pond project you were talking about, I believe, with Mr. Smith, and it was a project where you had to work with a rough surface
 2 under my design. I 3 that have been exist 4 maybe an old closs 5 something like that 6 cap for its relative 7 Q. And that's so y 8 where you came in 9 and you would eval 10 to fix it, correct? 11 A. Not necessarily a generally assess to be a set of the set	p that I have constructed or have taken field samples of caps ing when we came onto a project, sed landfill or a fly ash facility, t, and we've assessed the existing e performance. ou just described the situations to fix a problem and that those uate the problem before you tried Is that a fair assessment? a problem, but to assess he condition of a site.	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	 City of Columbus Park example that you provided, and that is I think it's in the direct, 347 to 351. A. What pages? Q. About 347 to 351. I think it's where he was yes, that's right in the area. It's page 21, sir. Do you need more time before I ask a question? You've got it? A. I have it right here, yeah. Q. Okay. And so this is the pond project you were talking about, I believe, with Mr. Smith, and it was a project where you had to work with a rough surface and moisture in the soil, but it was not a
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 2 under my design. I 3 that have been exist 4 maybe an old closs 5 something like that 6 cap for its relativ 7 Q. And that's so y 8 where you came in 9 and you would eval 10 to fix it, correct? 11 A. Not necessarily assess t 13 Q. And you were talking 14 your work. Have you 15 determine how mutagetting through the 17 A. Yes. 18 Q. And in which process and the something 2 evaluate or was th 2 2 A. We've used lysime 2 confined disposal 24 assess its regular 	b that I have constructed or have taken field samples of caps ing when we came onto a project, sed landfill or a fly ash facility, t, and we've assessed the existing e performance. ou just described the situations to fix a problem and that those uate the problem before you tried Is that a fair assessment? a problem, but to assess he condition of a site. ing about permeability measures in ou ever used lysimeters to try and not percolation you're actually e barriers? ojects have you used lysimeters? that you customarily do to at kind of a special project? ters on consolidated disposal or facilities for trash material to	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	 City of Columbus Park example that you provided, and that is I think it's in the direct, 347 to 351. A. What pages? Q. About 347 to 351. I think it's where he was yes, that's right in the area. It's page 21, sir. Do you need more time before I ask a question? You've got it? A. I have it right here, yeah. Q. Okay. And so this is the pond project you were talking about, I believe, with Mr. Smith, and it was a project where you had to work with a rough surface and moisture in the soil, but it was not a subaqueous project, correct? A. That's correct. Q. I hope I read your testimony correctly, but I didn't find any other examples in your testimony specifically of creating liners for ponds. Did I miss one? A. You did not find any examples of creating a liner for a pond? Q. Correct. A. Lake Machado.

In t Per	he I mit	Watter of the NorthMet ProjectVoluto Mine Application - 60-2004-378243-24		
		Page 193		Page 195
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	А.	I'm going to make a distinction between a pond liner and a sequestration of contaminated materials, and I don't want to be confusing about that. But I think they're two different kind of projects. Would you agree that the purpose of the Lake Machado project was to cap some contaminated samples and that that's what the objective of that project was? It was a primary objective. And in this let's turn quickly to Exhibit 345, which is a Stormwater Solutions document. Is the Franklin Park revitalization the specific project that you were talking about when	11 12 13	 to provide more capacity, and that it also included some areas along the banks of connecting waterways that were excavated with minimal subgrade preparation? A. Yes, I see that. Q. And looking you can look at the end of this first paragraph, that this project was done based on the good experience of the Goodale project in Columbus, correct? A. Yes. Q. And I'm afraid this one I don't have a copy of, so I'm going to ask you to look at the screen if it's convenient.
14 15	Δ.	you referred to the City of Columbus? Yes.	14 15	
		And if you'd just like to turn to page the PDF page 6 of this project. I think I've highlighted it. And in this project, just the improvement	15 16 17 18	And is that MS. MACCABEE: Show the top so he can see
19 20		included demucking and excavation of the upper basin, correct?	19 20	
21		I'm looking for this.	20	summaries even though you're not the marketing
22 23	_	•	22	person?A. I'm familiar with some of them. I don't see them
23 24	-		23 24	
25		It's 345 and you might not have it. That would be	25	Q. Well, I will represent that I've downloaded all the
		Page 194		Page 196
4 5 6 7 8 9	A.	page 6 of the PDF. I think it says six out of nine up there. I'm not quite sure. Okay. And do you see in the last paragraph, that's what I was reading from, "The improvement project included demucking and excavation of the entire upper basin to provide more capacity," et cetera. Do you see that? I'm looking for it in here. I'm sorry. Oh, I'm sorry.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	 installation project for Columbus, Ohio, this is for the Goodale project. MS. MACCABEE: Can you pull it up so that Mr. Hull can see the rest. BY MS. MACCABEE Q. And is this correct, that this was an example again of a project that was dewatered before JUDGE LAFAVE: Mr. Hull, we're getting
11	-	MR. HOLLEMAN: Can I since we gave	11	5
12 13		Ms. Maccabee that exhibit, it doesn't have the same highlighting as what's on the screen. So if you	12 13	
14		look to the highlighting, you won't be able to find		Q. And, Mr. Hull, can you verify that this is also a
15 16		it. But the text should be the same. THE WITNESS: I'm looking for the text.	15	1 5 0
16 17		MS. COHEN: Page 6 of 9.	16 17	the conseal (ph) product was applied?A. As I recall, the basin leaked and dewatered itself.
18		THE WITNESS: Page 6 of 9. Okay. I have	18	Q. Okay. And this was a .9-acre basin I've
19 20		page 6 of 9. BY MS. MACCABEE:	19 20	
20 21	Q.		20 21	A. I see that.
	_	Yes, please.	22	Q. Okay. And for the benefit of everybody else, we're
23 24	Q.	And in this project, the Franklin Park project, you would agree that the improvement project included demucking and excavation of the entire upper basin	23 24	

1.01	the Matter of the NorthMet Project mit to Mine Application - 60-2004-37824	Volume 2 3-28-23	Evidentiary Hearing before Judge LaFa March 28, 20
		Page 197	Page 19
1	filled it.	1	Q. And in terms of the scale of these applications
2	And is it correct that you the	2	here, would you say that this is sort of the
3		you 3	customary scale that you're familiar with in terms
4		4	of actual pond sealing as opposed to and I'm
5		5	setting aside sediments sequestration.
6	Q. And is there any difference between the	common 6	But just focusing on pond sealing, is
7			this about the scale that you're is adequately
8			represented?
9			A. Those pictures don't show the scale, but the
0	A. They're essentially the same thing.	10	installation spotlights again are usually prepare
	Q. So if I'm using PondSeal, it's just the Aqu	aBlok 11	in conjunction with a sale from a stocking
2		12	distributor, and most of those are fairly small
3	A. That's one common variation.	13	projects.
	Q. Okay. And this before you apply the A		Q. Okay, and then I'm just going to show you one mor
5			of these projects then. And some of these project
5			are done subaqueously and some are also done on
7		17	dry surface, correct?
в	•		A. Correct.
9			Q. I'm going to just look at page 8, which is the
0	A. That's what it says.	20	Marble Cliff Crossing Pond Repair.
	Q. And do you have any memory that it per		MS. MACCABEE: And pull that up a little
2		22	bit further because I need to see the highlighted
3	A. I have I had very little to do with th		section.
4			BY MS. MACCABEE
5			Q. And is this copy here something that's written b
		Page 198	Page 20
1	out of Clovis, Ohio. And they and th	eir 1	AquaBlok rather than you individually, correct?
2			A. Correct.
3		/	Q. And I'm going to ask you to look at this sentence
4			and I'm not attributing it to you, but it says,
5		-	"Although excavated within abundantly placed soils
6			small instances of sand and gravel can become
7		-	exposed along the pond bottoms and substantial wate
8		-	can be lost to infiltration in a very short period.
9		9	Such was the case in the summer of 2020 in the north
	A. That's correct.	10	pond."
0	O. Okay. Thank you for that clarification	11	-
0 1	Q. Okay. Thank you for that clarification. Now, I'm going to move forward. On the	11 12	And then it goes on to say that "bedrock
0 1 2	Now, I'm going to move forward. On the	12	And then it goes on to say that "bedrock brought water levels down to a minimum, relegating
0 1 2 3	Now, I'm going to move forward. On the next few pages there's some other examples	e 12 of ponds 13	And then it goes on to say that "bedrock brought water levels down to a minimum, relegating the once picturesque water body to a muddy mess.
0 1 2 3 4	Now, I'm going to move forward. On the next few pages there's some other examples that were actually sealed with AquaBlok. T	2 12 of ponds 13 There's 14	And then it goes on to say that "bedrock brought water levels down to a minimum, relegating
0 1 2 3 4 5	Now, I'm going to move forward. On the next few pages there's some other examples that were actually sealed with AquaBlok. T that's still the Goodale project, but keep g	212of ponds13There's14going.15	And then it goes on to say that "bedrock brought water levels down to a minimum, relegating the once picturesque water body to a muddy mess. Do you see that language? A. I do.
0 1 2 3 4 5 6	Now, I'm going to move forward. On the next few pages there's some other examples that were actually sealed with AquaBlok. T that's still the Goodale project, but keep g Are you familiar with are you familiar	12 of ponds 13 There's 14 going. 15 16	 And then it goes on to say that "bedrock brought water levels down to a minimum, relegating the once picturesque water body to a muddy mess. Do you see that language? A. I do. Q. And would you agree that if there are areas in a
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7	Now, I'm going to move forward. On the next few pages there's some other examples that were actually sealed with AquaBlok. T that's still the Goodale project, but keep g Are you familiar with are you familiar with these projects as well, the Rarey resi	12 of ponds 13 There's 14 going. 15 16	 And then it goes on to say that "bedrock brought water levels down to a minimum, relegating the once picturesque water body to a muddy mess. Do you see that language? A. I do. Q. And would you agree that if there are areas in a pond where the permeable sand area, a small land a second seco
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Now, I'm going to move forward. On the next few pages there's some other examples that were actually sealed with AquaBlok. T that's still the Goodale project, but keep g Are you familiar with are you familiar with these projects as well, the Rarey resi pond or the Jones Road farm pond?	e 12 of ponds 13 There's 14 going. 15 16 idential 17	 And then it goes on to say that "bedrock brought water levels down to a minimum, relegating the once picturesque water body to a muddy mess. Do you see that language? A. I do. Q. And would you agree that if there are areas in a pond where the permeable sand area, a small land small area, those relatively small areas can resul
0123456789	 Now, I'm going to move forward. On the next few pages there's some other examples that were actually sealed with AquaBlok. T that's still the Goodale project, but keep g Are you familiar with are you familiar with these projects as well, the Rarey resipond or the Jones Road farm pond? A. No, I'm not. 	e 12 of ponds 13 There's 14 going. 15 idential 17 18 19	 And then it goes on to say that "bedrock brought water levels down to a minimum, relegating the once picturesque water body to a muddy mess. Do you see that language? A. I do. Q. And would you agree that if there are areas in a pond where the permeable sand area, a small land small area, those relatively small areas can resul in substantial water loss due to infiltration?
01234567890	 Now, I'm going to move forward. On the next few pages there's some other examples that were actually sealed with AquaBlok. That's still the Goodale project, but keep ge Are you familiar with are you familiar with these projects as well, the Rarey resigned or the Jones Road farm pond? A. No, I'm not. Q. From what you're looking at, would you 	e 12 of ponds 13 There's 14 going. 15 16 idential 17 18 19 say that 20	 And then it goes on to say that "bedrock brought water levels down to a minimum, relegating the once picturesque water body to a muddy mess. Do you see that language? A. I do. Q. And would you agree that if there are areas in a pond where the permeable sand area, a small land small area, those relatively small areas can resul in substantial water loss due to infiltration? A. Exfiltration.
012345678901	 Now, I'm going to move forward. On the next few pages there's some other examples that were actually sealed with AquaBlok. That's still the Goodale project, but keep g Are you familiar with are you familiar with these projects as well, the Rarey resipond or the Jones Road farm pond? A. No, I'm not. Q. From what you're looking at, would you they're representative of what AquaBlok pro 	e 12 of ponds 13 There's 14 going. 15 16 idential 17 18 19 say that 20 ducts are 21	 And then it goes on to say that "bedrock brought water levels down to a minimum, relegating the once picturesque water body to a muddy mess. Do you see that language? A. I do. Q. And would you agree that if there are areas in a pond where the permeable sand area, a small land small area, those relatively small areas can resul in substantial water loss due to infiltration? A. Exfiltration. Q. Okay. That is is exfiltration the correct term
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	Evidentiary Hearing before Judge LaFave March 28, 2023
Page 201	Page 203
 of pond sealing at a landfill scale or another industrial scale that you know that were done with a subaqueous deposition? 4 A. Lake Machado is the best example. 5 Q. And can you think of any others? Because I know Mr. Holleman is going to talk about that one. 7 A. There was another pond. I can't remember the name of it, in the San Diego or LA area. It was a city pond that was losing a lot of water. The contractor provided a similar seal over there. I'm sorry, I can't remember how many acres it was. 12 Q. And for either of these ponds, to your knowledge, was there a lysimeter measurement of what the degree of percolation to the pond was either before or after? 17 A. In the Lake Machado, I believe they are relying on chemical testing of the water quality to ascertain performance, which is not unusual. The other pond that I cannot remember the municipality's name, sorry, they took water measurements and staff gauges, and using climatological data made an assessment of the relative performance. 	 document from 2020 that you were the co-author of that document if I remember correctly? A. Yes. Q. And so you're familiar with that? A. Yes. Q. And let's just turn to page 4, which is PDF 14. I don't know if you have that. A. I would like to I don't know if I have it in here. Q. I'm going to ask you to since I don't have paper copies, if you wouldn't mind looking at this. We won't rush you, but it's the tool we have. A. Okay. I'll try to accommodate you. A. And this page is talks about the formulation of products used, and that there were actually three different variations tested: A. Yes. Q. And do those numbers then correspond to how much clay they have in them, so that a 2085 has percent, 2080 has 20 percent; is that how that works? A. By weight. The first number is the clay mineral.
25 Q. But you would agree that this question of lysimeters Page 202	25 Second number is the aggregate. Page 204
 and measuring the actual percolation from the pond, that data was not collected? I'm not saying that no data was collected, but lysimeter data, percolation through the bottom of the pond was not collected, correct? A. Not to my knowledge. Q. And isn't it correct that none of your examples here involve sealing the mine tailings pond? A. That's correct. Q. And actually, none of the examples let me see where you cover that. There is one more topic. I'll start it. I might not finish it. There's a place in your testimony where you explain that you had successfully installed bentonite for sequestration projects under the control or the direction of the U.S. EPA, the Department of Defense, and other regulatory agencies. That's all I'm going to ask you is just to make sure that I've got that correct? A. Yes, that's correct. Q. And I'm going to show you once again, I don't have a copy of this document, but your counsel counsel for PolyMet may have a copy. Exhibit 203.01. And this is a copy of this this document is a U.S. Army and Corps of Engineers 	 1 Q. Okay. And as a general matter, is the cost of the aggregate dependent on the percentage of clay that it has? 4 A. I'm sorry, could you say that again? 5 Q. As a general matter, is the cost of the product, the AquaBlok product, dependent on the amount of clay that it has? 8 A. It can have an impact. 9 Q. And I'm going to ask you now to turn to what's page 41 of this article. And I want to state 11 preliminarily I'll give you all the time in the 12 world. I'm so sorry I don't have copies. 13 And do you see the highlighted language, 14 what is generally a relatively favorable report, the 15 Army Corps points out concerns about AquaBlok's service integrity after wet and dry periods post 17 capping. Do you recall that being a concern? 18 A. I see that. 19 Q. And are you it also says that this may the 20 extreme swelling 21 (Court reporter requested clarification.) 22 Q. This part of the report also says that the swelling 23 nature of the bentonite may exacerbate dessication, cracking, and erosion by rip is that rip-up clast or riprap clast?

	lume 2 -28-23	Evidentiary Hearing before Judge LaFave March 28, 2023
Page 20	5	Page 207
1 A. I think I need to explain a little bit the genesi	5 1	applicable about several minutes ago, and I
2 of this report.	2	that was what he had and that's my question. The
3 Q. I'm going to ask you just to help me understand this		only question I had is, is riprap the same as
4 part. And I was reading it and trying to understand		rip-up, sir.
5 what rip-up clasts are and if they're the same as	5	JUDGE LAFAVE: All right.
6 riprap?	6	MR. MILLS: No, that's not
7 A. They are not.	7	JUDGE LAFAVE: I will respectfully I
8 Q. Okay.	8	didn't recall your question being that narrow.
9 A. This doesn't pertain at all to capping sediments of	r 9	But you if you're well, what would
10 lining a pond.	10	you like to say to finish?
11 Q. Okay. So this is something that only would tak		THE WITNESS: I'm almost done.
12 place in the form on the format of laboratory	12	JUDGE LAFAVE: Okay.
13 testing; is that what you're suggesting?	13	THE WITNESS: In the intervening years,
14 A. No.	14	they had the Corps had built a larger device
15 Q. Okay, go ahead.	15	called a SEDflume testing device that could exert
16 A. Following Hurricane Katrina and the disastrous los		much higher shear stresses on soil samples, and they
 of property and lives, the Army Corps of Engineer looked at an accelerated program to upgrade their 		wanted to test the AquaBlok material in that new device.
 looked at an accelerated program to upgrade their levies and levies run by the local wards down it 		The previous test with the older device,
the Gulf Coast area, and they were doing a study of		they couldn't get it to fail, okay. So they tested
21 what types of materials they could use to	21	it, got it to fail with some other materials, and
22 efficiently and quickly build on top of existing	22	that's the subject of the study here.
23 levies out in the air.	23	Going into the study, I didn't think it
24 They were concerned about wave action	24	was an applicable use that I would propose as an
25 overtopping levies and scouring the back sides o	ີ 25	engineer, the AquaBlok material, to be particularly
Page 20	6	Page 208
Page 20		Page 208
1 the levies, creating a failure where the levy woul	d 1	good at, but they want to look at it.
 the levies, creating a failure where the levy woul burst and flooding occurs. 	d 1 2	good at, but they want to look at it. BY MS. MACCABEE:
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1 er int to wine Application - 00-2004-57824 5-2		
Page 209		Page 211
1 your concern.	1	very important in an overall cost.
2 MR. MILLS: Thank you.	2	That particular project was a treatment
3 JUDGE LAFAVE: Thank you.	3	amendment and the cost of that material per ton
4 Ms. Maccabee, please proceed.	4	versus a sealing material is a couple of multiples.
5 BY MS. MACCABEE:	5	So that's a very big number, according to
6 Q. If we could just turn to Exhibit 331. Are you	6	what I would expect.
familiar with this report, Mr. Hull, which is from	7	Second, it's my understanding that no
8 the Department of Defense which is evaluating the	8	material, no bentonite amendment for the pond basin
9 use of AquaBlok at a as a sediment-capping tool?	9	may be needed.
10 A. I probably have reviewed this report.	10	Third, if some is needed, there is
11 Q. And on this report, let's turn quickly to page 3,	11	there is nothing that says you have to cap the whole
which is PDF 21, just to identify what kind of	12	area. So you might achieve the equivalent
AquaBlok product were they were using.	13	six-and-a-half-inch percolation control by
And this was a product that had a nominal	14	identifying some areas within the 900 acres that
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		appear to be more problematic. They may be quite
	15	small.
and a 10 percent clay, sodium bentonite, correct? A. Correct.	16	
	17	You cap those, and you see what the
18 Q. And then let's turn quickly to page 38, which is on	18	response is. So estimating how much you need to
PDF 56. And looking at the top of the page is the	19	achieve the control of the situation is an exercise.
general estimate of costs that are common for	20	Lastly, the size of the scale here is
capping, and they range from about 300 at least	21	something that I'm not familiar with. They have
in this 2017 report, they range from 350- to	22	rail at the site. Railing and raw materials would
23 \$700,000 an acre.	23	significantly reduce the costs. The economies of
Is that consistent with what you know	24	scale of application would significantly reduce the
about the cost of sediment capping?	25	costs. I could make a guess and be off by, you
Page 210		Page 212
	1	
1 A. The cost of sediment capping is highly dependent	1 2	Page 212 know, a multiple. And it's 20, 30 years down the road.
 A. The cost of sediment capping is highly dependent upon the location, the size of the project, the 	2	know, a multiple. And it's 20, 30 years down the road.
 A. The cost of sediment capping is highly dependent upon the location, the size of the project, the placement aspects of the project. The smaller the 	2	know, a multiple. And it's 20, 30 years down the road.b. So I think that's really important information. And
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Volume 2

3-28-23

Evidentiary Hearing before Judge LaFave

March 28, 2023

In the Matter of the NorthMet Project Permit to Mine Application - 60-2004-37824

25 A. In the first place, the cost of the materials is

25

I may.

			ime 2 8-23	Evidentiary Hearing before Judge LaFav March 28, 202
		Page 213		Page 215
1 (Q.	That one should be in your book.	1	to the NorthMet pond site, correct?
	À.	Okay.	2	A. That's correct.
3 (Q.	And we can also put up your	3	MS. MACCABEE: No further questions.
4	-	MS. MACCABEE: Why don't we put up	4	JUDGE LAFAVE: Very good. Thank you very
5		Mr. Hull's rebuttal testimony, pages lines 655 to	5	much for your testimony this afternoon. We are in
6		659, so if he wants to quickly see what he testified	6	recess until 9:00 a.m. tomorrow morning.
7		to.	7	We're off the record.
8		THE WITNESS: Could you give me the page	8	(Proceedings were adjourned.)
9		number of the rebuttal?	9	(Proceedings were adjourned.)
-		Y MS. MACCABEE	10	
		Of the rebuttal, yes, it's 655 to 659. Oh, page	11	
12	_	number 38.	12	
		Thank you.		
		Does that refresh your recollection about the length	13	
	_		14	
15		of the study?	15	
		Yes.	16	
		And, of course, an application, often the PondSeal	17	
18		project has served its purpose for decades or even	18	
19		centuries, correct? Just that question. I know you	19	
20		want to say more, but I'm trying to	20	
		I'll have to hear the question again, sorry.	21	
22 (_	In an application, the PondSeal or the AquaBlok	22	
23		project has to last a great deal longer than 15	23	
24		days, correct?	24	
25	A.	Yes.	25	
		Page 214		Page 216
1 (О.	And in your testimony, and this is in your rebuttal	1	STATE OF MINNESOTA)) ss.
2		at lines 473 to 490, you also talked about a lab	2	COUNTY OF HENNEPIN)
3		study you did on establishing a planned community on	3	
4		alkaline lime waste?	4	
5		Yes.	5	
		And do you recall that and I'm sorry. I'm	6	REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE
7		hurrying because I want to get this done and respect	7	I, Lisa A. Blanks, do hereby certify
, 8		the judge's request, so I apologize for talking so	8	that the above and foregoing transcript,
9		fast.	9	consisting of the preceding 215 pages is a
10		But I just want to clarify that this	10	correct transcript of my stenographic notes, and
		you're aware that the question of whether roots	11	is a full, true and complete transcript of the
11 12		•	12	proceedings to the best of my ability.
		would go through or avoid alkaline lime waste is not	13	Dated: April 7, 2023
13		really applicable to the NorthMet tailings basin?		Dated: April /, 2025
		It is similar in that roots seek something to their barrefit to barrefit the plant and if there are no	14	
15		benefit, to benefit the plant, and if there are no	15	/s/ Lisa A. Blanks
16		nutrients in the mine tailings, that is a deterrent	16	LISA A. BLANKS Registered Professional Reporter
17		for their spreading that deep (ph).	17	-
	_	And is it correct that this study was about	18	
19		alkaline, high pH lime mining waste, correct?	19	
20		The study was to demonstrate that with a specific	20	
21		species of grasses that were being proposed for the	21	
22		site, that they could achieve a good cover with a	22	
23		shallow root zone.	23	
24 (Q.	And that specific chemistry and specific time frame	24	
		and specific grasses are not necessarily applicable	25	
25		and specific grasses are not necessarily appreaded	2.7	

Volume 2 3-28-23

Evidentiary Hearing before Judge LaFave March 28, 2023

Permit to Mine Applicat	10n - 60-2004-37824	3-28-23		March 28, 2023
	achievable (1)	104:21,23,24;105:3,5;	12:12,17;13:20;	allowed (3)
\$	150:11	143:14;165:24;166:22	19:25;23:4;24:3;26:13;	21:17;35:22;57:24
φ	– achieve (28)	address (8)	27:17;33:12;46:11;	almost (7)
\$11.21 (1)	34:10;51:16,19;52:7;	21:3,4,8;119:5;	64:19;66:17;72:13;	72:25;153:1;158:17;
210:7	53:14,21,21,24;65:7;	135:9,11;139:15;	76:6;101:12;102:25;	159:2;181:19;185:11;
\$700,000 (1)	70:10;76:14;77:2;	176:15	117:12;119:4;137:19;	207:11
209:23	112:23,25;113:13,16;	addressed (1)	155:22;158:21;166:8;	along (3)
209.23	138:22;139:6,21,25;	163:20	171:25;172:21,23;	135:16;195:2;200:7
Α	145:18;163:6,23;	adds (1)	183:8;188:22;194:21;	alternative (2)
A	- 166:25;185:5;211:12,	43:17	196:7;199:10;202:21;	20:3,23
AB-1585 (1)	19;214:22	adequate (2)	204:4;208:13;213:21	alternatives (1)
203:18	achieved (9)	103:14;106:4	against (3)	154:3
AB-2080 (1)	51:9;60:6;126:23,24;	adequately (2)	165:11;179:15;	although (3)
203:18	139:17;162:16;179:7,	105:22;199:7	185:16	99:25;163:1;200:5
AB-37 (1)	12;185:9	adjacent (1)	agencies (2)	always (1)
203:18	acknowledge (4)	91:22	156:15;202:18	206:8
ability (4)	105:21;141:2,16,24	adjourned (1)	agency (1)	amend (1)
154:7,9;157:2;	acre (1)	215:8	179:19	177:6
171:19	209:23	adjusting (1)	aggregate (3)	Amended (9)
able (6)	acreage (3)	153:3	185:7;203:25;204:2	21:16;43:10;45:7;
5:11;21:22;71:24;	23:2;115:23;131:10	administrative (2)	ago (3)	47:3;62:12;112:3,4;
105:19;194:14;212:6	acres (18)	4:2,3	86:11;131:2;207:1	139:5;141:8
above (4)	11:1,4,5,8;22:14,15,	admissibility (2)	Agree (78)	amending (1)
16:18;58:8;113:9;	24;56:14;57:3,8;78:17,	21:11;56:3	15:12,15;23:1;24:19;	175:10
156:16	19;132:23;133:8;	admission (1)	25:11;26:7;28:6;29:10,	amendment (52)
absolutely (3)	174:5;187:7;201:11;	55:12	21;31:23;32:6,10,22;	20:9,16;21:19;31:9;
153:10;160:13;	211:14	admitted (1)	33:21;34:13,24;38:13;	44:9,25;48:7;52:6;
175:16	across (1)	55:3	39:4,8;40:22,24,25;	53:20;54:2,4;57:12;
abundantly (1)	80:8	adopt (1)	41:5,9,21;42:18;45:19;	59:22;62:7,13,16,22;
200:5	action (6)	122:13	54:16;58:17;59:20;	63:25;66:5,10,16;
academics (2)	133:25;134:3,12; 181:24;182:2;205:24	adopted (1) 60:10	66:24;71:10;75:3; 77:19;80:15;86:23;	68:21;81:2,6;86:11; 98:2,6,15,19,21;99:14,
177:24;178:2	active (1)	advantageous (1)	91:6;94:1,13,22;104:3;	16;100:2;109:22;
accelerated (1)	32:22	173:12	149:12;150:23;152:24;	111:3,7;112:6,17;
205:18	activities (2)	advantages (1)	153:5,14;154:5,21;	119:10,13,14,18;125:7;
acceptable (1)	160:10,11	173:21	155:5;156:17,18;	128:14;134:2;140:20;
162:21	activity (2)	adversely (1)	161:22;163:14,25;	141:3,17;166:25;
access (1) 64:19	134:13;160:12	134:1	165:10,16;168:10;	171:24;211:3,8
accommodate (2)	acts (1)	advice (3)	171:9,11;174:11,23;	amendments (7)
203:13;206:8	61:2	81:5;166:2,10	175:2,3;176:10,12;	7:6;106:20;127:14;
accommodation (1)	actual (17)	advisable (1)	177:20,21,24;178:4,8;	163:22;174:15;180:24;
34:9	37:3,4,5,8,8,18,18;	158:11	184:2;185:16;186:3,	181:22
accommodations (1)	39:9;57:22;59:5;93:13;	advise (1)	15;193:5;194:24;	amount (8)
34:8	128:13;148:15;189:10;	156:19	200:16;201:25	26:1;131:9;140:9;
accomplish (4)	196:23;199:4;202:1	aerial (1)	agreed (1)	149:5,13;179:3,5;
145:9;150:8;152:13;	actually (23)	162:15	147:2	204:6
208:15	10:2;41:16;46:18;	affect (8)	ahead (6)	amounts (3)
accomplished (1)	47:20;49:16;64:6;	32:15;39:17;40:9;	14:9;118:15;142:21;	164:19;175:13,14
198:25	83:17,24;133:10;	113:2;182:24;183:12;	182:10;186:14;205:15	analog (1)
accordance (1)	135:1;139:23;148:10;	186:1,2	air (2)	60:20
26:17	151:3;152:20,21;	affected (2)	105:20;205:23	animal (2)
according (3)	154:8;156:22;160:15;	134:12;161:8	Alabama (1)	94:14,18
22:23;43:18;211:5	164:2;190:15;198:14;	affecting (1)	132:22	Ann (1)
accordingly (1)	202:10;203:17	183:10	alcove (1)	144:12
171:7	adapt (1)	affects (1)	27:13	annual (4) 26:0:26:12:27:4.14
account (1)	153:21	20:15	algae (3)	26:9;36:13;37:4,14
170:3	adaptive (4)	afraid (1)	6:6,9,13	annually (1)
accredited (1)	49:20;52:21;53:1;	195:11	alkaline (3)	56:16
110:22	138:17 addition (2)	afternoon (9) 102:18,25;121:9,10;	214:4,12,19 allow (7)	answered (6) 71:5,7,15;107:22;
accurate (1)	103:18;113:6	102:18,25;121:9,10; 122:3,24,25;158:3;	4:21;21:25;118:24;	112:20;166:5
122:11				
	(11) lenoitibbe	/12:2		
accurately (1) 130:9	additional (11) 21:17;24:7;103:19;	215:5 again (34)	119:2;134:8;166:6; 170:23	anticipate (7) 4:18;99:13;103:11;

Volume 2 3-28-23

Evidentiary Hearing before Judge LaFave March 28, 2023

134:17;140:23;142:13; 186:17 anticipated (2) 73:23:156:2 anticipating (1) 167:2 Apologies (1) 176:20 apologize (2) 74:17:214:8 apparently (3) 84:3;144:17;147:11 appear (5) 79:18;89:8;95:15; 96:21;211:15 appears (9) 14:23;74:3,4;85:9; 95:14,21;96:1;122:12; 168:11 appendices (1) 42:7 applicable (6) 76:6;80:1;207:1,24; 214:13.25 applicant (1) 163:16 Application (72) 4:6;11:15;12:2;14:4, 20;41:7,11;42:6,8,25; 43:1:53:3:65:7.24: 66:2,4:69:2:70:15: 77:2:79:5.19:98:6: 100:9;101:15;107:6,9, 13,14,15,18,19;108:5, 8,9,9,13,14,15,21,23; 127:20,25;128:22; 129:19;130:21;131:2; 132:2:133:8.20: 134:23;135:3,4;136:7, 9:137:2,21,23:138:10; 140:1;142:2;148:15; 153:21:156:8:163:21; 188:2;197:3;206:4,11; 210:11;211:24;213:17, 22 applications (12) 69:18;123:18; 124:11;125:10;127:13; 129:6;133:2;137:9; 147:17;150:12;198:24; 199:1 applied (35) 59:3;62:8,17,23; 68:22;73:22;75:10,22; 76:15;81:23;100:2; 101:25;112:13;119:14; 124:6;127:4;129:7,11; 130:5,8,8,25;131:11, 20;132:8,15;133:1; 135:5.8.14:136:13: 138:11;140:6;196:16; 197:4 applies (2)

58:23;59:1 apply (14) 9:6:58:24:64:13; 66:25:73:11:76:11: 79:15:139:18:165:18; 171:19;174:2,3;181:1; 197:14 applying (10) 68:5,9;76:4;78:23; 79:12:87:7:134:24; 173:21;175:13,13 appreciate (5) 120:24;144:1;208:3, 5,25 approach (3) 7:7;90:11;121:24 approaches (1) 154:19 approaching (1) 185:11 appropriate (8) 55:7;137:23;162:3; 164:4;179:11;180:11; 189:11.19 appropriately (1) 163:13 appropriation (1) 34:3 appropriations (1) 33:25 approval (2) 178:1.2 approved (4) 35:10,14,21;169:8 approximately (7) 30:8,18;43:10;64:3; 133:7:138:23:197:18 AquaBlok (82) 54:6,15;60:12,13; 68:2,5,7,9,22;69:3,8, 10,12,15;70:2,4,12,17; 71:2,19:80:18:82:2,3,6, 12;83:17,24;85:20,24; 97:3,14,18;123:12; 130:21,24;131:11; 132:23;135:22,25; 136:5,12,18;137:4,17, 21;138:1,2;139:23; 140:14;145:3;146:18; 147:5;149:18,21,22; 167:19:168:23:169:10, 13;184:21;185:3; 187:9,17;191:13; 195:20;197:7,11,14; 198:6,14,21,23;200:1; 204:6;206:4,9;207:17, 25;209:9,13;212:20; 213:22 AquaBlok-named (1) 138:7 AquaBlok's (1) 204:15 area (21)

37:3:56:14:57:8: 62:10:73:24:94:12: 130:7;132:24;142:23; 173:23;184:6,23; 187:20,25;188:23; 192:5;200:17,18; 201:8;205:20;211:12 areas (24) 80:6,11;88:5;124:18; 129:16,17;130:3,4; 134:11,18;143:16; 168:13,21;169:12,14; 170:5;180:22;184:20, 25:188:10:195:2; 200:16,18;211:14 argumentative (1) 167:14 armoring (1) 134:18 Army (6) 110:22,24;202:25; 204:15;205:17;206:6 around (1) 175:23 arrangement (1) 147:12 art (1) 9:25 article (2) 98:24:204:10 artificial (1) 185:17 ascertain (2) 126:5;201:18 ash (8) 7:25;8:3,6,21;101:5, 10,25;190:4 aside (1) 199:5 aspect (1) 141:15 aspects (3) 141:4;171:17;210:3 assess (3) 190:11,12,24 assessed (1) 190:5 assessment (2) 190:10;201:23 associated (4) 48:19:60:13:65:20; 93:22 assume (5) 32:9;106:16;144:18; 162:9;183:2 assumed (1) 155:25 Assuming (2) 23:1;181:4 assumption (1) 50:9 assumptions (3) 32:20;33:17,24

assurance (4) 160:11.14.20:163:9 assurances (2) 155:15:156:16 assure (1) 160:17 ASTM (1) 110:20 atmosphere (2) 38:18:39:1 attached (1) 184:12 Attachment (1) 23:18 attain (2) 48:25;49:1 attainable (1) 139:14 attempting (1) 61:4 attention (6) 23:17;99:5;105:7; 106:10;124:19;185:15 attorney (2) 123:1;144:13 attracting (1) 39:22 attributing (1) 200:4 augment (2) 125:17:143:13 augmenting (2) 30:9,14 available (12) 38:20;39:3;104:5; 146:7,8;150:9;163:15; 164:2;165:7;166:12; 172:3.25 average (6) 37:9:50:15,23,24; 56:14:197:17 averaged (2) 37:12,13 avoid (6) 18:6;19:6,19;20:24; 34:1;214:12 awarded (1) 144:17 aware (17) 46:9;53:6,7;80:25; 81:4,7;127:5;128:12; 130:10;131:18;132:7, 14;135:5;146:18; 152:3;182:22;214:11 away (1) 91:18 axis (2) 100:17;101:19 B back (31) 4:24;10:13;12:11;

26:13:27:6:43:14; 45:12:46:15.24:47:19: 59:12:63:6;64:24; 66:22;72:7,12;79:7; 80:4;82:10;83:4,15; 102:19;110:11;121:5; 126:17;132:2;158:4; 165:4;178:18;205:25; 208:23 background (3) 18:22;117:16;123:5 backhoe (2) 101:18.21 backside (1) 105:19 backwards (1) 83:8 bad (1) 160:22 balance (2) 114:2;138:21 ballpark (3) 17:12,14;131:10 banks (1) 195:2 barge (4) 75:11,23;76:5;174:3 barges (1) 130:4 barrier (10) 8:2,15:51:7:64:5; 68:1:69:15:75:16.19: 93:9:141:9 barriers (10) 90:17;91:7;92:20,25; 93:2,4,13,16;95:1; 190:16 based (34) 11:8;13:7;14:16; 15:6,10,19,24;17:5,13; 37:23;41:11;51:3,4; 56:13;59:5,20;60:4; 74:2;81:8;87:9;94:9; 120:12;126:12;132:16; 135:16;138:25;143:12; 163:5;165:20;179:16, 20;180:12;195:7; 198:22 basement (1) 137:14 basic (3) 141:12,18;184:20 basically (3) 50:8;141:21;179:8 basics (1) 142:6 **basin** (87) 5:17;7:25;8:6;9:8,24, 25;10:1;11:11;12:16; 17:10:23:19:24:8;

Shaddix & Associates - Stenographic Court Reporters (952)888-7687 - reporters@janetshaddix.com 25:23;26:9;27:9,13,17;

28:25:30:18:31:24;

32:12;48:14;49:2;

Volume 2 3-28-23 Evidentiary Hearing before Judge LaFave March 28, 2023

Permit to Mine Application	on - 60-2004-37824	3-28-23		March 28, 2023
56:14;57:3;58:15;59:2,	below (7)	183:11;184:21;185:21;	blows (1)	brought (1)
7;60:19;61:5,10,11,17,	37:22;40:21;48:7;	202:15;204:23;209:16;	134:6	200:12
20,22,22;62:2;65:11;	87:2;88:12;95:15;	211:8	blue (2)	Brown (1)
66:18,20;69:19;70:6,	116:23	bentonite-amended (19)	15:13;27:12	78:5
13,22;79:21,22,24;	belt (1)	39:23;44:7,8;45:13;	board (1)	Bryson (1)
80:1;88:13;89:14,20,	125:19	49:22;50:9,13;57:23;	154:11	123:1
23;90:5;93:1;97:25;	beneath (3)	58:15,23;60:25;65:10,	body (3)	build (5)
98:3,7;99:14;102:4;	16:8;39:11;48:14	14,16;67:3;88:10;	133:25;134:24;	164:14;165:8;
109:3,5,9;111:4,8;	benefit (5)	113:8;138:20;184:5	200:13	180:24;189:10;205:22
112:6;114:3,5,21;	168:21;181:23;	bentonite-based (1)	book (2)	building (1)
116:23;118:2,6,11,21;	196:22;214:15,15	124:23	74:12;213:1	137:11
137:18,24;170:12,16;	Benson (19)	bentonite-coated (2)	bookends (1)	built (6)
187:12;193:20;194:6, 25;196:15,17,18;	80:24;81:14,17;82:1, 5,8,16,25;83:15,23;	184:24;186:6 bentonite's (2)	162:20 both (7)	10:17;17:10;152:8; 164:7;168:24;207:14
210:13;211:8;214:13	84:25;85:19,23;86:11;	33:5;133:1	11:12;19:24;122:9;	bulk (1)
basins (3)	87:6;95:24;96:2;97:1,	bentonite-type (1)	126:4;133:22,23;	87:20
89:16,18;134:4	17	186:13	183:16	bullet (3)
basin's (1)	Benson's (6)	beside (1)	bottom (57)	28:11;29:10;104:1
11:12	36:10,20;81:5,8;	147:24	12:6;13:20;34:24;	burning (1)
basis (4)	87:12;88:9	best (11)	37:16;45:7;46:17,24;	116:6
19:9;76:18;133:21;	bentonite (191)	32:12;66:13;81:22;	47:11,15,25;51:23;	burrowing (5)
177:11	7:6;9:3;18:21;19:22;	152:13;154:7,9,11;	53:5,21;56:17;58:16,	93:21;94:13,14,18,
battery (1)	20:2,9,15,22;21:19;	157:1;163:25;201:4;	24;59:4,7,22;60:4,11,	20
128:3	27:20;28:24;31:8,15,	208:16	12,25;62:16,21;68:1,5,	burst (1)
Bde (2)	20,25;33:2,22;34:20,	better (8)	21,23;69:16;77:15;	206:2
22:19;23:3	25;35:10;39:18,21;	110:23;142:7;	95:16;101:20;104:19;	business (3)
beach (13) 18:10,14,17;22:7;	40:23;43:9;44:9;47:2, 3;48:7;50:2;51:21;	143:17;145:22;159:16; 160:3;164:20;175:11	107:7,14,16;108:5; 112:22;113:4;124:6;	110:19;147:4,17 byproducts (1)
57:8;73:24;88:5;	52:6;53:5,20;54:2,4;	beyond (6)	129:8;133:3;134:10;	125:14
134:11,18;143:16;	57:12;59:22;62:7,13,	18:23;21:2,6;23:7;	138:20;139:2,5,6;	123.14
180:22;181:21;184:6	16;63:25;65:2;66:5,10,	137:4;191:19	143:15;146:18;148:9;	С
beaches (52)	16;67:4,8,9,14;68:20;	bid (1)	149:14;167:9,11;	
41:6;44:7,15;45:1,	73:11;75:18,22;76:4;	68:8	182:18;200:22;202:4	calcium (1)
14;51:22;57:13,24;	77:2,11,15,17,25;	big (8)	bottoms (1)	146:2
58:15,23;59:2,24;	78:23;79:4,12;81:1,6,9,	23:12;27:8;101:1;	200:7	calculate (2)
64:15;65:10;66:6,11,	21;83:2,18;84:25;	124:22;131:11;169:21;	bounds (1)	56:23;87:8
16;79:22,25;80:2,2;	85:13;86:19,22,25;	187:7;211:5	57:15	calculated (2)
88:6;89:24;98:16,19,	87:20,20;92:20;94:1,3;	bigger (3)	branch (1)	56:15;62:20
21;100:2,6,13;102:4;	98:2,6,15,19,21;99:13,	25:18;43:4;133:20	123:24	calculating (1)
111:8;114:8,21,23,25; 115:21;117:1;119:13;	15,16;100:2,9;101:11, 15;103:10,12,14,17,25;	billion (1) 116:17	brand (2) 136:5;140:14	68:8 calculation (5)
124:17;129:11,16;	105:22;106:14,20;	billions (1)	break (6)	48:24;50:1,24;51:23;
132:12,17;173:17,22,	107:6,14,20;108:5,10,	116:20	63:1;102:6,12,13;	48.24,50.1,24,51.25, 56:25
25;174:5;182:3,24;	15,21;109:22,25;	biological (1)	157:20,23	calculations (2)
183:12,13;184:3	110:3;111:3,7,13,17,	141:20	brief (4)	53:10,13
beat (2)	24;112:3,5,5,17;	bit (21)	82:6,10;88:15;94:22	California (2)
142:21;179:14	117:15,19;119:10,13,	9:24;11:20;13:6;	briefly (4)	5:10;123:22
become (4)	14,17;123:18;124:5,	16:12,13;19:4;22:22;	78:7;90:14;176:6;	call (6)
133:21;134:14;	23;125:6,16;127:4,14,	26:13;43:3;45:4;63:12;	177:10	23:17;120:25;
185:3;200:6	20,25;128:14;129:7,	99:25;113:20;125:8;	brilliant (1)	124:19;144:14;145:22;
bedrock (2)	10;130:11;131:19;	128:20;149:25;151:21;	206:16	147:4
135:9;200:11	132:8,15;134:1,23;	158:24;199:22;205:1;	bring (1)	called (12)
beforehand (1)	135:5,18;136:3,21,22;	210:6	113:21 bringing (1)	5:4;52:9;83:16,24;
79:20 beg (1)	137:1,3,13,21;138:10; 139:6,19;140:9,20;	bits (1) 91:11	bringing (1) 107:24	85:13;99:17;101:19; 111:24;121:14;145:3,
beg (1) 179:25	139:6,19;140:9,20; 141:2,12,17,18;143:10,	blend (2)	broadcast (1)	4;207:15
beginning (4)	15;145:15,18,22,24;	178:19;179:15	80:8	4,207.15 calling (1)
4:17;107:17;108:7;	157:13;163:22;164:18;	blended (1)	broadcasting (2)	84:7
165:5	165:12;166:25;171:24;	179:2	71:19;75:23	calls (4)
begins (1)	172:7;173:16;174:14;	blends (1)	brochure (4)	96:12;108:16;121:8;
104:21	175:13;176:19;178:19;	139:25	77:23;79:10;80:5,6	169:1
behalf (1)	179:3;180:24;181:12,	blowing (1)	Brothers (1)	Calumet (1)
123:1	22;182:14,17,18;	16:15	197:25	123:24

Volume 2 3-28-23 Evidentiary Hearing before Judge LaFave March 28, 2023

Permit to Mine Application	01 - 00-2004-3/824	3-28-23	T	March 28, 2023
	22 0 22 7 41 2	110 02 04	• • • •	201.22
came (4)	32:9;33:7;41:2;	110:23,24	circles (1)	201:23
43:21;190:3,8;191:1	51:24;75:21;79:21;	cessation (1)	175:23	clock (1)
can (130)	85:21;89:22;91:15,21;	109:11	circumstance (1)	208:24
6:5;10:7;12:2,4,12;	101:13,24;118:8;	cetera (5)	151:16	Close (3)
13:1,20;14:10,17,21,	124:9;125:25;129:8;	142:3;150:8;162:18;	citation (2)	69:21;144:10;155:24
23;15:8,13;16:11,16;	133:3;135:14;169:10;	185:19;194:7	148:10;158:20	closed (1)
17:5;19:22;22:4;25:5;	181:15;200:9;210:5,7	challenge (2)	cite (4)	190:4
28:1,10;31:18,19;36:8;	cases (11)	53:11;173:23	77:10;90:23;91:1;	closer (1)
42:14,21;43:2;45:15,	125:15;126:4,8,11,	challenged (1)	139:3	170:22
22;46:4,21;48:4;53:18;	15,21;127:10;129:23;	99:25	cited (1)	closest (1)
55:11;56:2;58:8;59:15;	130:1;172:8;173:8	challenges (8)	82:11	176:8
60:5,9;63:18;64:17,20;	casual (1)	105:17;133:5,9;	City (5)	closing (2)
66:21;72:4;74:9,10;	94:19	150:10;174:25;175:1,	72:22;73:20;192:1;	4:19,21
80:21;82:22,23,24;	cat (1)	5,8	193:14;201:8	closure (19)
83:5;85:5,6;87:2,6;	161:13	challenging (9)	clarification (11)	20:3,8;25:11;30:7,
88:24;96:14;97:11;	catch (1)	80:3;100:18,19;	35:19;36:2;62:14;	17;62:2;114:3;153:16,
99:9;100:2,14,15;	45:11	101:7,13;102:3,3,5;	76:24;90:25;110:4;	19,21;154:23;155:1;
101:14,25;106:20;	cation (3)	136:18	151:6;188:18;198:11;	156:7;158:12;170:2,4;
112:13,25;119:7,22;	141:23;142:4,8	chance (3)	204:21;208:5	171:4,16;180:23
122:8;124:5;129:10;	cations (2)	118:14,24;179:1	clarifications (1)	Clovis (1)
130:6,8;133:14;	141:10;185:18	change (21)	187:4	198:1
134:22;136:15;140:6,	causes (1)	30:10,16;32:7,11,14,	clarify (6)	coal (9)
7;143:6,25;147:23;	36:22	20,24;33:17,22,23;	30:14;35:9;103:23;	7:25;8:3,6,21;101:5,
150:2,9;152:18;	$\begin{array}{c} \text{causing (1)} \\ 125, 10 \end{array}$	45:25;56:9;63:13;	155:12;183:17;214:10	10,18,25;125:13
155:12,18;158:17,20,	135:10	90:18;93:20,22;94:24;	clarifying (1)	coarse (9)
21,22;159:2;160:2;	ceased (3)	98:5,19;143:23;155:6	119:8	42:20;43:6;87:19;
167:22;168:5;170:20,	12:9;62:9,18	changes (1)	clarity (1)	92:8;94:10;109:23;
24;171:1;172:18;	ceded (1)	55:4	107:24	110:6;111:11,12
174:14;176:2;181:1,8,	181:23	changing (1)	classic (1)	Coast (1)
12,23;182:19;183:17,	cell (68)	19:7	145:22	205:20
18;185:3;186:11,12;	4:8;10:10,11,12,14,	channel (1)	clast (2)	coat (1)
194:11;195:6,17;	19,25;11:1,3,7,13;	18:8	204:24,25	182:7
		Chapuis (5)	·	coated (2)
196:4,5,14;200:6,8,18,	12:16,20;14:4,5,19,19;		clasts (1)	
25,25;201:5;204:8;	15:6,10,21;16:1,3,7,9,	77:10,16;78:25;87:4,	205:5	84:25;85:13
208:8,14,14;212:11,11;	22,23;17:15,16;23:22,	8	clay (22)	co-author (1)
213:3	22;24:3,12,20;25:7,8,	Chapuis' (3)	45:17;64:4,11,14;	203:1
cap (8)	13,17,23;26:3,15,15;	87:12,13,23	65:14,16;67:1,5,7,8,15,	COHEN (65)
47:22;132:23;	28:11,12,18;29:2,11,	characteristics (2)	17,18;140:6;142:9;	100:14;107:21;
145:12;190:1,6;193:6;	12,15,18,18;30:3,4,9,9,	39:21;189:23	179:3,10;203:21,24;	108:16;110:1;115:13,
211:11,17	17,19,24;60:19;62:4;	Characterization (4)	204:2,6;209:16	16,17,20;117:12;119:7,
capability (1)	109:2,5,8,10,15,15;	42:5;49:9,16,19	clays (4)	10;120:15,16;142:19;
101:6	115:8,9;117:7	characterize (1)	146:1,1,2,2	144:5,7,12;147:1,18;
capable (4)	cells (5)	128:16	clear (8)	151:3,7,9;152:14;
53:12;60:21;61:19;	10:8,11;24:21;30:3;	charges (1)	21:14;91:23;97:6,17;	155:21;157:20,21,24;
198:22	117:9	156:25	104:6;112:16;116:19;	158:7,8;159:7,18,19;
capacity (5)	cement (3)	chart (1)	149:21	165:4,6;166:9;167:5,
38:19;39:2;156:5;	7:25;8:1,5	47:23	clearing (1)	16,18,22,24;168:9,19;
194:7;195:1	centimeters (14)	CHB's (1)	10:17	169:5,25;170:17;
capillary (2)	51:1;57:25;58:12,22;	96:4	clearly (1)	171:1,10;172:22;
181:23;182:2	64:3;65:3,8,19,23;	check (1)	117:15	173:7,24;174:10;
capped (3)	138:24;139:8;148:9;	5:10	Cleveland (1)	176:3,5,18;177:2,3;
128:18;174:14;				
	163:3;179:12	chemical (2)	191:1	180:2,6,17,19;182:21;
188:24	centuries (1)	183:10;201:18	Cleveland-Cliffs (1)	183:6,22;186:21;
capping (6)	213:19	chemistry (3)	131:15	194:17
192:24;204:17;	CERCLA (2)	103:24;104:9;214:24	client (4)	Colleagues (4)
205:9;209:21,25;210:1	124:1;132:22	chess (1)	156:20;157:1,7,14	68:7;69:9,11,14
caps (1)	certain (7)	208:23	clients (1)	collect (1)
190:2	70:10;117:13;127:7;	choose (1)	156:14	26:2
carbon (1)	141:4;151:17;163:6;	43:23	Cliff (1)	collected (4)
209:15	188:6	choosing (1)	199:20	26:1;202:2,3,4
	certainly (2)	140:4		
care (1)			Climate (4)	collecting (1)
20:23	53:12;170:20	chosen (1)	32:7,11,14;33:22	25:22
case (23)	certified (2)	136:23	climatological (1)	collection (1)
	1	1	L	1

Volume 2 3-28-23 Evidentiary Hearing before Judge LaFave March 28, 2023

125:19 color (1) 105:19 Colton (4) 34:1.3.4.9 Columbus (9) 72:22;73:20;132:21; 188:9,12:192:1; 193:14;195:8;196:2 column (10) 68:10;71:20;75:11, 22;78:23;79:4,14,16; 81:24:114:15 combination (1) 162:4 combinations (2) 51:17;185:18 combustion (1) 125:13 comfort (2) 165:22;166:20 comfortable (3) 42:22;136:24;167:1 coming (5) 49:8;112:22;118:17, 20;144:10 comma (1) 116:19 commentary (2) 176:23,24 comments (1) 143:10 commercial (1) 137:12 **Commission** (2) 90:16;94:23 common (10) 36:22:154:15:172:9: 173:8;174:12,15; 189:9;197:6,13;209:20 communication (2) 31:11:81:14 communications (1) 31:7 community (1) 214:3 compact (1) 185:6 compacted (4) 146:2,13;162:23; 189:2 compaction (10) 65:15;162:17; 175:14;179:11;184:20; 185:1,10;189:13,17,20 compactive (1) 163:6 company (7) 123:12;147:3,5; 184:17;191:14;197:24, 24 compare (1) 55:19

compared (2) 89:18.19 **Comparing** (1) 23:6 comparison (1) 36:22 compartmentalizing (1) 170:22 compatibility (1) 186:6 compensate (2) 140:24;142:13 compilation (1) 42:3 complaints (1) 117:14 complete (5) 28:25;152:12; 160:12;165:18;208:4 completed (6) 11:11:56:3:72:21; 73:20;150:10;191:3 completely (1) 182:5 completing (1) 154:18 completion (1) 152:23 complex (2) 152:15:186:11 compliance (1) 118:9 complicated (2) 167:7:174:16 complicating (1) 173:15 comply (3) 25:24:47:9.13 components (4) 125:18:137:13; 154:16;162:1 composite (3) 64:2,13,17 composition (2) 93:13;183:10 compound (2) 165:2;176:22 computation (3) 49:4;50:12,20 computations (1) 50:6 concept (1) 170:25 concern (5) 39:20;204:17; 208:19,20;209:1 concerned (1) 205:24 concerns (2) 204:15:208:21 conclude (1) 92:6 concluded (1)

60:24 concludes (1) 9:15 conclusion (8) 16:10;124:5;129:7, 10:186:3.8.15.17 condition (3) 61:7;181:8;190:12 conditions (29) 26:22,23:28:17: 37:24;60:21;61:13; 92:13:93:10,11:94:24; 100:18,19;101:7,13; 102:2,5;125:17; 128:16;129:2;136:25; 154:12,13;158:17; 159:2,14,14;161:8,20; 168:5 conduct (3) 166:22;186:4,5 conducted (4) 127:23:152:2: 162:22:212:23 conductivities (1) 53:24 conductivity (53) 6:13;43:5,10,11; 45:12;48:6,12;49:1,23; 50:24;51:5,18;53:3,19; 54:23:55:22:56:20; 58:7,21:59:1,6,21:60:6, 13:61:18:65:1.9.18: 66:5,15,20;86:13; 106:16:111:14.16.19: 112:20,24;113:3,6,11; 126:20;127:7;139:7, 12,16,19,21,22;140:5; 141:25:146:11:189:22 confidence (1) 111:1 confident (1) 100:1 configuration (1) 105:19 configurations (2) 136:22;162:4 confined (1) 190:23 confirm (6) 41:16;103:10,13,15; 122:8:155:2 confirmation (1) 161:1 confirms (1) 104:7 confusing (2) 36:12;193:3 confusion (4) 36:22;39:7;107:4,10 conjunction (1) 199:11 connecting (1) 195:2

connection (1) 81:13 conseal (1) 196:16 consent (1) 25:24 conservation (1) 144:14 consider (7) 105:13:110:15; 111:2,6;112:4;142:4; 161:14 considerably (3) 54:17;59:7,23 consideration (1) 136:11 considered (3) 146:24;152:15; 185:12 considering (2) 37:17;91:23 considers (1) 150:6 consistent (11) 16:24;17:22;28:16; 54:9,12;55:4;57:19; 58:2;138:11;157:3; 209:24 consistently (1) 25:12 consolidated (1) 190:22 consolidation (1) 190:25 constraints (3) 124:13,16;161:16 construct (4) 98:21;99:13;161:20; 189:19 constructed (7) 65:12;66:8,15,18; 163:23:164:8:190:1 construction (27) 65:9;98:2,15,18; 100:6,8;112:11,11; 125:11;130:2;146:9; 154:15,18;160:10,15; 161:16;162:20;164:9; 167:4;172:9;173:8; 174:12,24;175:1; 179:11:189:8.9 consultant (1) 123:7 consultants (2) 23:10;31:8 consultation (1) 81:8 consulting (1) 106:25 contact (4) 81:3;147:20;182:6, 17 contacted (1)

80:24 contain (1) 55:20 contained (7) 52:25:53:22:65:23; 66:3;153:16,18;185:17 containing (1) 153:8 containment (9) 124:24;127:17; 134:20;143:5;144:24; 145:6,12:154:16; 156:13 contains (4) 19:4;23:19;55:20; 58:18 contaminated (5) 74:25;75:4;132:24; 193:2,6 content (8) 86:22,24;132:14,16; 162:18;184:5;185:11; 189:17 contested (1) 75:21 context (13) 19:10;21:18,21; 23:11;82:22;97:8; 116:11;117:25;118:5. 11:143:2,7:159:25 contingents (1) 157:9 continue (9) 30:20.21.22:39:5: 71:13;83:12;135:12; 139:4;208:6 **CONTINUED** (2) 5:7:127:16 continues (1) 108:12 continuing (3) 28:20;108:14;208:20 continuous (1) 19:20 contract (1) 147:3 contractor (6) 154:11;160:21; 161:2;175:4;189:10; 201:9 contractors (6) 68:23:101:6:102:2: 133:15;168:5;198:2 contribute (1) 81:12 contributor (1) 92:24 contributors (1) 93:19 control (12) 124:24;142:17; 143:4,8;153:5;160:11, 14,19;189:13;202:16;

Min-U-Script®

n the Matter of the Nort Permit to Mine Applicati		Volume 2 3-28-23	Evidentiary Hea	ring before Judge LaFav March 28, 202
211:13,19	153:2;164:1;172:14;	174:19,21	111:15	depends (3)
controlled (1)	176:15,16;177:13,16;	customarily (1)	decree (1)	67:15;94:4;181:18
153:5	191:6;202:11;214:22	190:20	25:24	depict (2)
convenient (1)	covered (3)	customary (1)	deem (1)	97:22;114:1
195:13	105:21;106:11;	199:3	208:18	depicted (1)
conventional (4)	184:20	customers (1)	deep (5)	16:6
78:24;79:18;145:5,	covers (9)	139:23	94:9;134:24,25;	depiction (3)
14	81:10,18,21,21,23;	cut (4)	135:2;214:17	12:15,19;168:17
conversation (4)	177:5;189:1,2,21	91:18;191:22;208:9, 17	deeply (1)	depictions (1)
13:14;97:8,10; 156:25	crack (1) 135:9	cycling (5)	152:1 defects (3)	198:24 depicts (1)
conveyors (1)	cracking (2)	39:17,20;40:10,23;	68:24;69:4;73:12	114:2
130:6	93:22;204:24	88:11	Defense (2)	deposit (1)
copies (2)	cracks (1)	00.11	202:17;209:8	168:22
203:11;204:12	185:4	D	defining (1)	deposited (1)
copy (7)	Craig (6)		48:22	164:13
122:4;195:11;	82:25;84:24;95:24;	dam (25)	definition (5)	deposition (1)
196:10;199:25;202:22,	96:2;97:1,17	17:9,23;18:5;26:11,	149:25;150:5;151:5,	201:3
23,24	create (8)	16,18;31:3;41:5;43:9;	15;157:3	depth (24)
core (2)	8:15;51:7;68:1;	44:15;45:13;56:24;	definitively (1)	37:22;39:11;40:9,21;
74:25;75:3	69:15;75:5;106:15;	57:12,23;64:15;65:10,	138:5	50:15,18,23;51:19;
corings (1)	134:6;185:6	11;66:7;67:1;80:12,16;	degradation (5)	56:14;90:11;91:23;
91:13	created (1)	88:5;89:19;129:11;	90:18;92:20;127:20,	92:3,7,8,9;93:8;94:8;
Corps (7)	78:23	181:22	22;141:17	113:8;124:11,17;
110:22,24;202:25;	creates (1)	dams (13)	degrade (5)	132:1;134:8,21;135:4
204:15;205:17;206:6;	40:22	51:22;59:24;114:8;	91:7;140:21;141:3,4,	depths (1)
207:14	creating (6)	115:3,21;117:4;	19 James (4)	91:20
correctly (7)	8:2;77:15,19;192:17, 19;206:1	137:10,11;164:7,14;	degree (4)	derived (2) 45:16,19
5:21;106:18,20; 188:5,20;192:15;203:2	crest (2)	165:8;168:12,23 dam's (1)	90:18;106:3;110:25; 201:15	45:16,19 describe (4)
correspond (1)	17:23;18:5	89:14	deliberately (1)	6:4;7:24;79:11;
203:20	crests (2)	Dana (1)	91:14	101:16
cost (22)	26:11,17	31:3	deliver (1)	described (6)
68:8;133:15;150:9;	criteria (1)	Darcy's (5)	136:18	145:21;162:11;
156:2,13,21,24;157:4,	162:17	52:10,16;53:12,13;	demonstrate (2)	185:7;188:1,8;190:7
14;158:11;172:5;	critical (2)	113:5	77:11;214:20	describes (1)
204:1,5;209:25;210:1,	125:18;153:13	dark (1)	demonstrated (1)	89:2
11,23,25;211:1,3;	cross (5)	15:13	151:18	description (1)
212:13,16	4:12;13:23;97:23;	data (15)	demonstrating (1)	9:6
costs (6)	105:11;119:1	12:3;41:12;42:4,5,5,	75:12	desiccation (3)
147:9;157:7;174:21;	CROSS-EXAMINATION (12)	7;44:2;45:16;49:9,16;	demonstration (5)	93:22;181:21;184:7
209:20;211:23,25	5:7;9:16,20;98:9,25;	111:23;201:23;202:2,	61:6,13,15;112:17;	design (40)
counsel (5)	100:1;104:13;107:4;	3,3	210:7	32:9;91:17;130:20;
55:24;74:11;102:14;	109:19;122:22;144:6;	date (2)	demonstrative (6)	138:2;145:19;152:13;
202:22,23 count (1)	187:1 Crossing (1)	24:25;133:4	22:17;55:12;114:11; 115:14;116:2,11	154:16,19;155:3,5; 156:23;160:8,15,18;
162:15	199:20	day (3) 4:4;72:25;123:9	demucking (3)	161:11,19;163:7;
couple (5)	cross-section (9)	days (2)	193:19;194:6,25	164:3,17,20;165:16,20
78:16,17;149:12;	11:23;12:1,22;13:22,	212:23;213:24	denominator (1)	25;166:14;167:20;
180:20;211:4	25;14:11,24,25;15:1	DCL (1)	118:4	168:24;169:7,13,16;
course (2)	crunch (1)	75:24	densitometer (1)	170:3,6,11,15,16;
37:9;213:17	119:6	dead (1)	189:15	171:6,14;175:18;
Court (9)	CTF (1)	179:14	density (1)	179:16;187:19;190:2
59:14;71:14,16;	191:1	deal (3)	162:18	designed (8)
110:4;119:23;157:23;	curious (1)	19:3;42:17;213:23	Department (3)	32:1,19;33:15,22;
169:3;188:17;204:21	143:1	decades (3)	22:18;202:17;209:8	124:25;125:11;145:12
cover (32)	current (9)	110:19,20;213:18	depend (3)	156:12
9:7;11:12;39:23;	17:7;54:6,12;61:6;	decide (1)	54:1;67:10;94:8	designing (4)
57:3,8;61:3;63:24;	65:11;123:7;134:17;	175:18	dependent (3)	156:7;161:4;164:1;
64:2,13;66:25;67:2;	162:14;196:1	decision (4)	204:2,6;210:1	170:1
81:25;100:15;105:22;	currently (3)	14:7;178:15;179:20;	depending (7)	designs (5)
106:1;112:9,9;113:20;	50:22;55:24;109:5	180:12	31:20,25;33:5;145:8;	125:1,23;126:9,13;
145:7,10;146:3,4;	custom (2)	decreases (1)	165:21;166:19;186:18	161:23

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(6) controlled - designs

Volume 2 3-28-23 Evidentiary Hearing before Judge LaFave March 28, 2023

desire (1)	13
116:6	14
desired (2)	14
34:11;163:23	19
Despite (3)	diffe
105:12,24;106:6	13
dessication (1)	diffe
204:23	19
detail (1)	diffi
175:8	12
detailed (1)	17
27:5	dig (
details (5)	88
5:22,24;10:22;70:7,	digg
13	89
determine (10)	dilut
14:2;21:22;105:4;	14
127:6;129:2;152:12;	dim i
165:23;189:16,23;	14
190:15	dire
determined (1)	6:
131:7	62
determining (1)	72
48:13 deterministic (1)	11
45:23	dire
deterrent (1)	13
214:16	13
detrimental (1)	dire
134:14	15
developed (1)	dire
23:23	13
development (3) 92:25;93:21;142:10	dire
device (5)	disa
99:17;207:14,15,18,	41
19	15
dewatered (2)	disa
196:8,17	20
dewatering (1)	disc
196:15	20
diagram (1)	discl
16:7	27
Diedrich (4)	disc
142:7;182:22;183:9,	18
20	disc
Diedrich's (1)	15
183:4	16
Diego (1)	disc
201:8	10
difference (6)	disc
17:6;55:21;149:12,	36
17;169:21;197:6	64
differences (1)	discu
113:3	15
different (44)	60
20:17;32:4;39:16;	12
48:11;53:4;58:3;62:3,	disc
5;63:2;75:4;80:16,19;	6:
92:12,12,14,22,23;	disc
93:10,11;95:1,4;96:9,	19
21,22;112:24;125:5,6;	77
127:9,11;137:9,15;	14

39:25:140:11,12,12; 49:11:161:13:175:13. 4:186:12:193:4; 97:9;203:17;208:5 erential (1) 34:22 erently (1) 97:22 icult (5) 2:22;160:1;173:14; 78:4,9 (2)8:19:89:8 ging (1) 9:2 te (1) 41:12 inishment (1) 42:1 ect (16) 3;7:4;9:1;57:4; 2:12;63:14;68:14; 2:17;74:15;117:14; 19:1;122:1,4,9; 24:20;192:2 ection (5) 3:6;101:20,22; 36:2:202:16 ctionally (1) 5:9 ctly (1) 36:1 ctor (1) 23:11 gree (6) 1:1;75:7;76:17,18; 54:20:171:9 4:6 strous (1) 05:16 charge (3) 0:25;109:15;181:12 charged (1) 7:14 charging (1) 8:7 cover (3) 55:24;160:25; 63:17 retion (1) 04:25 cuss (4) 6:13;56:2;63:14; **Don** (1) 4:7 cussed (8) 5:6;43:12;59:5; 31:7 0:9;78:25;80:2;97:15; 25:4 cussing (2) 15;78:2 ussion (8) 9:3;58:25;59:20; 7:16;97:18;102:14; 42:24;147:8 22:214:7

discussions (3) 21:11:147:16:156:14 disposal (2) 190:22.23 dispute (4) 151:10,11,13;170:14 disputing (1) 170:15 disrespect (1) 178:8 dissertation (2) 184:13,19 dissipation (1) 134:9 dissolved (1) 185:18 distance (1) 134:6 distinction (1) 193:1 distribution (1) 128:17 distributor (1) 199:12 distributors (1) 197:24 **DNR** (15) 22:23;24:9;28:10; 29:9;31:3;37:11;81:1, 4;105:2;106:25;123:2; 155:14;156:8;163:16; 178:9 **DNR's** (4) 28:8;29:10;31:8; 143:20 Docket (1) document (15) 13:10.13:44:21: 66:17:87:7:103:1; 104:11:110:11:148:2: 193:11:197:15:202:22, 25;203:1,2 documents (20) 27:5;42:9,15;55:23; 64:19,24;65:11; 147:24;148:5,15,18,19; 149:3,5,6;176:13,14; 177:4,10;210:19 dollars (1) 191:17 31:11 Donald (1) done (20) 26:20;90:12;94:23; 102:15;110:12;151:16; 152:18;160:11,17; 177:15;195:7;199:16, 16:201:2:206:5: 207:11:208:14:210:10,

dormant (1) 38:15 dosages (1) 165:11 Dostert (1) 31:3 double-check (1) 42:14 down (16) 11:19;22:22;24:24; 31:13;46:24;50:5;91:9; 95:17;121:2;154:14; 161:18;200:12;205:19; 206:6;210:6;212:1 downloaded (1) 195:25 Dr (25) 36:10,20;80:24;81:5, 8,14,17;82:1,5,8,16; 83:23;85:19,23;87:6, 12:88:9:142:7:182:22; 183:4,9,20;184:13,17; 186:3 Draft (3) 24:17;25:2,5 drainage (8) 6:17,20;28:12,18; 29:11,18;30:6,6 drained (3) 109:10,13,14 draw (3) 99:5:106:9:185:14 drawing (5) 10:5,7;11:21;16:11; 27:10 drawings (2) 147:6:148:3 dries (2) 39:16:40:9 drilling (3) 135:9.10.13 drops (3) 32:18,23;33:15 dry (16) 31:21;32:21;33:18; 37:22;38:25;39:11; 40:21;77:16;79:5,19; 81:24,25;88:11;182:6; 199:17;204:16 drying (1) 19:19 **Du** (1) 22:23 dual (2) 100:17;101:19 due (6) 32:19;33:15,22; 141:25;180:23;200:19 dug (1) 89:25 duly (1) 121:14 duration (3)

46:1,9:152:20 during (6) 62:22;114:3;146:16; 160:9;165:24;181:10 Е earlier (8) 67:25:69:9:109:3; 114:7:130:14:135:22: 173:20;206:12 early (2) 26:25:99:15 earth (1) 168:10 earthen (3) 91:7;93:4;94:25 easier (5) 16:13;43:4;63:16; 80:23;86:16 east (6) 13:2;15:9;30:2,23, 23:123:24 eastern (2) 10:13;14:6 easy (1) 73:21 economically (1) 187:13 Economies (3) 133:13.19:211:23 edge (1) 19:7 effect (5) 21:19;103:9;145:19; 184:22,23 effective (7) 73:10;80:10;99:10; 103:16:150:9:157:4; 172:6 effectiveness (1) 136:6 effects (2) 33:6;103:25 efficacy (6) 31:21,25;33:5,23; 126:8;178:19 efficiencies (1) 174:22 efficient (7) 80:9:87:3:101:2: 103:16;133:17,21; 156:24 efficiently (1) 205:22 effort (2) 163:6;185:6 eFile (3) 119:24;120:1,6 eg (1) 150:7 eight (6) 24:23;25:3;50:19,21,

Volume 2 3-28-23 Evidentiary Hearing before Judge LaFave March 28, 2023

Permit to Mine Application	on - 60-2004-37824	3-28-23
22.121.22		172.2
22;134:25	164:17;165:17;166:1;	173:3
EIS (7)	170:1;198:9;207:25	erosion (1)
10:5,6;24:15;25:2,5;	engineered (2)	204:24
27:11;106:25	68:1;69:15	error (1)
either (15)	Engineering (5)	58:18
18:18;19:19;20:25;	110:18;123:8;	especially (1)
31:21;32:24;33:22;	154:24;161:19,23	173:13
35:1;57:12;65:9;76:16;	Engineers (5)	essence (1)
125:16;171:9;201:12,	110:23,24;146:10;	153:9
13,15	202:25;205:17	Essentially (2)
elaborate (1)	Engineers' (1)	192:24;197:10
125:8	206:6	establish (4)
elements (1)	engineer's (3)	20:6;169:6;170:1;
6:2	154:2,5;156:23	189:17
elevated (1)	enough (13)	establishing (2)
10:2	14:2,6;16:17;18:22;	19:8;214:3
elevation (9)	29:22;32:16;74:5;	Estimate (5)
17:7,7,11,23;18:2,4,	119:24;120:1;165:3;	86:18;209:20;
5,11;22:6	175:8;178:24;206:14	210:10;212:5,16
else (3)	entail (2)	estimated (3)
76:8;84:12;196:22	124:12;134:16	86:12;87:19;113:15
email (29)	entailed (2)	estimates (3)
31:2,2,11;82:6,17,19,	124:15;196:15	156:14;157:10;
21,25;83:1;84:2,4,6,8,	entire (6)	210:22
8,11,13,14,18,24;85:7,	38:11;80:17;91:18;	estimating (1)
11;95:12,13,18,21,22,	92:10;194:6,25	211:18
23,24;96:6	entirety (2)	et (5)
emails (6)	115:18,23	142:3;150:8;162:18;
83:9,21;95:14;96:11,	entrance (1)	185:19;194:7
21;97:13	94:15	evaluate (8)
emergency (7)	entrapped (1)	51:21;52:6;92:19;
18:1,6,7,19;27:9,13,	94:3	94:24;163:4;190:9,21;
17	ENVIROGEL (5)	191:2
employ (1)	79:15;80:5,7;111:24;	evaluated (2)
142:9	112:1	108:13;206:4
enclosure (1)	Environmental (6)	evaluating (1)
23:2	24:17;123:8;144:13;	209:8
encounter (2)	152:25;153:17;161:23	evaluation (2)
102:4;124:13	environmentally (1)	99:15,16
encountered (3)	167:6	evaluations (1)
96:20;106:6;175:5	environs (1)	154:3
encourage (1)	36:11	evaporation (1)
119:4	EOR(1)	30:22
encroachment (1)	31:8 EDA (1)	evapotranspiration (12) 36:11,21,23,24;37:5,
26:21 encroachments (1)	EPA (1)	
	202:17	9,18;38:14,22,23;
26:10	equal (4)	39:10;184:9
end (6)	57:14,18,21;61:1	even (12) 37:17;38:13;39:9;
4:19;15:5;133:17;	equally (1) 76:6	55:24;100:18;106:1,2;
138:18;181:19;195:6 ended (1)	equation (1)	167:6;176:7;195:21;
176:21	54:13	208:3;213:18
endorsement (1)	equipment (19)	eventuality (2)
173:1	100:8;101:14,17;	140:24;142:14
energy (1)	112:12;130:2;150:7;	eventually (2)
134:9	172:8,9;173:9,13;	5:11;35:14
engage (1)	174:12,15,17,18,21;	everybody (2)
155:2	189:11,16,18;206:14	123:4;196:22
engineer (20)	equity (1)	everyone (1)
8:1;31:3,6;102:1;	191:21	119:4
105:1,4;144:21;154:6;	equivalent (2)	evidence (8)
156:6,19;157:12;	147:7;211:12	21:11,12,17,24;
159:20;160:4;161:9;	equivocation (1)	66:23;91:10;127:16;
		·

178:14
evident (1)
94:19 evidentiary (1)
4:4
exacerbate (1)
204:23 exact (2)
17:11;163:1
exactly (8)
33:3;106:24;131:15;
151:17;158:17;159:2, 15;212:15
EXAMINATION (4)
95:9;117:14,17;
122:1 examined (3)
5:6;91:25;121:16
example (28)
8:9;49:4;50:12,15,
20;54:9;61:18;72:19; 73:18;100:16;101:5;
113:11;126:20;127:24;
128:13;133:7;136:12;
152:2;155:7;157:11;
163:18;164:13,18; 168:22;173:15;192:1;
196:7;201:4
examples (43)
69:7;71:2,18;73:9;
75:9;81:17,20,23;82:2; 100:7;112:2,4,15;
123:16,21;124:2,4,12;
125:2,3,5,6,9;126:17,
19,25;129:9,15,21;
130:10,13;131:18; 132:7,19,20,25;169:11;
192:16,19;198:13;
200:25;202:7,10
excavate (1)
91:18 excepted (2)
excavated (2) 195:3;200:5
excavating (1)
90:10
excavation (4) 92:2;193:19;194:6,
25
excavations (2)
91:21,22
exceed (1) 45:7
exceeded (4)
43:18;44:17;160:20,
22
exceeds (1) 37:5
exception (1)
151:19
exceptions (1)
93:7 excerpt (5)
17:3,19;90:15,15;

91:5 excess (1) 184:7 exchange (5) 82:6;128:7;141:23; 142:5,8 excluded (1) 155:14 excuse (13) 30:2;65:25;67:8; 77:7;100:14,21; 104:18;110:7;115:13; 116:17;117:12;191:23; 206:20 execute (1) 156:22 executed (1) 105:16 executing (1) 100:20 execution (2) 160:7,9 exercise (1) 211:19 exert (1) 207:15 **Exfiltration (3)** 200:20,21,23 Exhibit (76) 11:16:23:18:24:6; 27:7,12:28:8:31:1; 42:2;46:17;47:20;49:6, 11,12,13,20;55:3,13, 15,19,23;56:2;77:23; 78:7;79:11;80:21; 81:15;86:15;88:25,25; 89:12;90:14;91:1,25; 95:3,21,22;97:21,21; 98:23;99:1;100:4,5,10, 12,15,22;103:1;105:7; 106:7,8;107:2,3; 109:17,19;110:12; 111:20,22,23;113:21; 114:11;115:14;119:21; 120:1,9;167:22,23,25; 169:15;193:10,23,24; 194:12;195:15;202:24; 209:6;212:20 exhibits (6) 67:23;71:25;75:20; 101:8;119:25;135:16 exhumed (1) 189:21 exhuming (1) 93:16 exist (2) 149:1,2 existing (30) 9:24;12:16,20;13:1; 14:4,5;20:5;25:12,25; 26:22;28:17;29:1,1; 54:21;60:19;61:9,9,13;

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Volume 2 3-28-23

Evidentiary Hearing before Judge LaFave March 28, 2023

Permit to Mine Applicati	on - 60-2004-37824	3-28-23	1	March 28, 202.
128:16;138:25;139:1;	extent (16)	203:4;209:7;211:21	21:20;57:5;63:18;	17,20,21,22,23;62:2;
	29:16;70:23;73:25;		85:23;91:17;112:16;	
153:11;154:12;190:3,		family (1)		68:9;69:16;88:4;89:23;
5;205:22	82:15;91:17;131:8;	149:22	155:6;192:16,19;	90:4,5;111:18;114:3;
exists (1)	146:20;147:13;162:15;	far (6)	194:14;196:1	137:18,24
172:7	164:23;166:16;172:17;	44:1;83:11;89:24;	findings (1)	flotations (4)
expand (1)	175:21;182:25;183:15;	91:5;138:9;150:22	88:18	20:8;30:18;49:22;
30:1	212:8	farm (1)	fine (16)	129:12
expect (2)	extra (2)	198:18	9:2,6,11;36:8;40:24;	flow (2)
184:8;211:6	125:20;167:3	fast (2)	54:19,22;61:23;83:17,	5:16;30:10
expectations (1)	extreme (1)	135:11;214:9	24;92:6,7,9;143:7;	flowing (2)
9:4	204:20	favorable (1)	157:21;159:9	29:24;149:13
expected (1)	extremely (2)	204:14	fine-grain (1)	fluid (1)
132:17	186:4,5	feasible (1)	136:19	135:9
	180.4,5			
expensive (3)	Б	20:2	finer (1)	fluids (1)
156:1;181:15;210:4	F	feel (3)	111:18	135:11
experience (12)		151:10;166:21;	fines (2)	fly (2)
16:5;68:5;90:7;	faces (2)	175:22	179:5,6	171:15;190:4
102:1;130:7;141:12;	80:12,16	feet (25)	fine-tuned (1)	focus (4)
145:5;146:4;161:10;	facilities (8)	16:18,22;17:7,8,16,	161:12	65:11;107:8;119:5;
166:24;189:1;195:8	7:8,11,12,15,19;	24;18:2,12,15;22:8;	fine-tuning (1)	145:10
experienced (1)	145:13;156:13;190:23	50:10,14,16,19,21,22;	152:21	focused (2)
161:9	facility (19)	54:9;56:15;130:7;	finish (5)	18:24;66:7
experiment (1)	129:12;130:19,25;	134:25;135:1,6;149:5;	40:4,13;182:13;	focuses (1)
212:22	131:4,6,13;132:13,21;	163:2;173:25	202:13;207:10	66:17
experimental (1)	137:22;153:11,18;	fetch (1)	finished (3)	focusing (1)
L				
206:6	155:24;158:13;164:8,	134:5	127:14;140:10;	199:6
experimentation (2)	12;167:12;169:13,17;	few (8)	158:10	folks (2)
104:21,23	190:4	5:12;10:22;64:23;	firm (2)	4:7;206:5
expert (4)	fact (5)	93:7;95:11;123:2;	123:9;181:5	follow (2)
142:4,10;143:20;	13:7;80:6;90:23;	187:4;198:13	first (35)	91:19;110:20
150:22	148:7;198:22	field (32)	4:14;5:13;9:10;	followed (2)
expertise (3)	factor (7)	12:12;63:23;77:14;	31:13;43:14;45:11;	85:18,22
53:9;81:9;94:12	140:7,8,8;173:15;	103:4,7,9;105:16;	47:19;65:12;66:8,18;	following (5)
experts (3)	179:4,6;185:8	127:23;128:12,15,21;	79:16;82:21;95:12;	52:9;166:2,10;
19:17;23:10;151:11	factors (1)	129:3;131:1;152:6,12;	104:20;106:8,9,13;	169:19;205:16
expert's (1)	61:9	153:23;154:18;158:18;	107:3,12,15;114:12,15;	follows (3)
150:21	fail (3)	159:3,14;161:6,8,12;	121:14;125:2;130:24;	5:6;111:18;121:16
	144:10;207:20,21	162:3,21;163:7;164:5;		Fond (1)
Explain (9)			131:1;144:16;146:16;	
20:14;50:6;87:2;	failure (1)	175:18;189:12,14;	153:22,25;158:15;	22:23
103:6;109:8;111:21;	206:1	190:1,2	195:6;196:19;203:24;	foot (10)
160:2;202:14;205:1	failures (1)	fifth (1)	210:25	64:3,10,14;66:25;
explained (3)	191:3	104:1	five (5)	67:2,5,17;134:24;
37:2;41:19;206:20	Fair (10)	figure (9)	89:2;91:24;102:10;	210:4,8
explaining (2)	32:16;55:17;126:14;	21:8;27:25;51:24;	135:6;208:15	foresee (1)
92:19;206:18	132:25;145:20;172:13;	113:24;115:17;118:4;	five-foot (1)	133:9
explore (1)	173:3;185:1,20;190:10	119:11;149:9;153:22	50:23	forever (1)
171:22	fairly (6)	figures (1)	fix (2)	141:22
explored (2)	129:1;130:9;134:4,5;	119:11	190:8,10	form (29)
175:25;176:1	152:17;199:12	file (1)	flatter (1)	10:2;14:8;15:5;
exploring (1)	fairness (1)	120:6	90:5	38:16;44:19;46:3;48:2;
170:24	118:23	fill (1)	flip (1)	51:11;59:10;150:24;
exposed (2)	fall (2)	162:10	27:6	152:6,9;155:9;164:22;
200:7;212:21	27:1;140:13	filled (2)	flipping (2)	166:4,15;167:13;
exposures (1)	familiar (37)	29:16;197:1	7:3,22	168:6,14;169:1;
172:4	11:23;13:15;16:17;	final (4)	float (1)	172:16;173:4,18;
expressed (1)	22:19;27:3;42:8,13,14;	10:5;17:22;27:11;	174:2	174:6;175:19;176:22;
114:4	43:22;48:1;57:6,7;	104:14	flooding (1)	179:22;180:13;205:12
expresses (1)	70:2,7;74:5;88:22;	finally (2)	206:2	format (1)
114:16	90:20;127:13;136:23;	104:11;171:15	flotation (33)	205:12
expressing (1)	148:22;150:13,14;	financial (4)	5:16;6:21;9:7;10:16,	forms (1)
116:20	152:1;176:14,19;	155:15,18;156:15;	18;11:11,12;17:6,10,	14:17
		191:13		formulation (2)
extensive (1)	177:4,8,9,12;195:20,		23;22:10,13;28:25;	
126:9	23;198:16,16;199:3;	find (11)	31:24;44:11;61:5,10,	197:8;203:16
	1		1	1

In the Matter of the Nort Permit to Mine Applicati		Volume 2 3-28-23	Evidentiary Hea	ring before Judge LaFave March 28, 2023
forth (1)	184:14	4:1,25;5:9;9:22;	158:22	herein (2)
21:15	gauges (1)	62:14,25;63:6;95:11;	guess (7)	5:4;121:14
forward (2)	201:22	102:18,25;121:9,10;	41:1;102:19;117:16;	hesitant (1)
156:20;198:12	gave (3)	122:3,24,25;157:19;	148:13;167:16;176:7;	173:1
Foth (1)	53:1;132:3;194:11	158:3;159:9;195:8;	211:25	high (5)
81:11	GCL (3)	206:7;208:1;214:22;	guidance (5)	93:19,20;110:25;
found (2)	75:5,11;77:1	215:4	176:13,14;177:4,6;	132:13;214:19
63:20;92:23	gears (1)	Goodale (3)	184:16	higher (9)
foundation (10)	56:9	195:8;196:3;198:15	Guide (1)	13:4;30:23;32:19;
13:10;14:8;41:19;	general (10)	governed (1)	177:7	33:15;39:10;54:24;
87:15;150:25;152:9;	8:21;69:13;89:15;	7:19	Gulf (1)	57:24;113:10;207:16
168:6,15;179:22;	100:23;126:1;130:2;	gradation (5)	205:20	highest (1)
180:14	191:17;204:1,5;209:20	103:12;109:23;	200.20	45:16
fracked (1)	generalizing (1)	110:3,6;179:4	Н	highlighted (11)
212:21	128:20	grade (1)		10:24;17:5,21;31:19;
frame (1)	generally (12)	156:16	H1 (1)	49:14;78:11;124:21;
214:24	48:17;53:23;80:1;	grain (1)	49:6	193:17;196:19;199:22;
Franklin (3)	90:22;95:16;123:19;	128:17	hand (5)	204:13
188:9;193:12;194:23	125:6;131:16;133:19;	Grand (1)	79:16;121:12;	highlighting (3)
		123:24		74:14;194:13,14
frequent (1) 37:20	146:15;190:12;204:14 generically (1)	granted (1)	165:23;166:21;171:18 handle (1)	highly (3)
frequently (1)	137:3	92:22	55:7	141:5;210:1;212:21
162:5	genesis (1)	granular (2)	hands-on (1)	high-value (1)
freshwater (3)	205:1	6:17,20	198:8	136:19
124:11;197:7;212:21	geochemical (1)	granulated (1)	handwritten (1)	hill (1)
front (4)	172:4	136:4	86:16	10:2
10:12;36:21;49:12;	geochemist (2)	Grass (1)	happen (2)	hinge (1)
122:6	80:25;81:4	124:1	21:9;34:6	151:15
frozen (5)	geochemistry (5)	grasses (3)	happened (1)	historic (1)
26:23;180:25;181:3,	32:20,24;33:6,17,23	94:10;214:21,25	109:8	23:19
4,13	geographically (1)	gravel (6)	happy (3)	historically (1)
full (1)	15:1	80:11,15;83:25;	4:21;116:3;206:8	24:8
72:25	geologic (1)	185:4;186:6;200:6	hard (1)	hold (4)
full-scale (1)	141:18	gravel-coated (2)	196:10	38:19;39:2;49:7;
150:12	geomembrane (2)	83:17;184:21	hate (1)	117:16
function (2)	81:17,20	great (8)	41:3	hole (1)
127:18;141:20	geometric (2)	19:3;83:3;84:16;	head (3)	91:9
functional (1)	54:22;65:17	96:2;97:1,18;138:17;	101:19,24;131:23	holes (9)
29:17	geometry (2)	213:23	heap (1)	88:20;89:2,9,13,25;
functions (2)	15:11;105:18	greater (4)	198:4	90:10;91:24;92:4;
136:20;137:16	geotechnical (6)	38:19;39:2;50:13;	hear (2)	94:16
fundamental (1)	8:1;41:12;42:5;	139:21	206:16;213:21	Holleman (11)
111:14	105:1,4;125:7	greatest (1)	heard (4)	4:11,13,16,23;5:2,8;
further (17)	gets (3)	135:4	27:19;43:23;132:12;	9:15;120:21,22;
8:25;32:7;37:15;	111:15,16;157:23	ground (9)	146:17	194:11;201:6
82:12,24;83:18,25;	gist (1)	30:23;37:22;38:24;	hearing (10)	Honor (48)
85:15;95:5;108:12;	160:3	39:11,16;40:9,21;	4:5,17;19:14,16;	4:14;9:19;13:12;
120:3;122:17;155:2,5;	given (7)	94:15;180:25		4:14;9:19;13:12; 18:20;19:2,16;21:5;
			21:15,16;31:10;	
186:21;199:22;215:3	55:17;129:9;136:8,	Grounds (1)	122:14;147:21;169:17	22:2;23:9;28:22;36:3;
future (5)	10;143:23;169:11;	97:5	Hearings (1)	40:6;55:1,18;56:4;
32:11;35:3;58:14;	180:21	groundwater (8)	4:3	62:25;63:10;71:23;
61:5;98:3	gives (1)	15:15,21;16:1,4;	height (6)	72:6,23;74:17;95:8;
G	87:23	28:13;29:13,21;149:15	10:19;30:9,19;34:11,	102:23;115:13;116:8;
G	giving (1)	group (1)	14;62:3	117:12;118:7;119:7;
	125:3	144:13	help (6)	120:5,14,16,19;121:3,
gallons (22)	glitch (2)	grout (1)	13:5;41:15;64:21;	7,10,23;122:21;142:19,
26:9;56:16;62:20;	29:20;91:22	137:10	143:17;184:8;205:3	25;159:4,7;169:5,16;
114:4,6,12,16,18,19,	goal (5)	grow (1)	helped (1)	170:9;171:1;176:4,24;
24;115:1,2,4,5,6,7,10,	112:23;150:8;	94:10	184:16	186:24
11,12;116:13,18;118:3	152:13;166:25;170:23	growth (2)	helpful (3)	honorary (1)
GARD (1)	goes (3)	6:6;92:23	5:25;21:20;116:2	144:17
177:7	140:4;141:10;200:11	Guenther (4)	helping (1)	hope (2)
gather (1)	Good (23)	78:14;79:8;86:3;	142:10	150:1;192:15

hopefully (2) 160:2:171:1 horse (1) 179:14 Hotel (1) 5:10 hourly (1) 96:22 hours (1) 197:16 housekeeping (1) 4:14 Houston (1) 106:23 Hull (37) 71:22;72:17,20; 73:18;121:8,13,19; 122:3,24;128:2; 143:19;144:8,12; 149:9,21;150:20; 152:24;153:14;154:5, 20;155:22;158:4,9; 159:8,12;163:14,25; 164:10:166:10:167:25: 168:10;187:3;196:5,9, 14;206:15;209:7 H-U-L-L (1) 121:20 Hull's (8) 69:7;71:1,18;72:24; 73:9:74:1.6:213:5 hundred (3) 26:8;112:15;135:6 hundreds (1) 46:7 Hurricane (1) 205:16 hurrying (1) 214:7 hydration (1) 103:25 hydraulic (44) 6:12;48:6,12;49:1, 23;50:24;51:5,18;53:2, 18,23;54:23;56:20; 58:7;59:1,21;60:6,13; 61:18;65:17;66:4,19; 86:13,18;106:16; 111:14,16,19;112:19, 24;113:3,6,10;126:20; 127:6;139:6,12,16,19, 20,22;140:5;141:25; 146:10 hydrology (6) 20:7,19;28:7;30:16, 20;62:1 hydrophilic (2) 94:2:182:15 Ι idea (3) 136:15;139:15;

154:22 identified (10) 34:18:41:19:75:8,9, 21;80:11;99:16;103:3; 105:16;138:24 identifies (3) 34:6;76:3;85:14 identify (4) 14:17;154:2;200:25; 209:12 identifying (3) 75:15;82:11;211:14 Illinois (2) 124:2;132:11 illustration (3) 12:13;27:11;51:15 image (3) 15:25;24:9;25:4 images (4) 23:19;25:16;196:24; 198:4 immediately (1) 42:12 Impact (11) 24:17;134:1,22; 141:14;153:17,19; 185:21;186:13,18,19; 204:8 impacted (1) 134:10 impacts (3) 134:1:152:25:153:9 impervious (1) 185:13 implement (1) 153:2 implementation (2) 158:18:162:5 implementations (1) 159:3 imply (1) 160:22 importance (1) 186:19 important (13) 19:21;20:11;21:18; 40:18;58:18;169:7; 178:14;179:6,20; 186:4,5;211:1;212:3 impossible (1) 32:8 improve (2) 125:16;187:21 improved (1) 106:4 improvement (4) 105:25;193:18; 194:5,24 improvements (1) 163:24 inch (2) 59:2:197:18 inches (32)

37:6;41:6;44:3,25; 45:1.8.9:46:19.23: 47:10,16,24;49:1;51:4, 16,19,25;52:7;53:15, 24;54:6,7,8;57:1;60:5; 68:2,10;70:11;88:13; 112:21,23;197:16 inclined (1) 124:18 include (8) 14:4;32:3;92:1; 93:21:110:3:137:13; 149:23:169:14 included (11) 5:23;44:13;123:21; 129:15;138:2;145:17; 163:21;193:19;194:5, 24;195:1 includes (1) 87:11 including (9) 6:5;19:5;31:2;37:19; 125:4;135:21;145:18; 146:1:149:13 incomplete (1) 55:6 incorporate (1) 172:6 incorporated (5) 46:25;124:23; 125:15:170:6:183:11 incorporation (1) 137:15 increase (5) 140:22;141:25; 162:10;165:19;166:13 increased (1) 185:7 indefinite (1) 210:20 independent (1) 110:13 Indiana (1) 123:25 indicate (1) 107:12 indicated (5) 14:25;84:24;105:24; 171:25;177:15 indicates (4) 31:11;84:3;106:23; 173:3 indicating (1) 78:22 indication (4) 12:21;27:13;79:2; 127:21 individual (1) 149:6 individually (1) 200:1 induced (1) 93:23

Volume 2

3-28-23

Evidentiary Hearing before Judge LaFave March 28, 2023

industrial (2) 125:13:201:2 industry (4) 176:12.14:177:4.7 infiltrate (2) 182:3.23 infiltration (21) 8:3,15:32:19:33:16; 51:4;60:5;105:20; 114:20,23;115:3,9; 117:24;118:1,3;126:2; 136:14,17:137:5; 200:8,19,22 infiltrations (1) 116:10 information (22) 19:5,5;39:21;67:16; 78:6;82:13;83:6,18,25; 85:15,20;87:9;100:5, 12;112:1;119:3;148:1, 14,15,17;157:1;212:3 informative (7) 104:24:105:13: 106:5;111:2,6;112:5, 16 informed (1) 73:9 infrequent (1) 38:18 initially (2) 126:18:136:23 injected (3) 8:14,18:101:23 injection (2) 8:12;75:23 in-lab (5) 42:19;43:5,11;44:10; 64:25 inlet (2) 18:1:41:10 input (2) 45:9;52:15 inputs (1) 212:15 insect (4) 93:21;94:13,15,19 in-service (1) 90:17 in-situ (2) 131:19;181:2 inspect (1) 89:9 installation (7) 77:17;126:5;127:25: 128:14;195:20;196:2; 199:10 installations (1) 198:5 installed (4) 106:17,20;191:6; 202:15 instance (2) 85:22;163:5

instances (6) 125:1,22;126:13; 132:14:145:17:200:6 instead (1) 167:11 integrity (1) 204:16 intend (1) 138:4 intended (12) 18:17;42:3;55:24; 61:16:101:10.12; 116:1;125:1,23;126:3, 13:134:19 intendeds (1) 137:20 intends (3) 55:15;137:17;138:1 intent (2) 34:4;126:2 intentionally (1) 109:14 interest (6) 119:19;120:17,20; 191:13,16,21 interested (1) 206:3 interfere (1) 173:16 interpretation (1) 61:12 interpreted (1) 61:8 interrupted (1) 40:5 intervening (1) 207:13 into (41) 8:3,13,15;18:6;20:4, 20;25:23;26:3;28:13; 29:13,18;30:3,4,21,24; 47:1;55:6;56:20;63:1; 91:9;94:15;102:7; 105:20;116:10;119:6; 133:13;137:15;139:11; 140:4;143:1,8;146:25; 149:14;157:17;164:20; 168:24;170:3;174:23; 182:3;183:11;207:23 introduce (1) 178:5 investigated (1) 184:25 involve (5) 130:1;145:21;152:6; 169:11;202:8 involved (10) 5:15;77:16;135:24; 136:1;145:2,14,16,24; 184:14:198:8 involvement (3) 123:14:130:18.20 involves (1)

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Permit to Mine Application	on - 60-2004-37824	3-28-23		March 28, 2023
				_
152:25	157:19,22,25;158:3,7;	49:23;206:10	191:20;196:9;206:21;	layers (4)
iPhone (2)	159:6,11,17;164:25;	knows (5)	207:5,7,12;208:8,13,	106:15;134:20;
96:4,6	166:6,17;167:15;	14:22;46:5;59:16;	17,25;209:3;210:17;	137:16;141:11
issue (17)	168:7,16;169:18;	96:15;97:12	212:10;215:4	leachate (3)
21:3;23:5;27:18,23;	170:10,13;172:18;	Ks (1)	lake (18)	186:4,5,10
34:7;35:16;118:9;	173:5,19;174:7;	87:19	22:20,23;23:6,11;	leachates (3)
134:15,22;142:23;	175:25;176:25;179:23;		34:1,4,5,10;76:7;	184:23;185:15,17
143:5;153:8;162:12;	180:1,3,15;182:12;	L	123:21;125:4;126:18;	leaching (2)
169:17;170:12,16;	183:2,17;186:22;		133:6;192:22,23;	125:18;187:22
				· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
187:23	191:20;196:9;206:21;	LA (1)	193:6;201:4,17	lead (1)
issues (12)	207:5,7,12;208:8,13,	201:8	land (3)	47:24
19:14,15;20:10;21:7,	17,25;209:3;210:17;	lab (10)	10:2;168:22;200:17	leaked (1)
15;31:10;40:7,17;	212:10;215:4	54:19;84:3;110:13,	landfill (5)	196:17
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			
42:16;106:6;119:5;	judge's (1)	18;126:6;161:5;	77:25;186:7,11;	leaks (1)
129:24	214:8	162:11,16;164:4;214:2	190:4;201:1	80:11
item (1)	jumping (1)	labor (1)	landfills (3)	learn (2)
79:17	126:17	133:22	125:12;186:10;191:3	69:20;133:16
	June (1)	laboratory (11)	language (4)	learned (1)
J	31:4			
J	51:4	158:16;159:1,14,21,	17:5;31:19;200:14;	142:11
		23;160:6,8;163:8,11;	204:13	least (7)
Japanese (1)	K	189:23;205:12	Lapakko (2)	12:8;35:9;79:24;
184:17		Lac (1)	<u>8</u> 1:1,4	92:25;102:2;124:25;
Jim (1)	Katchen (7)	22:23	large (8)	209:21
4:2				leave (2)
	13:14;77:22;78:3,8;	lack (1)	94:14,16;131:4,6;	
job (9)	120:12,14;122:19	145:22	146:4;152:16,20;	5:11;152:18
21:21;123:9,10;	Katrina (1)	lacking (2)	154:15	left (7)
154:2,6,6;156:19,23;	205:16	37:21;38:18	largely (1)	12:6;27:13;43:2;
175:11	keep (7)	LAFAVE (160)	145:16	46:17;97:23;158:9;
John (4)	49:14;128:23;143:9;	4:1,2,15,20,25;9:17;	larger (8)	212:18
72:24;121:8,13,19	170:24;184:9;198:15;	13:16;14:9,12,21;19:1,	16:12;23:2;31:18;	Legacy (2)
J-O-H-N (1)	208:8	13,25;20:14;21:2,10;	132:21;133:11,25;	26:18;118:11
121:19	keeping (1)	23:8,14;27:21,24;28:3;	187:16;207:14	lend (1)
Jones (1)	20:23	29:3;33:8;34:21;35:17,	large-scale (3)	124:4
198:18	keeps (1)	25;36:4,17;38:2,6;	158:18;159:3;161:22	lends (3)
journals (1)	141:21	40:11;41:23;44:20;	largest (4)	136:14;137:2;152:21
177:25	Kempton (1)	46:4;48:3;51:12;52:3,	10:25;22:20;78:18;	length (6)
JUDGE (160)	106:23	13;55:9,14;56:1,6;	92:24	18:14,17;22:7;188:6,
4:1,2,15,20,25;9:17;	key (1)	59:12,15;60:1;63:3,6;	last (19)	7;213:14
13:16;14:9,12,21;19:1,	212:15	64:20;71:11;72:2,9,12;	27:22;36:2;95:13,19,	less (15)
13,25;20:14;21:2,10;	Kim (1)	73:3,6,13;74:2,15,19;	23;96:25;99:2,5;	47:10,15;48:23;
23:8,14;27:21,24;28:3;	81:1	82:18;83:12;84:21;	104:17,18,20;106:10,	54:17;57:13,18,21;
29:3;33:8;34:21;35:17,	kind (15)	85:3;87:16;95:6;96:14;	12;107:6;128:24;	59:7;61:1;68:11;70:16,
25;36:4,17;38:2,6;	20:22,25;119:24;	97:5,11;98:10;100:21,	131:2;184:11;194:4;	18,20;89:24;139:7
40:11;41:23;44:20;	120:1;128:20;147:12;	24;101:3;102:8,12,18;	213:23	lesser (1)
46:4;48:3;51:12;52:3,	158:13;165:2,3;	107:23;108:1,18;	Lastly (1)	139:21
	· · · ·			
13;55:9,14;56:1,6;	174:24;175:25;188:13;	110:8;115:15,24;	211:20	level (12)
59:12,15;60:1;63:3,6;	190:21;193:4;209:12	116:5;117:22;118:14,	late (1)	15:16;16:19;18:6;
64:20;71:11;72:2,9,12;	kinds (2)	22;119:9,15;120:4,7,	26:25	32:1,18,23;33:15;
73:3,6,13;74:2,15,19;	125:9;145:25	11,15,18,21,23;121:5,	later (2)	51:24;127:7;165:21;
82:18;83:12;84:21;	knew (2)	9,11,17,21,25;122:18,	40:18;189:22	166:20;185:5
85:3;87:16;95:6;96:14;	13:13;152:1	20;128:2,5,23;143:4,	latter (1)	levels (3)
97:5,11;98:10;100:21,	knowing (1)	11;144:4;146:22;	9:4	26:15;33:21;200:12
24;101:3;102:8,12,18;	154:22	147:15;151:1,4;	law (6)	levies (5)
107:23;108:1,18;	knowledge (27)	152:10;155:10,13,17;	4:2;52:10,16;53:12,	205:19,19,23,25;
110:8;115:15,24;	6:23;11:9;14:18,18;	157:19,22,25;158:3,7;	13;113:5	206:1
116:5;117:22;118:14,	15:10,20,24;17:13;	159:6,11,17;164:25;	layer (28)	levy (1)
22;119:9,15;120:4,7,	29:23;39:15;66:13;	166:6,17;167:15;	6:9,13;39:23;50:9,	206:1
11,15,18,21,23;121:5,	69:2,13;70:8,23;78:4;	168:7,16;169:18;	13;51:18;64:3,5,11,14;	licensed (1)
9,11,17,21,25;122:18,	79:6;81:22;93:12;94:9;	170:10,13;172:18;	65:14,16,18;67:1,5,18;	144:21
20;128:2,5,23;143:4,	127:10;137:25;147:2;	173:5,19;174:7;	88:10;105:23;113:8,9,	Lidar (2)
11;144:4;146:22;	154:11;201:12,14;	175:25;176:25;179:23;	12,16;128:18;138:20;	11:18;13:13
147:15;151:1,4;	202:6	180:1,3,15;182:12;	141:9;174:24;184:5;	life (2)
152:10;155:10,13,17;	known (2)	183:2,17;186:22;	185:12	63:16;94:7

Volume 2 3-28-23

Evidentiary Hearing before Judge LaFave March 28, 2023

Permit to Mine Application	on - 60-2004-37824
lift (2)	205:1;210:6,20
89:3;189:19	live (1)
likely (4)	152:7
34:15,25;156:21;	lives (1)
163:19	205:17 LLC (1)
likewise (1) 30:5	123:8
lime (6)	local (1)
8:13,14;70:1;214:4,	205:19
12,19	located (4)
limit (3)	12:22;84:13;96:10;
51:25;68:10;137:4 limited (6)	131:13 location (2)
21:15;39:24;123:12;	14:18;210:2
129:18;185:22;191:13	locations (3)
limits (1)	89:25;91:14;92:23
51:8	logistical (2)
line (18) 7:4;15:13,13;56:12;	124:13,15
79:16;96:1,3;99:20,22;	long (6) 127:8;128:21;129:2;
115:8;124:19,21;	137:8;144:24;188:5
138:15;140:18;151:2;	longer (2)
160:5;170:20,21	29:17;213:23
lined (1)	long-term (3)
79:3 liner (15)	114:3;126:8;127:2 look (39)
75:10;77:15,20;	6:1;11:15;12:11;
112:9,9;125:17;	16:11,22;23:20;27:8;
137:15;145:6,7,18;	31:13;37:15;39:6;
163:2;186:19;192:19,	41:15;42:21,24;44:7;
23;193:1 liners (8)	45:10,11;46:12,17; 60:15;62:11;64:6;
77:12,25;78:12,22;	74:12,13;78:9;84:15;
137:11;179:8;191:6;	90:3;91:5;92:2;118:4
192:17	146:11;150:18;170:4;
lines (22)	191:25;194:14;195:6,
6:3,16;7:24;8:11; 9:1;26:7;36:7;39:6;	12;199:19;200:3;208:
62:12;63:15;68:14,19;	looked (8) 47:1;91:7;146:25;
72:18;77:5,6;86:4;	148:1;150:20;177:9;
126:18;150:17;158:23;	196:25;205:18
172:1;213:5;214:2	Looking (30)
lining (3)	10:24;12:1,5,6,17; 13:25;16:21;17:20;
75:5;80:16;205:10 list (1)	23:21;25:16;27:10;
78:21	29:9;38:9;40:2,19;
listed (1)	41:4,9;64:8;79:14;
103:19	86:15;91:9;94:16;
listing (2) 77:24;79:2	149:6;193:21;194:9,
literally (1)	16;195:6;198:20; 203:11;209:19
182:19	looks (3)
literature (1)	25:8;107:1;135:17
131:21	lose (1)
little (30) 0.24.11.10.13.5.	135:10 losing (2)
9:24;11:19;13:5; 16:12,13;21:25;22:22;	131:3;201:9
25:1;26:13;31:17;32:6;	loss (3)
43:3;45:4;50:5;56:10;	197:17;200:19;
63:12;82:23;85:7;	205:16
125:8;128:20;149:25;	losses (1) 197:15
151:21;158:24,24; 159:13;197:23;199:21;	lost (3)
157.15,177.25,177.21,	1001 (0)

	3-28-23	
210:6,20	56:16;184:9;200:8	
.10.0,20	lot (20)	
	31:14;98:14;112:20;	
	117:23;118:16,25;	
	133:16;137:8;142:11;	
	145:2;148:1;167:3;	
	172:23;175:11,14,16;	
	186:12;191:22;201:9;	
	206:5	Μ
4)	love (1)	
34:13;96:10;	206:16	Μ
	loves (1)	
(2)	182:15	
210:2	low (9)	
(3) 01:14;92:23	54:14;75:5,10,16,19;	m
(2)	111:13,19;179:10; 185:9	m
,15	lower (15)	m
,15	13:3;15:9;17:16;	
28:21;129:2;	18:5;22:22;32:18,19,	m
44:24;188:5	23;33:15,16,21;50:5;	
)	59:23;139:16;210:6	m
213:23	LTV (25)	
n (3)	9:2,6,11;10:1,8;12:9;	
26:8;127:2	14:4;20:5;24:1;25:12,	m
	22;29:1;42:20;43:6;	
15;12:11;	54:19;61:23;62:3;65:2;	
2;23:20;27:8;	109:2,5,9;110:6;	m
37:15;39:6;	111:11;117:7,9	
2:21,24;44:7;	lunch (2)	m
1;46:12,17;	102:6,13	
52:11;64:6;	lysimeter (2)	m
3;78:9;84:15;	201:14;202:3	
:5;92:2;118:4;	lysimeters (7)	
;150:18;170:4;	190:14,18,22;191:2,	m
;194:14;195:6,	5,7;201:25	
10.700.7.700.1		Ν/
:19;200:3;208:1	М	M
)	М	
) :7;146:25;		M m
) :7;146:25; .50:20;177:9;	Maccabee (152)	
) :7;146:25; 50:20;177:9; ;205:18	Maccabee (152) 9:18,19,21,22;13:12,	m
) :7;146:25; 50:20;177:9; ;205:18 (30)	Maccabee (152) 9:18,19,21,22;13:12, 24;14:9,14,15;15:3;	
) :7;146:25; 50:20;177:9; ;205:18	Maccabee (152) 9:18,19,21,22;13:12, 24;14:9,14,15;15:3; 19:1,2,15;20:1,17;	m
) :7;146:25; 50:20;177:9; ;205:18 (30) 2:1,5,6,17;	Maccabee (152) 9:18,19,21,22;13:12, 24;14:9,14,15;15:3;	m
) :7;146:25; 50:20;177:9; ;205:18 (30) 2:1,5,6,17; 6:21;17:20; 2:16;27:10; 3:9;40:2,19;	Maccabee (152) 9:18,19,21,22;13:12, 24;14:9,14,15;15:3; 19:1,2,15;20:1,17; 21:5;22:2,3;23:8,9,16; 27:21,22,25;28:5,22; 29:8;33:3,11;34:18,21,	m
) :7;146:25; 50:20;177:9; ;205:18 (30) 2:1,5,6,17; 6:21;17:20; 2:5:16;27:10; 3:9;40:2,19; 64:8;79:14;	Maccabee (152) 9:18,19,21,22;13:12, 24;14:9,14,15;15:3; 19:1,2,15;20:1,17; 21:5;22:2,3;23:8,9,16; 27:21,22,25;28:5,22; 29:8;33:3,11;34:18,21, 22,23;35:5,18,25;36:1,	m
) :7;146:25; 50:20;177:9; ;205:18 (30) 2:1,5,6,17; 6:21;17:20; 2:5:16;27:10; 3:9;40:2,19; 64:8;79:14;)1:9;94:16;	Maccabee (152) 9:18,19,21,22;13:12, 24;14:9,14,15;15:3; 19:1,2,15;20:1,17; 21:5;22:2,3;23:8,9,16; 27:21,22,25;28:5,22; 29:8;33:3,11;34:18,21, 22,23;35:5,18,25;36:1, 6,17,19;38:2,3,8,10,12;	m m
) :7;146:25; 50:20;177:9; ;205:18 (30) 2:1,5,6,17; .6:21;17:20; 25:16;27:10; 3:9;40:2,19; 64:8;79:14;)1:9;94:16; .93:21;194:9,	Maccabee (152) 9:18,19,21,22;13:12, 24;14:9,14,15;15:3; 19:1,2,15;20:1,17; 21:5;22:2,3;23:8,9,16; 27:21,22,25;28:5,22; 29:8;33:3,11;34:18,21, 22,23;35:5,18,25;36:1, 6,17,19;38:2,3,8,10,12; 40:6,15;42:1;44:23;	m m
) ::7;146:25; :50:20;177:9; ;205:18 (30) 2:1,5,6,17; :6:21;17:20; 2:5:16;27:10; 3:9;40:2,19; 64:8;79:14;)1:9;94:16; 93:21;194:9, :6;198:20;	Maccabee (152) 9:18,19,21,22;13:12, 24;14:9,14,15;15:3; 19:1,2,15;20:1,17; 21:5;22:2,3;23:8,9,16; 27:21,22,25;28:5,22; 29:8;33:3,11;34:18,21, 22,23;35:5,18,25;36:1, 6,17,19;38:2,3,8,10,12; 40:6,15;42:1;44:23; 46:8,20,22;48:8;51:20;	m m m
) :7;146:25; 50:20;177:9; ;205:18 (30) 2:1,5,6,17; .6:21;17:20; 25:16;27:10; 3:9;40:2,19; 64:8;79:14;)1:9;94:16; .93:21;194:9,	Maccabee (152) 9:18,19,21,22;13:12, 24;14:9,14,15;15:3; 19:1,2,15;20:1,17; 21:5;22:2,3;23:8,9,16; 27:21,22,25;28:5,22; 29:8;33:3,11;34:18,21, 22,23;35:5,18,25;36:1, 6,17,19;38:2,3,8,10,12; 40:6,15;42:1;44:23; 46:8,20,22;48:8;51:20; 52:5,17;55:1,14,15,18;	m m m
) :7;146:25; 50:20;177:9; ;205:18 (30) 2:1,5,6,17; .6:21;17:20; 25:16;27:10; 3:9;40:2,19; 64:8;79:14; 01:9;94:16; 93:21;194:9, :6;198:20; ;209:19	Maccabee (152) 9:18,19,21,22;13:12, 24;14:9,14,15;15:3; 19:1,2,15;20:1,17; 21:5;22:2,3;23:8,9,16; 27:21,22,25;28:5,22; 29:8;33:3,11;34:18,21, 22,23;35:5,18,25;36:1, 6,17,19;38:2,3,8,10,12; 40:6,15;42:1;44:23; 46:8,20,22;48:8;51:20; 52:5,17;55:1,14,15,18; 56:1,4,7,8;58:9,11,20;	m m m
) ::7;146:25; :50:20;177:9; ;205:18 (30) 2:1,5,6,17; :6:21;17:20; 2:5:16;27:10; 3:9;40:2,19; 64:8;79:14;)1:9;94:16; 93:21;194:9, :6;198:20;	Maccabee (152) 9:18,19,21,22;13:12, 24;14:9,14,15;15:3; 19:1,2,15;20:1,17; 21:5;22:2,3;23:8,9,16; 27:21,22,25;28:5,22; 29:8;33:3,11;34:18,21, 22,23;35:5,18,25;36:1, 6,17,19;38:2,3,8,10,12; 40:6,15;42:1;44:23; 46:8,20,22;48:8;51:20; 52:5,17;55:1,14,15,18; 56:1,4,7,8;58:9,11,20; 59:19;60:8,15,17;	m m m
) :7;146:25; 50:20;177:9; ;205:18 (30) 2:1,5,6,17; .6:21;17:20; 25:16;27:10; 3:9;40:2,19; 64:8;79:14; 01:9;94:16; 93:21;194:9, :6;198:20; ;209:19	Maccabee (152) 9:18,19,21,22;13:12, 24;14:9,14,15;15:3; 19:1,2,15;20:1,17; 21:5;22:2,3;23:8,9,16; 27:21,22,25;28:5,22; 29:8;33:3,11;34:18,21, 22,23;35:5,18,25;36:1, 6,17,19;38:2,3,8,10,12; 40:6,15;42:1;44:23; 46:8,20,22;48:8;51:20; 52:5,17;55:1,14,15,18; 56:1,4,7,8;58:9,11,20; 59:19;60:8,15,17; 62:25;63:9,10,11;	m m m m
) :7;146:25; 50:20;177:9; ;205:18 (30) 2:1,5,6,17; .6:21;17:20; 25:16;27:10; 3:9;40:2,19; 64:8;79:14; 01:9;94:16; 93:21;194:9, :6;198:20; ;209:19	Maccabee (152) 9:18,19,21,22;13:12, 24;14:9,14,15;15:3; 19:1,2,15;20:1,17; 21:5;22:2,3;23:8,9,16; 27:21,22,25;28:5,22; 29:8;33:3,11;34:18,21, 22,23;35:5,18,25;36:1, 6,17,19;38:2,3,8,10,12; 40:6,15;42:1;44:23; 46:8,20,22;48:8;51:20; 52:5,17;55:1,14,15,18; 56:1,4,7,8;58:9,11,20; 59:19;60:8,15,17; 62:25;63:9,10,11; 64:22;67:22,24;71:6,9,	m m m
) :7;146:25; 50:20;177:9; ;205:18 (30) 2:1,5,6,17; .6:21;17:20; 25:16;27:10; 3:9;40:2,19; 64:8;79:14; 93:21;194:9, :6;198:20; ;209:19)7:1;135:17	Maccabee (152) 9:18,19,21,22;13:12, 24;14:9,14,15;15:3; 19:1,2,15;20:1,17; 21:5;22:2,3;23:8,9,16; 27:21,22,25;28:5,22; 29:8;33:3,11;34:18,21, 22,23;35:5,18,25;36:1, 6,17,19;38:2,3,8,10,12; 40:6,15;42:1;44:23; 46:8,20,22;48:8;51:20; 52:5,17;55:1,14,15,18; 56:1,4,7,8;58:9,11,20; 59:19;60:8,15,17; 62:25;63:9,10,11; 64:22;67:22,24;71:6,9, 14,17,23;72:5,15,16;	m m m m m
) :7;146:25; 50:20;177:9; ;205:18 (30) 2:1,5,6,17; .6:21;17:20; 25:16;27:10; 3:9;40:2,19; 64:8;79:14; 01:9;94:16; 93:21;194:9, :6;198:20; ;209:19	Maccabee (152) 9:18,19,21,22;13:12, 24;14:9,14,15;15:3; 19:1,2,15;20:1,17; 21:5;22:2,3;23:8,9,16; 27:21,22,25;28:5,22; 29:8;33:3,11;34:18,21, 22,23;35:5,18,25;36:1, 6,17,19;38:2,3,8,10,12; 40:6,15;42:1;44:23; 46:8,20,22;48:8;51:20; 52:5,17;55:1,14,15,18; 56:1,4,7,8;58:9,11,20; 59:19;60:8,15,17; 62:25;63:9,10,11; 64:22;67:22,24;71:6,9, 14,17,23;72:5,15,16; 73:3,4,8,17;74:7,23;	m m m m
) :7;146:25; 50:20;177:9; ;205:18 (30) 2:1,5,6,17; 6:21;17:20; 25:16;27:10; 3:9;40:2,19; 64:8;79:14; 93:21;194:9, :6;198:20; ;209:19)7:1;135:17 2:01:9	Maccabee (152) 9:18,19,21,22;13:12, 24;14:9,14,15;15:3; 19:1,2,15;20:1,17; 21:5;22:2,3;23:8,9,16; 27:21,22,25;28:5,22; 29:8;33:3,11;34:18,21, 22,23;35:5,18,25;36:1, 6,17,19;38:2,3,8,10,12; 40:6,15;42:1;44:23; 46:8,20,22;48:8;51:20; 52:5,17;55:1,14,15,18; 56:1,4,7,8;58:9,11,20; 59:19;60:8,15,17; 62:25;63:9,10,11; 64:22;67:22,24;71:6,9, 14,17,23;72:5,15,16; 73:3,4,8,17;74:7,23; 78:13,15;79:7,9;82:20;	m m m m m
) :7;146:25; 50:20;177:9; ;205:18 (30) 2:1,5,6,17; .6:21;17:20; 25:16;27:10; 3:9;40:2,19; 64:8;79:14; 93:21;194:9, :6;198:20; ;209:19)7:1;135:17	Maccabee (152) 9:18,19,21,22;13:12, 24;14:9,14,15;15:3; 19:1,2,15;20:1,17; 21:5;22:2,3;23:8,9,16; 27:21,22,25;28:5,22; 29:8;33:3,11;34:18,21, 22,23;35:5,18,25;36:1, 6,17,19;38:2,3,8,10,12; 40:6,15;42:1;44:23; 46:8,20,22;48:8;51:20; 52:5,17;55:1,14,15,18; 56:1,4,7,8;58:9,11,20; 59:19;60:8,15,17; 62:25;63:9,10,11; 64:22;67:22,24;71:6,9, 14,17,23;72:5,15,16; 73:3,4,8,17;74:7,23; 78:13,15;79:7,9;82:20; 83:10,14;84:10,23;	m m m m m
) :7;146:25; 50:20;177:9; ;205:18 (30) 2:1,5,6,17; 6:21;17:20; 25:16;27:10; 3:9;40:2,19; 64:8;79:14; 93:21;194:9, :6;198:20; ;209:19)7:1;135:17 2:01:9	Maccabee (152) 9:18,19,21,22;13:12, 24;14:9,14,15;15:3; 19:1,2,15;20:1,17; 21:5;22:2,3;23:8,9,16; 27:21,22,25;28:5,22; 29:8;33:3,11;34:18,21, 22,23;35:5,18,25;36:1, 6,17,19;38:2,3,8,10,12; 40:6,15;42:1;44:23; 46:8,20,22;48:8;51:20; 52:5,17;55:1,14,15,18; 56:1,4,7,8;58:9,11,20; 59:19;60:8,15,17; 62:25;63:9,10,11; 64:22;67:22,24;71:6,9, 14,17,23;72:5,15,16; 73:3,4,8,17;74:7,23; 78:13,15;79:7,9;82:20;	m m m m m
) :7;146:25; 50:20;177:9; ;205:18 (30) 2:1,5,6,17; 6:21;17:20; 25:16;27:10; 3:9;40:2,19; 64:8;79:14; 93:21;194:9, :6;198:20; ;209:19)7:1;135:17 2:01:9	Maccabee (152) 9:18,19,21,22;13:12, 24;14:9,14,15;15:3; 19:1,2,15;20:1,17; 21:5;22:2,3;23:8,9,16; 27:21,22,25;28:5,22; 29:8;33:3,11;34:18,21, 22,23;35:5,18,25;36:1, 6,17,19;38:2,3,8,10,12; 40:6,15;42:1;44:23; 46:8,20,22;48:8;51:20; 52:5,17;55:1,14,15,18; 56:1,4,7,8;58:9,11,20; 59:19;60:8,15,17; 62:25;63:9,10,11; 64:22;67:22,24;71:6,9, 14,17,23;72:5,15,16; 73:3,4,8,17;74:7,23; 78:13,15;79:7,9;82:20; 83:10,14;84:10,23; 85:10;86:3,6;87:21;	
) :7;146:25; 50:20;177:9; ;205:18 (30) 2:1,5,6,17; 6:21;17:20; 25:16;27:10; 3:9;40:2,19; 64:8;79:14; 93:21;194:9, :6;198:20; ;209:19)7:1;135:17 2:01:9	Maccabee (152) 9:18,19,21,22;13:12, 24;14:9,14,15;15:3; 19:1,2,15;20:1,17; 21:5;22:2,3;23:8,9,16; 27:21,22,25;28:5,22; 29:8;33:3,11;34:18,21, 22,23;35:5,18,25;36:1, 6,17,19;38:2,3,8,10,12; 40:6,15;42:1;44:23; 46:8,20,22;48:8;51:20; 52:5,17;55:1,14,15,18; 56:1,4,7,8;58:9,11,20; 59:19;60:8,15,17; 62:25;63:9,10,11; 64:22;67:22,24;71:6,9, 14,17,23;72:5,15,16; 73:3,4,8,17;74:7,23; 78:13,15;79:7,9;82:20; 83:10,14;84:10,23; 85:10;86:3,6;87:21; 88:24;89:1,5,7;95:5;	

8,18,19;121:3;142:22; 186:23,24;187:2,3; 191:22,24;194:12,20; 195:17,19;196:4,6,12, 13;199:21,24;206:19, 21,24;208:2,11,16; 209:4,5;210:18; 212:17;213:4,10;215:3 Aaccabee's (1) 117:14 Aachado (9) 123:21:125:4; 126:18;133:6;192:22, 23;193:6;201:4,17 nagnesium (1) 146:1 nagnitude (3) 162:10;165:19; 166:13 nain (1) 177:24 naintain (6) 19:3,22;26:16;27:15; 61:2:138:21 naintained (7) 20:19,20;25:13; 61:11,16;127:7;153:12 naintaining (4) 60:20,22;61:7,20 naintains (1) 61:14 naintenance (9) 34:25:35:11,12,13, 16,22;134:13,15,16 najor (2) 140:8;151:13 Aaka (3) 22:19;23:3,7 nakes (7) 16:21;32:7,11:87:12; 159:25;171:12,13 naking (5) 37:21;50:8;118:16; 175:4;178:14 nanage (4) 26:9,21;32:1;137:10 nanaged (1) 31:20 nanagement (9) 7:8,15;31:23;32:23; 49:17,20;52:21;53:1; 138:18 nanages (1) 26:15 nanner (1) 171:20 nanufacture (1) 187:13 nanufactured (2) 133:14:187:14 nanuscripts (1) 178:5 nany (11)

62:20;112:18;115:6, 11:156:12.12:161:17: 162:13;189:1;201:11; 206:9 Marble (1) 199:20 marginal (1) 142:1 mark (2) 119:20:195:14 marketing (4) 111:25;135:24; 195:21;198:23 marsh (1) 132:24 mat (2) 74:25;75:4 material (53) 6:18,20,23;68:23; 73:21;75:19;83:3;84:5, 17;96:3;97:2,19; 101:21,23;105:21; 130:5,23;131:9; 132:23;135:2;140:12; 141:8,18,19;146:12; 163:10,15,17;164:2,3, 5,17;165:7,10,22; 166:12;167:1;172:3, 24;174:3;175:6;179:2, 5;185:6;186:13; 187:10,14;190:23; 207:17,25;211:3,4,8 materiality (1) 118:18 materials (32) 6:15;103:12;125:16; 128:18;129:20;130:8, 21;132:9;133:14,22; 136:9,21;139:24; 141:13:143:14,15; 150:7:162:4.22: 166:21:171:4.6; 173:22;175:12;179:8; 184:16;192:25;193:2; 205:21;207:21;210:25; 211:22 math (1)17:16 matrix (1) 185:4 mats (1) 130:1 matter (7) 4:5;6:5;8:21;136:6, 8;204:1,5 matters (1) 187:5 maximum (1) 197:16 may (70) 4:11,25;12:21;13:18; 16:4;23:25;28:24;29:1, 5,19,19;32:5,14;33:10;

Volume 2 3-28-23

Evidentiary Hearing before Judge LaFave March 28, 2023

Permit to Mine Application	on - 60-2004-3/824	3-28-23		March 28, 2023
38:25;39:2,7;40:14;	membrane (3)	million (14)	minerals (2)	174:4;181:2,7
46:7;51:13;52:14;53:6;	79:12;80:10;185:12	26:9;56:16;114:16,	140:6;179:3	mixed (9)
60:2;61:19;67:9;68:22;	memo (1)	18,19;115:2,6,7,11,12;	minimal (2)	8:5;65:2;79:12;80:9;
73:13;74:2;76:19;	92:1	116:18;117:5;118:3,12	134:5;195:3	103:13;105:22;130:11;
87:17;91:15;99:13;	memorandum (1)	millions (3)	minimize (1)	131:19;174:4
108:19;115:13;116:16;	88:17	62:20;114:25;116:13	187:22	mixer (3)
119:15;120:25;121:2,	memory (1)	MILLS (118)	minimizing (1)	100:17;101:19,19
23,25;134:3;141:3,4,9;	197:21	13:9;14:8;18:20;	153:8	mixing (6)
146:22;151:5;155:11,	mention (3)	23:4;27:16;28:19;33:1;	minimum (1)	7:24;99:11;101:24;
18;156:2;160:7;	34:3;143:7;162:8	34:17;35:15,23;36:15;	200:12	103:16;175:5,12
162:24;163:7,22;	mentioned (6)	37:25;38:5;40:3;41:18;	mining (4)	mixture (2)
166:6,17;169:12;	135:22;141:24;	44:19;46:3;48:2;51:11;	7:12;167:12;176:14;	86:19;101:11
170:9;173:12;174:21;	175:2;187:6;191:25;	52:1,11;55:10,11;	214:19	model (33)
179:3;183:4;187:20;	212:18	59:10,25;71:4,8;72:23;	Minneapolis' (1)	5:23;41:6;43:18;
191:9;202:23;204:19,	Meredith (1)	73:25;74:11,15,17;	22:20	44:16,24;45:4,6,9,10,
23;210:9;211:9,15;	197:25	82:15;83:7;84:7,19;	Minnesota (8)	16,19;46:9,13,15,18,
212:25	mess (1)	85:1;87:15;95:6,8,10;	6:24;7:8;69:24;	21;47:1,9,13,14;51:6;
maybe (9)	200:13	96:18;97:9,16;98:13;	76:10;130:15;131:14,	53:16,22;57:15,17,19,
16:11;35:9;43:3;	message (1)	100:14;101:1,4;102:6,	16;181:10	20,21;58:2,4;87:13,23,
63:18;146:1;158:22;	106:22	10,22,23,24;107:24;	Minntac (8)	24
176:13;190:4;208:7				modeled (5)
	met (3)	108:3,6,22;110:10;	69:23,24;70:1,4,9,13,	
meal (1)	126:14;160:15,18	113:21,23;116:1,8,9;	20,22	32:25;44:3,25;46:2;
22:1	metallic (1)	117:13,22,23;118:16,	Minorca (5)	56:25
mean (20)	7:11	23;119:2,19,25;120:2,	130:15,17;132:3;	modeling (23)
16:18;47:13;48:18;	method (12)	9,25;121:6,7,22,23;	151:24;187:6	5:16,19;33:6;42:4;
54:22;61:8;65:17;	76:4,6;77:19;79:12;	122:2,16;146:20;	minus (16)	43:20;44:2;46:7;47:17;
119:19;133:12,20;	80:10,15;87:3,12,13;	147:13;150:24;152:9;	17:17;41:13;53:20;	50:25;51:3;52:19;53:4;
146:6;151:21;159:15;	89:2;107:19;108:8	155:9,12,14;164:22;	54:14;57:25;58:12,22;	58:14;59:6,21;60:4;
160:24;169:18,19;	methodologies (1)	166:4,15;167:13;	59:24;61:19;65:3,8,19,	76:15,19;77:1;88:1;
171:2;182:2;188:4,15;	92:14	168:6,14;169:1,16;	25;66:1;163:3;179:12	148:22;149:11;160:8
208:13	methods (12)	170:9,11;172:16;	minute (8)	models (1)
meaning (1)	7:5;77:14;87:7;95:1,	173:4,18;174:6;	85:5;114:5,6,12,24;	76:23
107:8	4;129:19;135:3;150:7;	175:19,21;176:17,20;	115:4,5,10	modification (2)
means (13)	152:13,22;161:12;	179:22;180:13;182:11,	minutes (7)	140:14,16
45:25;48:19;81:13;	162:1	25;183:15;191:18;	63:4;102:11;158:1;	modified (2)
103:16;130:8;151:12;	metrics (6)	206:17;207:6;208:19,	207:1;208:7,12,15	101:18;111:12
152:13,21;157:7;	125:24;126:3,12,14,	20;209:2;210:14;212:8	mirror (1)	modulate (1)
161:11;162:1;172:6;	20,23	Mills' (1)	117:17	139:20
173:11	mic (3)	120:12	misleading (1)	moist (4)
meant (3)	29:19;91:22;144:8	mimic (1)	36:12	132:13;188:13,21,24
34:4;50:1;160:24	Michigan (1)	7:7	miss (1)	moisture (14)
measurable (1)	6:7	mind (6)	192:18	38:19,20;39:2,2;
127:21	microphone (1)	7:11,15;42:18;123:3;	missed (1)	132:14,16;162:18;
measure (3)	128.7	191:1;203:11	191:11	180:21;181:8;184:5;
189:7;191:5,7	mics (1)	Mine (51)	missing (1)	185:10;189:13,17;
measurement (1)	144:10	4:6;6:24;7:16,20;	164:10	192:12
201:14	mid-1980s (1)	8:22;11:15;12:2;14:3,	misspeak (1)	moment (3)
measurements (2)	124:25	19;17:4;20:12;41:7;	116:17	64:16;72:10;93:15
143:12;201:22	middle (3)	42:6,8,25;43:1;65:7,	misspoke (2)	monitored (1)
measures (2)	12:18;50:11;206:18	24;66:2,4;68:7;69:17,	11:5;116:16	127:16
189:8;190:13	midsentence (1)	19;75:21,25;76:3,7,9,	misspoken (1)	monitoring (3)
measuring (3)	208:10	10,13,21;81:10,18,23;	56:5	126:10;127:5,9
89:10;90:11;202:1	might (24)	118:9,13;130:15,17;	misstates (18)	months (3)
mechanics (3)	56:4;68:14;82:9;	131:24;132:6;151:24;	36:15;37:25;52:1,11;	37:21;39:9;40:21
140:23;142:13,16	91:8;94:18;125:25;	153:15;154:21;156:9;	59:10;74:1;82:16;	more (51)
	140:21;143:17;150:20;	158:13;170:2;175:3;	110:1;146:21;147:14;	6:1;10:22;22:4,13;
median (1)				
189:7	155:2,6;157:13,15;	176:7,8;202:8;214:16	164:23;166:16;172:17;	24:8;26:25;27:7;28:6,
medium (1)	162:1;163:1;168:23;	mined (2)	175:22;183:1,16;	9;29:20;35:19;47:24;
92:6	173:16;174:16,18;	67:10,13	210:14;212:9	57:24;78:24;80:3;
meet (2)	180:22;193:24,25;	mineral (1)	misstating (1)	91:14;92:10,17;102:3,
9:4;146:13	202:13;211:12	203:24	83:8	5,8,10;119:8;133:17,
meeting (1)	millimeters (3)	mineralogy (1)	mix (6)	20;134:13;136:1;
189:5	92:8,9,11	142:10	101:20,24;111:17;	137:1,3;142:8;151:6;
107.0		12110		10711,0,112.0,101.0,

Min-U-Script®

Volume 2 3-28-23

Evidentiary Hearing before Judge LaFave March 28, 2023

152:25;156:1;157:12, na 13:163:8:174:16: 181:15:184:10:185:3; na 188:12,13;192:6; 194:7;195:1;199:14; na 202:12;208:7;210:4; 211:15;213:20 Na morning (9) 4:1;5:9;9:22;55:17; 63:6;95:11;117:13; 208:12;215:6 morphological (2) na 92:24;93:20 most (14) 23:22;78:16;128:15; ne 129:1;135:3;145:5; 148:17;152:5;161:22; ne 175:17;179:24;188:23; 199:12;208:7 ne mostly (1) 145:7 move (17) 22:4;23:15;28:2; 45:15,22;55:12;106:7; ne 107:2;120:10;156:20; 158:14;167:17;171:2, 21;176:2;196:23; 198:12 moving (2) 55:23:73:1 ne **MSW**(1) 186:11 ne much (28) 9:17;38:15;56:23; 102:8;118:2,10,17,20; 120:11;121:1;130:6; 133:2,17:143:16; 149:18:164:6:187:7.9: 190:15;198:2;203:20; 207:16:208:3,14,21; 211:18;212:14;215:5 muddy (1) 200:13 ne multiple (3) 128:19;162:19;212:1 multiples (1) 211:4 ne multiplying (1) 56:19 ne municipal (2) 125:12;186:9 municipality's (1) 201:21 must (2) 26:8;191:4 ne Ν ne name (11) 4:1;85:14;121:18; ne 123:1;138:3;144:12; 148:2;177:6;187:3; ne 201:7.21

	1
arrow (2)	new (6)
40:7;207:8	62:2;
arrower (1) 40:16	195:1
40:16 ative (6)	next (2: 10:21
128:18;145:16;	25:4;
146:4,6;162:13;163:4	71:25
atural (13)	91:12
22:18;64:4,11,14;	103:1
67:1,5,7,8,18;125:16;	120:2
146:1;179:7;189:2	196:2
ature (3)	nicely (
152:25;191:16;	157:
204:23 ear (2)	night (2 123:1
91:14;146:9	nine (1
earby (1)	194:
146:12	nitty-g
ecessarily (12)	139:
32:3;84:8;105:2;	nods (1
149:20;160:22;161:9;	58:19
165:21;166:19,21;	nomina
190:11;198:7;214:25	209:1
ecessary (14) 27:15;34:15;55:4;	non-Ac 136:
60:10;82:13;83:19;	none (5
84:1;85:16;139:8,17;	7:10,
149:18;150:8;163:6;	10
208:18	Noneth
ecessity (1)	139:4
19:11	nonfer
eed (31)	7:11
19:3,6;33:12;52:8; 57:5;71:24;76:14;	nor (1) 8:21
77:21;83:20;102:15;	norma
113:12;118:19;143:6;	188:
151:6;157:22;170:2,4;	norma
172:20;176:23;180:4;	7:7
191:17;192:6;194:21;	north (
199:22;205:1;206:21,	10:13
22;211:18;212:14,14,	97:23 northe
15 eeded (8)	131:
28:24;31:24;68:21;	North
135:11;157:13;189:18;	4:5;1
211:9,10	37:3,
eeds (3)	16;64
32:9;51:23;72:7	73:23
egative (19)	86:12
43:12,17;44:11,12, 17;47:22;51:1;52:25;	106:1 123:0
54:17,18;59:8;65:22;	137:2
86:13;113:12,17;	214:
138:24;139:7;148:9;	note (2
149:10	144:
egligible (2)	Noted (
141:14;142:3	146:2
either (1) 8:21	notes (3 12:6;
evermind (1)	notice (
77:20	16:6;
evertheless (1)	NRC (8
147:10	91:1,

) :88:3.13:124:1: 14:207:17 23) 1;17:2,19;24:14; ;39:5;44:6;46:16; 5;83:4;85:12; 2,16;102:20; 19;111:20;116:11; 25;151:2,2; 24,24;198:13 (1)17 2) 10;147:4 ritty (1) 11 L) 9 al (1) 14 quaBlok (1) 15 5) ,18;75:14;202:7, heless (1) 4 rous (1) **l** (3) 19.22:197:7 lly (1) 7) 3:17:9:89:18.19; 3,24;200:9 ern (1) 16 Met (31) 1:12;36:11; ,4;54:5;62:7,12, 4:14,15;67:1; 3;75:17;81:1,5; 2;99:14;102:4; 19;111:8;112:6; 6,14;124:6,14; 22:210:12.24: 13;215:1 16;158:16 (2)22;212:10 3) ;86:16;163:21 (2):21:16 8) ,6,12,16;92:6,

19:93:5,14 Nuclear (3) 90:16:94:23:189:15 Number (47) 4:6;17:4;31:17; 41:16;42:22;43:11,16; 44:2;45:14;47:21,25; 48:12:49:13:51:17; 52:18,20,24;53:3,4,19; 64:8;79:17,17;92:22; 98:1;99:1;101:8;105:9; 109:1;113:15,19,22; 114:20;117:7;132:23; 144:9;147:7;162:16; 163:1;189:17;197:12; 203:24,25;206:13; 211:5;213:9,12 numbers (16) 16:12,18;17:21;37:8; 41:2,4,21;42:3,12; 43:15,24;49:13;83:10; 87:3;139:13;203:20 numerous (1) 125:12 nutrients (1) 214:16 0 **OAH** (1) 4:6 oath (5) 4:10;63:8;72:14; 102:21;158:5 object (31) 13:9;14:8;41:18; 44:19:46:3:48:2:51:11; 59:10;74:11;142:20; 150:24;152:9;155:9; 164:22:166:4.15: 167:13:168:6.14; 169:1,25;172:16; 173:4,18:174:6; 175:19;176:17,22; 179:22;180:13;210:14 objection (58) 13:16;14:13;18:20; 23:4,14;27:16;28:3,19; 29:3;33:1,8;34:17; 35:15,23;36:4,15; 37:25;38:5;40:3,11; 52:1,11;59:25;60:1; 71:4,12;72:23;73:25; 82:15;83:7;84:7,19,20; 85:1;87:15;96:12;97:4; 98:8;107:21;108:1,16; 110:1;118:8;142:22; 146:20;147:13;155:10; 180:2,3,10,15;182:11, 25;183:15;191:18; 206:17;212:8,10 objections (2) 74:16:118:23

Objective (8) 86:18,21,23;87:1; 138:22;193:7,9;196:19 objectives (10) 103:3,6,18,19,24; 104:3:160:17:161:14. 15:189:6 obliged (1) 166:22 observed (7) 8:12;29:18;30:1,5; 92:7:93:8,9 obstacles (1) 129:22 obtain (3) 78:6;99:10;177:19 obtained (1) 68:8 obvious (1) 191:10 obviously (1) 4:16 occasional (1) 81:13 occur (3) 34:7;134:3;163:19 occurring (1) 185:4 occurs (1) 206:2 off (13) 72:9:102:16:121:3: 130:3;131:22;150:22; 158:9.24:163:11: 208:9,18;211:25;215:7 offended (1) 144:19 offer (1) 55:15 offered (2) 168:1;171:23 Office (1) 4:3 offshore (1) 130:4 off-site (1) 187:14 often (1) 213:17 oftentimes (1) 154:9 Ohio (5) 123:25;132:11,21; 196:2;198:1 old (1) 190:4 older (2) 95:14;207:19 once (9) 20:8;44:25;45:7; 47:2,3;68:16;139:18; 200:13;202:21 one (73)

Volume 2 3-28-23

Evidentiary Hearing before Judge LaFave March 28, 2023

Permit to Mine Application	on - 60-2004-37824	3-28-23	[March 28, 2023
4:13;8:25;11:17;	opportunity (4)	over (35)	page (79)	particles (4)
4.13,8.23,11.17, 19:21;20:10,18;21:2,6;	4:21;129:17;153:22;	31:15;34:24;37:9,12,	6:3;7:4,24;9:1;10:6,	136:19;182:5,5,19
22:4;23:12;24:8;27:7;	4.21,129.17,135.22, 174:20	13;41:2;45:22;57:16;	21;17:2,19;24:8,14;	particular (22)
28:6,7,9,22;35:19;	opposed (3)	61:3;90:17,19;91:7;	26:6;27:12;28:9;31:16;	87:24;89:25;91:24;
40:1;41:15;45:11;	131:20;154:12;199:4	107:5;112:15;127:8,	42:21,25;43:2,14;	109:23;117:17;136:10;
51:15,23;52:8;53:11;	opposite (3)	20,22;130:9;134:6;	46:13,16;47:19;49:12,	140:1;141:5;142:2;
56:24;62:6;64:25;	101:22;182:23;	140:22;141:3,4,17,19,	14;52:21;53:2;68:16;	154:10;164:12;166:25;
69:18;72:19;73:18;	183:14	25;145:1;149:6;	79:8;80:4;82:14;83:5;	169:7,9;171:12,13,14;
80:4;91:8;92:17;95:19;	option (2)	151:11;162:15;175:23;	84:15;85:12;87:11,11;	173:23;179:16;187:20;
96:25;101:20;103:23;	138:3;146:24	177:9;179:9;184:6;	88:24;89:12;90:2;91:4,	189:18;211:2
104:3;111:20,23;	options (1)	187:24;201:10	12,16;92:17,18;98:25;	particularly (4)
119:7;124:13;128:7;	175:11	overall (11)	99:3,20;100:15,21;	143:15;161:7;175:8;
132:20;136:21;140:7;	order (19)	114:2;118:5;126:9;	103:19;104:7,11,19;	207:25
142:22;143:13;146:24;	19:11;20:1,24;25:24;	134:14;140:22,23;	106:8;107:3,7;109:23;	parties (2)
149:2;151:13;152:15,	34:5;51:7,21;52:6;	142:12,16;143:13;	124:19;138:14;140:17;	22:10;55:10
16;156:24;159:15;	53:21;83:8;94:6;	185:9;211:1	150:16;158:23;172:1;	parts (1)
161:7;162:8;179:4,21;	112:22;117:25;118:18;	overcome (2)	192:5;193:16,17;	111:23
180:8,12;184:7;	139:21;147:9;162:9;	129:19,22	194:1,17,18,19;196:20,	party (1)
190:25;191:9;192:18;	165:19;166:13	overcompact (1)	24;199:19;203:6,15;	187:19
195:11;197:13;199:14;	orders (1)	185:2	204:10;209:11,18,19;	pass (1)
201:6;202:12;212:12,	105:2	overfill (1)	213:8,11	120:16
13;213:1	organic (1)	31:22	pages (7)	passes (2)
one-half (1)	6:4	overflow (5)	8:10;41:15;58:6;	163:12;189:18
197:18	organizations (2)	18:1,6,7,19;19:12	192:3;196:23;198:13;	passive (4)
ones (4)	144:14,15	overlying (1)	213:5	35:4,9,13,22
78:11;86:17;95:1;	oriented (1)	141:11	paint (1)	past (1)
196:1	13:5	overruled (23)	101:1	112:18
one's (1)	original (1)	13:17;29:4;33:9;	panels (1)	patch (1)
170:15	155:3	40:12;44:20;48:3;	75:24	187:24
only (15)	others (5)	51:12;52:13;60:2;	paper (6)	patent (1)
5:12;19:18;58:22;	93:7;115:9;131:25;	87:16;98:10;107:23;	77:10,11,16;87:8;	177:19
91:10;99:10;100:15;	145:25;201:5	108:2,18;152:10;	184:15;203:10	patented (2)
105:2;155:24;171:17; 179:4;187:16;198:4,6;	otherwise (4) 49:23;116:4;170:7;	155:11;166:17;168:16; 172:18;173:5,19;	paragraph (17) 50:11;79:16;87:23;	145:2,23 patents (2)
205:11;207:3	181:5	172.18,175.5,19, 174:7;191:20	93:1;99:2,5;104:15,20;	135:18,21
onshore (1)	Ottawa (1)	overseeing (1)	106:9,11,13;107:6,7,9;	path (1)
130:4	123:25	69:22	138:19:194:4:195:7	91:19
on-site (2)	out (40)	overseen (1)	parameter (3)	patient (2)
133:14;187:13	5:10;10:17;19:19,24;	125:11	49:22;50:2;206:10	18:21;27:19
onto (1)	20:5,15;21:8;22:1;	overtopping (5)	parameters (5)	Paula (3)
190:3	28:1;32:4,21;35:1,8;	18:18,23;19:7,19;	19:9;94:25;160:20;	9:22;142:21;187:3
opening (1)	38:25;39:16;46:2;	205:25	161:11;162:17	pay (3)
4:17	51:24;85:23;90:2;	own (8)	pardon (1)	155:8;156:16;157:8
operate (2)	91:17;112:22;118:4,	15:19;16:5;19:10;	179:25	PDF (15)
101:6;102:2	17,17,20;128:6;130:6;	64:6;162:6;166:2,10,	park (10)	27:12;31:13,16;
operated (2)	153:22;155:6;163:9,	13	72:22;73:21;132:20;	42:24;46:12;47:20;
153:12,18	16;164:3,11;167:3;	oxidize (2)	167:9,11;188:9,9;	79:8;81:15;89:6;
operating (1)	182:20;194:1;198:1,2;	32:21;33:18	192:1;193:12;194:23	193:16;194:1;196:24;
100:17	204:15;205:23	oxygen (1)	part (18)	203:6;209:12,19
operation (1)	outflow (2)	165:13	20:6;21:7;25:22;	peer-reviewed (2)
135:10	27:9,18	P	31:19;70:12;99:12;	177:22;178:11
operations (8)	outlet (4)	Р	104:7;109:11;111:25;	peers (2)
12:9;24:1;62:9,18;	28:12;29:12,19,24	DAG (1)	112:2;156:19;163:9,	178:1,3
101:12;109:11;133:16;	outline (2)	PAC (1)	21;178:5;187:15;	pelletized (1)
135:24	12:14,18	209:15	188:16;204:22;205:4	136:4
opinion (10) 22:14:72:10:74:6:	outputs (3)	package (5)	$\begin{array}{c} \text{partial (2)} \\ 189.2 \end{array}$	pellets (1)
32:14;73:10;74:6;	159:21,23;160:6	42:4,5,6;44:2;49:10	188:3,4	181:12
98:11,20,22;136:3; 141:6;178:21,25	outside (9) 27:17;28:20,23;	packages (1) 42:7	partially (1) 188:10	penetrate (2) 88:10,12
opinions (3)	31:10;35:15,23;94:7,	42:7 packs (1)	participate (1)	penetration (6)
98:5;143:23;176:1	11;98:8	128:3	93:16	39:25;88:16;90:9,12;
opportunities (1)	outward (1)	pad (1)	particle (3)	91:8,18
133:10	187:12	189:10	111:15;140:7;182:7	people (1)
				r - • r • (-)

Min-U-Script®

Evidentiary Hearing before Judge LaFave March 28, 2023

Permit to Mine Applicatio	on - 60-2004-3/824
208:18	period (4)
per (54)	51:10;90:19;197:18;
41:7;44:4,25;45:1;	200:8
46:19,23;47:16;51:1,4;	periodically (1)
53:24;57:1;58:1,12,22;	31:21
59:2;60:5;65:3,8,19,	periods (4)
23;68:10;70:11;	37:19;38:14,17;
112:21,23;114:5,6,12,	204:16
16,18,19,24;115:1,2,4,	permanent (3)
5,6,7,10,11,12;116:13,	61:2;173:15;180:23
18;118:3;132:9;	permeabilities (1)
138:24;139:8;148:10;	185:10
163:3;179:12;197:16,	permeability (54)
18;210:4,7;211:3	41:10;42:20;43:5,17;
per-acre (1)	44:10,16;47:22,23;
115:17	48:13,25;49:24;51:9,
percent (20)	15,24;52:9,16,19;
	53:14;54:13,18;57:11,
48:19,23;65:15;	
86:11;103:10,14;	22;58:1;60:21,25;
106:2,3;109:22,24;	68:10;70:9;75:5,10,16,
111:13,17;178:19,22;	19;94:25;126:5;
179:2,10;203:22,22;	128:17;129:3;138:23;
209:15,16	139:1,24,25;140:22;
percentage (3)	148:8;162:10,13;
67:4,16;204:2	163:7,23;165:13;
percolate (1)	179:13;185:8,11,25;
56:23	190:13;191:5,8;212:20
percolation (23)	permeable (7)
41:6;44:3,24;45:6;	54:17;59:8;70:16,18,
47:25;49:2;51:7,8,25;	21;185:3;200:17
52:8;53:15,22;57:1;	Permit (21)
59:3;70:10;75:6;76:15;	4:5;11:15;12:2;14:3,
77:3;190:15;201:15;	19;17:3;26:18;34:1;
202:1,3;211:13	41:7;42:6,7,25;43:1;
	65:7,24;66:1,4;108:23;
perfect (7)	
82:9;83:3;84:5,17;	147:23;156:8;163:16
96:2;97:2,19	permitted (4)
perfectly (1)	125:11;156:9,9,12
159:7	permittee (2)
perform (5)	155:7;156:2
5:18;136:20;143:17;	permitting (2)
158:17;159:2	164:20;178:14
performance (30)	perpetual (3)
9:4;49:21;50:2,25;	34:16;35:11,16
51:3;52:19;53:4;58:14;	perpetually (1)
59:6,21;60:4,18;76:20;	35:2
111:3,7;127:2;136:10,	perpetuity (1)
	20:24
24;138:25;141:4,15;	
142:1;143:13;160:23;	person (2)
172:3;189:5,8;190:6;	142:7;195:22
201:19,24	personal (7)
performances (1)	29:22;68:4;69:2;
150:11	78:3;93:12;127:10;
performed (9)	130:18
73:22;104:25;	personally (4)
124:14;125:1,23;	8:12;29:17;77:4;
126:4,13;128:13;	124:22
197:21	perspective (1)
performs (1)	198:3
159:16	pertain (2)
perhaps (4)	171:18;205:9
39:4;55:19;134:11;	pertains (1)
165:18	71:20
i la	

4	3-28-23
97:18;	per-unit (1) 133:21 petitioners' (3)
	petitioners' (3) 143:20;150:21; 151:11
7;	ph (10) 13:6;24:10;41:1; 59:3;94:10;99:18;
30:23	105:20;196:16;214:17, 19
l)	phase (1) 160:16
l) 3:5,17;	PhD (2) 142:9;144:17
2,23; 4;51:9,	phenomena (1) 182:16
19; 3;57:11,	phenomenon (1) 182:8
25; 5,10,16,	phones (1) 4:8
5; 138:23;	photo (4) 23:20,21,25;24:25
40:22; 13;	photographs (3) 90:10;92:5;130:22
l3; l1,25;	photos (4) 24:7;75:12,14;89:11
3;212:20	phrase (3) 9:25;22:10;188:22
16,18, 17	pick (2) 141:10;162:25
;14:3,	picture (6) 13:20;22:17;24:16;
34:1; ;43:1;	101:2;168:1,2 pictures (1)
;108:23; 163:16	199:9 picturesque (1)
9,12	200:13 piece (2)
	101:14,16 pilot (13)
	103:4,6,9;131:1; 152:2,7,12,17,17,19; 153:23:161:6;175:17
5	pin (1)
	161:18 place (10) 9:3;27:14;73:22;
	9.5,27.14,75.22, 145:8;153:25;159:23; 164:16;202:13;205:12;
	210:25 placed (7)
2; 7:10;	45:1;146:13;162:22; 163:10;174:15;187:24;
,	200:5 placement (5)
4;	74:24;130:23; 143:14;210:3,7
	placing (3) 75:3,11;173:16
	plan (24) 11:12;13:21;34:25;
	35:10;49:20;51:21; 52:21;53:1;54:6,12;
	52.21,55.1,57.0,12,

60:11;103:1,3;138:18;	
148:3;156:7,22;	
161:19;163:20;167:21;	
171:4,4,24;172:2	
planned (2)	Po
54:5;214:3	
planning (1)	
68:1	
plant (8) 8:13,22;24:24;88:9;	po
8.13,22,24.24,88.9, 92:23;94:7;158:12;	
214:15	
plants (4)	
12:9;39:25;91:14;	
94:1	
plastic (2)	
184:10;185:12	
play (2)	4
113:2;133:13	
please (63) 4:7;14:12;19:25;	
4.7,14.12,19.23, 23:15;29:7;30:11;	
33:13;36:17;38:6,6;	
40:13;41:23;42:13;	
49:6;52:3,23;59:12,18;	
64:18;71:12;72:10;	
73:16;74:12,15,22;	
78:14;79:1;84:21;85:3;	
99:9,20;100:10;	
101:16;103:6;104:15;	
106:7;109:8,17;110:8;	
111:21;113:21,22; 115:24;120:7;121:4,	
11,17;122:8;124:20;	
128:10;147:23;150:15;	
151:6;155:19;165:3;	
166:8;167:23;168:7;	
176:25;182:12;183:8;	
194:22;209:4	
plot (3)	
13:6;91:22;175:5	
plug (1)	
135:12 pockets (2)	
80:11,16	
point (25)	
8:9;16:23;17:9,14;	
23:12;28:11;29:10;	
35:3,19;55:12;64:17;	
66:9;71:23;74:16;	
101:5;104:1,14;	
117:21;147:11;155:23;	po
156:22;171:8;178:24;	-
206:25;212:4 pointing (1)	po
164:11	po
points (1)	PU
204:15	
poll (1)	ро
55:9	
PolyMet (21)	
9:5;24:16;26:8,14;	
60:10;64:12;66:24;	

67:25;68:8;88:15,17, 22;91:24;95:2;121:8; 137:17,20,25;146:17; 147:20;202:23 olyMet's (7) 23:18;63:24;65:7; 104:25;105:4;167:23, 25 ond (188) 16:3,9:17:23:18:5, 11;19:4,6,7,11,19,22; 20:8,11,19;21:9;22:6, 11,13;23:2;24:19;25:8, 13,18,19;26:10,21; 27:15;29:1,2;30:17; 31:21,24;32:2;34:10, 14,17,24;35:11;45:7; 46:14,23;47:11,15,25; 50:15,18,18,23;51:18, 23;53:5,20;56:14,17; 58:15,24;59:4,7,22; 60:4,12,20,22,25;61:2 7,9,11,14,16,20;62:13, 16,21,23;68:1,6,21,23; 69:3,16,17;70:1,8,16, 20;71:2;72:21;73:11, 19;75:5,10;77:15,20, 25;78:12,18,22,23; 80:17,18;87:9;88:6; 103:24;104:5,8; 105:20;107:14,15; 108:5;109:2,6,12; 112:22;113:4;114:5, 13,18;115:18,20; 116:13,23;118:17; 119:12;124:6;129:8; 133:3;138:20,21; 139:1,5,6;143:15; 146:18;148:8;149:14; 153:3:167:9.11: 169:22,22,22;173:15; 180:23;181:13,23; 182:3,18,20,23;183:10, 12,21;184:1,2,4,8; 192:9,20,23,25;193:1; 196:25;198:18,18; 199:4,6,20;200:7,10, 17,22,23;201:1,7,9,15, 20;202:1,4,8;205:10; 210:12,20,21,23;211:8; 215:1 onded (1) 168:12 ond-edge (3) 26:10,16,21 onding (5) 24:11;25:7,17,21; 44:8 onds (20) 6:5;20:5,8;23:22; 24:3,20;29:13;30:10, 15;44:8;54:21;62:3; 78:21;79:2,3;192:17;

Min-U-Script®

Volume 2 3-28-23

Evidentiary Hearing before Judge LaFave March 28, 2023

	00-2004-37824
195:15;198:13;201:12,	20;38:16,17;39:9
13	precisely (2)
pond's (1)	33:7;69:12
138:25	predetermined (1)
PondSeal (22)	189:12
60:11;68:22;69:3,8;	predicted (1)
73:10;82:12;83:17,24;	22:12
85:20,24;97:14;138:8,	predictions (2)
11;145:4;147:6;	32:8,11
157:13;197:3,8,11;	predicts (2)
210:11;213:17,22	44:24;61:10
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
pontoons (1)	predominantly (1)
130:3	186:9
pool (1)	prefiled (10)
118:10	6:2,3;8:25;9:1;122:5,
poorly (1)	9,10;123:17;135:17;
159:13	143:24
	preliminarily (1)
porosity (1)	• • • •
87:3	204:11
Port (1)	preliminary (1)
190:25	154:3
portion (7)	preparation (2)
7:3,22;10:24;131:6,	129:18;195:4
11;187:25;188:7	-
	prepare (2)
portions (5)	56:2;184:15
37:19;39:16;174:14,	prepared (4)
16,17	79:20;81:24;184:13;
position (2)	199:10
123:5,7	preparing (1)
positive (2)	212:15
63:23;138:21	prescribed (1)
possibility (2)	171:20
96:16;157:12	presence (1)
possible (9)	184:1
	104.1
37:21;39:4,8;40:8,	present (3)
37:21;39:4,8;40:8, 20;94:17,21;96:9;	present (3) 179:4;180:22;184:2
37:21;39:4,8;40:8, 20;94:17,21;96:9; 105:3	present (3) 179:4;180:22;184:2 presented (2)
37:21;39:4,8;40:8, 20;94:17,21;96:9; 105:3 post (2)	present (3) 179:4;180:22;184:2 presented (2) 37:11,14
37:21;39:4,8;40:8, 20;94:17,21;96:9; 105:3 post (2) 126:5;204:16	present (3) 179:4;180:22;184:2 presented (2) 37:11,14 president (1)
37:21;39:4,8;40:8, 20;94:17,21;96:9; 105:3 post (2) 126:5;204:16 potential (13)	present (3) 179:4;180:22;184:2 presented (2) 37:11,14 president (1) 123:11
37:21;39:4,8;40:8, 20;94:17,21;96:9; 105:3 post (2) 126:5;204:16	present (3) 179:4;180:22;184:2 presented (2) 37:11,14 president (1)
37:21;39:4,8;40:8, 20;94:17,21;96:9; 105:3 post (2) 126:5;204:16 potential (13) 36:10,21,23;38:21,	present (3) 179:4;180:22;184:2 presented (2) 37:11,14 president (1) 123:11 presume (1)
37:21;39:4,8;40:8, 20;94:17,21;96:9; 105:3 post (2) 126:5;204:16 potential (13) 36:10,21,23;38:21, 23,24;40:23;101:16;	present (3) 179:4;180:22;184:2 presented (2) 37:11,14 president (1) 123:11 presume (1) 154:25
37:21;39:4,8;40:8, 20;94:17,21;96:9; 105:3 post (2) 126:5;204:16 potential (13) 36:10,21,23;38:21, 23,24;40:23;101:16; 133:24;141:23;153:9;	present (3) 179:4;180:22;184:2 presented (2) 37:11,14 president (1) 123:11 presume (1) 154:25 pretty (2)
37:21;39:4,8;40:8, 20;94:17,21;96:9; 105:3 post (2) 126:5;204:16 potential (13) 36:10,21,23;38:21, 23,24;40:23;101:16; 133:24;141:23;153:9; 184:4;191:3	present (3) 179:4;180:22;184:2 presented (2) 37:11,14 president (1) 123:11 presume (1) 154:25 pretty (2) 12:3;27:8
37:21;39:4,8;40:8, 20;94:17,21;96:9; 105:3 post (2) 126:5;204:16 potential (13) 36:10,21,23;38:21, 23,24;40:23;101:16; 133:24;141:23;153:9; 184:4;191:3 poured (1)	present (3) 179:4;180:22;184:2 presented (2) 37:11,14 president (1) 123:11 presume (1) 154:25 pretty (2) 12:3;27:8 prevailed (1)
37:21;39:4,8;40:8, 20;94:17,21;96:9; 105:3 post (2) 126:5;204:16 potential (13) 36:10,21,23;38:21, 23,24;40:23;101:16; 133:24;141:23;153:9; 184:4;191:3 poured (1) 80:8	present (3) 179:4;180:22;184:2 presented (2) 37:11,14 president (1) 123:11 presume (1) 154:25 pretty (2) 12:3;27:8 prevailed (1) 189:24
37:21;39:4,8;40:8, 20;94:17,21;96:9; 105:3 post (2) 126:5;204:16 potential (13) 36:10,21,23;38:21, 23,24;40:23;101:16; 133:24;141:23;153:9; 184:4;191:3 poured (1) 80:8 powdered (2)	present (3) 179:4;180:22;184:2 presented (2) 37:11,14 president (1) 123:11 presume (1) 154:25 pretty (2) 12:3;27:8 prevailed (1) 189:24 prevent (3)
37:21;39:4,8;40:8, 20;94:17,21;96:9; 105:3 post (2) 126:5;204:16 potential (13) 36:10,21,23;38:21, 23,24;40:23;101:16; 133:24;141:23;153:9; 184:4;191:3 poured (1) 80:8	present (3) 179:4;180:22;184:2 presented (2) 37:11,14 president (1) 123:11 presume (1) 154:25 pretty (2) 12:3;27:8 prevailed (1) 189:24
37:21;39:4,8;40:8, 20;94:17,21;96:9; 105:3 post (2) 126:5;204:16 potential (13) 36:10,21,23;38:21, 23,24;40:23;101:16; 133:24;141:23;153:9; 184:4;191:3 poured (1) 80:8 powdered (2)	present (3) 179:4;180:22;184:2 presented (2) 37:11,14 president (1) 123:11 presume (1) 154:25 pretty (2) 12:3;27:8 prevailed (1) 189:24 prevent (3)
37:21;39:4,8;40:8, 20;94:17,21;96:9; 105:3 post (2) 126:5;204:16 potential (13) 36:10,21,23;38:21, 23,24;40:23;101:16; 133:24;141:23;153:9; 184:4;191:3 poured (1) 80:8 powdered (2) 8:13;136:4 powdered activated (1)	present (3) 179:4;180:22;184:2 presented (2) 37:11,14 president (1) 123:11 presume (1) 154:25 pretty (2) 12:3;27:8 prevailed (1) 189:24 prevent (3) 8:2;18:18;19:12 previous (4)
37:21;39:4,8;40:8, 20;94:17,21;96:9; 105:3 post (2) 126:5;204:16 potential (13) 36:10,21,23;38:21, 23,24;40:23;101:16; 133:24;141:23;153:9; 184:4;191:3 poured (1) 80:8 powdered (2) 8:13;136:4 powdered-activated (1) 209:15	present (3) 179:4;180:22;184:2 presented (2) 37:11,14 president (1) 123:11 presume (1) 154:25 pretty (2) 12:3;27:8 prevailed (1) 189:24 prevent (3) 8:2;18:18;19:12 previous (4) 119:12;131:3;
37:21;39:4,8;40:8, 20;94:17,21;96:9; 105:3 post (2) 126:5;204:16 potential (13) 36:10,21,23;38:21, 23,24;40:23;101:16; 133:24;141:23;153:9; 184:4;191:3 poured (1) 80:8 powdered (2) 8:13;136:4 powdered-activated (1) 209:15 practicable (1)	present (3) 179:4;180:22;184:2 presented (2) 37:11,14 president (1) 123:11 presume (1) 154:25 pretty (2) 12:3;27:8 prevailed (1) 189:24 prevent (3) 8:2;18:18;19:12 previous (4) 119:12;131:3; 143:14;207:19
37:21;39:4,8;40:8, 20;94:17,21;96:9; 105:3 post (2) 126:5;204:16 potential (13) 36:10,21,23;38:21, 23,24;40:23;101:16; 133:24;141:23;153:9; 184:4;191:3 poured (1) 80:8 powdered (2) 8:13;136:4 powdered-activated (1) 209:15 practicable (1) 151:18	present (3) 179:4;180:22;184:2 presented (2) 37:11,14 president (1) 123:11 presume (1) 154:25 pretty (2) 12:3;27:8 prevailed (1) 189:24 prevent (3) 8:2;18:18;19:12 previous (4) 119:12;131:3; 143:14;207:19 previously (5)
37:21;39:4,8;40:8, 20;94:17,21;96:9; 105:3 post (2) 126:5;204:16 potential (13) 36:10,21,23;38:21, 23,24;40:23;101:16; 133:24;141:23;153:9; 184:4;191:3 poured (1) 80:8 powdered (2) 8:13;136:4 powdered-activated (1) 209:15 practicable (1) 151:18 practical (11)	present (3) 179:4;180:22;184:2 presented (2) 37:11,14 president (1) 123:11 presume (1) 154:25 pretty (2) 12:3;27:8 prevailed (1) 189:24 prevent (3) 8:2;18:18;19:12 previous (4) 119:12;131:3; 143:14;207:19 previously (5) 5:4;51:16;60:9;
37:21;39:4,8;40:8, 20;94:17,21;96:9; 105:3 post (2) 126:5;204:16 potential (13) 36:10,21,23;38:21, 23,24;40:23;101:16; 133:24;141:23;153:9; 184:4;191:3 poured (1) 80:8 powdered (2) 8:13;136:4 powdered-activated (1) 209:15 practicable (1) 151:18 practical (11) 20:3,12;98:7,20,22;	present (3) 179:4;180:22;184:2 presented (2) 37:11,14 president (1) 123:11 presume (1) 154:25 pretty (2) 12:3;27:8 prevailed (1) 189:24 prevent (3) 8:2;18:18;19:12 previous (4) 119:12;131:3; 143:14;207:19 previously (5) 5:4;51:16;60:9; 111:12;112:10
37:21;39:4,8;40:8, 20;94:17,21;96:9; 105:3 post (2) 126:5;204:16 potential (13) 36:10,21,23;38:21, 23,24;40:23;101:16; 133:24;141:23;153:9; 184:4;191:3 poured (1) 80:8 powdered (2) 8:13;136:4 powdered-activated (1) 209:15 practicable (1) 151:18 practical (11)	present (3) 179:4;180:22;184:2 presented (2) 37:11,14 president (1) 123:11 presume (1) 154:25 pretty (2) 12:3;27:8 prevailed (1) 189:24 prevent (3) 8:2;18:18;19:12 previous (4) 119:12;131:3; 143:14;207:19 previously (5) 5:4;51:16;60:9;
37:21;39:4,8;40:8, 20;94:17,21;96:9; 105:3 post (2) 126:5;204:16 potential (13) 36:10,21,23;38:21, 23,24;40:23;101:16; 133:24;141:23;153:9; 184:4;191:3 poured (1) 80:8 powdered (2) 8:13;136:4 powdered-activated (1) 209:15 practicable (1) 151:18 practical (11) 20:3,12;98:7,20,22;	present (3) 179:4;180:22;184:2 presented (2) 37:11,14 president (1) 123:11 presume (1) 154:25 pretty (2) 12:3;27:8 prevailed (1) 189:24 prevent (3) 8:2;18:18;19:12 previous (4) 119:12;131:3; 143:14;207:19 previously (5) 5:4;51:16;60:9; 111:12;112:10 primarily (5)
37:21;39:4,8;40:8, 20;94:17,21;96:9; 105:3 post (2) 126:5;204:16 potential (13) 36:10,21,23;38:21, 23,24;40:23;101:16; 133:24;141:23;153:9; 184:4;191:3 poured (1) 80:8 powdered (2) 8:13;136:4 powdered-activated (1) 209:15 practicable (1) 151:18 practicable (1) 151:18 practical (11) 20:3,12;98:7,20,22; 149:25;150:6;151:12; 157:4;170:18;171:3	present (3) 179:4;180:22;184:2 presented (2) 37:11,14 president (1) 123:11 presume (1) 154:25 pretty (2) 12:3;27:8 prevailed (1) 189:24 prevent (3) 8:2;18:18;19:12 previous (4) 119:12;131:3; 143:14;207:19 previously (5) 5:4;51:16;60:9; 111:12;112:10 primarily (5) 71:1,20;124:17;
37:21;39:4,8;40:8, 20;94:17,21;96:9; 105:3 post (2) 126:5;204:16 potential (13) 36:10,21,23;38:21, 23,24;40:23;101:16; 133:24;141:23;153:9; 184:4;191:3 poured (1) 80:8 powdered (2) 8:13;136:4 powdered-activated (1) 209:15 practicable (1) 151:18 practical (11) 20:3,12;98:7,20,22; 149:25;150:6;151:12; 157:4;170:18;171:3 practiced (2)	present (3) 179:4;180:22;184:2 presented (2) 37:11,14 president (1) 123:11 presume (1) 154:25 pretty (2) 12:3;27:8 prevailed (1) 189:24 prevent (3) 8:2;18:18;19:12 previous (4) 119:12;131:3; 143:14;207:19 previously (5) 5:4;51:16;60:9; 111:12;112:10 primarily (5) 71:1,20;124:17; 141:9;161:10
37:21;39:4,8;40:8, 20;94:17,21;96:9; 105:3 post (2) 126:5;204:16 potential (13) 36:10,21,23;38:21, 23,24;40:23;101:16; 133:24;141:23;153:9; 184:4;191:3 poured (1) 80:8 powdered (2) 8:13;136:4 powdered (2) 8:13;136:4 powdered (2) 8:13;136:4 powdered (2) 8:13;136:4 powdered (2) 8:13;136:4 powdered (2) 8:13;136:4 powdered (2) 8:13;136:4 powdered (2) 8:13;136:4 powdered (2) 8:13;136:4 powdered (1) 209:15 practicable (1) 151:18 practical (11) 20:3,12;98:7,20,22; 149:25;150:6;151:12; 157:4;170:18;171:3 practiced (2) 159:20;160:4	present (3) 179:4;180:22;184:2 presented (2) 37:11,14 president (1) 123:11 presume (1) 154:25 pretty (2) 12:3;27:8 prevailed (1) 189:24 prevent (3) 8:2;18:18;19:12 previous (4) 119:12;131:3; 143:14;207:19 previously (5) 5:4;51:16;60:9; 111:12;112:10 primarily (5) 71:1,20;124:17; 141:9;161:10 primary (3)
37:21;39:4,8;40:8, 20;94:17,21;96:9; 105:3 post (2) 126:5;204:16 potential (13) 36:10,21,23;38:21, 23,24;40:23;101:16; 133:24;141:23;153:9; 184:4;191:3 poured (1) 80:8 powdered (2) 8:13;136:4 powdered-activated (1) 209:15 practicable (1) 151:18 practicable (1) 151:18 practical (11) 20:3,12;98:7,20,22; 149:25;150:6;151:12; 157:4;170:18;171:3 practiced (2) 159:20;160:4 preceding (1)	present (3) 179:4;180:22;184:2 presented (2) 37:11,14 president (1) 123:11 presume (1) 154:25 pretty (2) 12:3;27:8 prevailed (1) 189:24 prevent (3) 8:2;18:18;19:12 previous (4) 119:12;131:3; 143:14;207:19 previously (5) 5:4;51:16;60:9; 111:12;112:10 primarily (5) 71:1,20;124:17; 141:9;161:10 primary (3) 103:6,18;193:9
37:21;39:4,8;40:8, 20;94:17,21;96:9; 105:3 post (2) 126:5;204:16 potential (13) 36:10,21,23;38:21, 23,24;40:23;101:16; 133:24;141:23;153:9; 184:4;191:3 poured (1) 80:8 powdered (2) 8:13;136:4 powdered-activated (1) 209:15 practicable (1) 151:18 practical (11) 20:3,12;98:7,20,22; 149:25;150:6;151:12; 157:4;170:18;171:3 practiced (2) 159:20;160:4 preceding (1) 108:13	present (3) 179:4;180:22;184:2 presented (2) 37:11,14 president (1) 123:11 presume (1) 154:25 pretty (2) 12:3;27:8 prevailed (1) 189:24 prevent (3) 8:2;18:18;19:12 previous (4) 119:12;131:3; 143:14;207:19 previously (5) 5:4;51:16;60:9; 111:12;112:10 primarily (5) 71:1,20;124:17; 141:9;161:10 primary (3) 103:6,18;193:9 principal (1)
37:21;39:4,8;40:8, 20;94:17,21;96:9; 105:3 post (2) 126:5;204:16 potential (13) 36:10,21,23;38:21, 23,24;40:23;101:16; 133:24;141:23;153:9; 184:4;191:3 poured (1) 80:8 powdered (2) 8:13;136:4 powdered (2) 8:13;136:4 powdered (2) 8:13;136:4 powdered (2) 8:13;136:4 powdered (2) 8:13;136:4 powdered (2) 8:13;136:4 powdered (2) 8:13;136:4 powdered (1) 151:18 practicable (1) 151:18 practical (11) 20:3,12;98:7,20,22; 149:25;150:6;151:12; 157:4;170:18;171:3 practiced (2) 159:20;160:4 preceding (1) 108:13 precipitation (13)	present (3) 179:4;180:22;184:2 presented (2) 37:11,14 president (1) 123:11 presume (1) 154:25 pretty (2) 12:3;27:8 prevailed (1) 189:24 prevent (3) 8:2;18:18;19:12 previous (4) 119:12;131:3; 143:14;207:19 previously (5) 5:4;51:16;60:9; 111:12;112:10 primarily (5) 71:1,20;124:17; 141:9;161:10 primary (3) 103:6,18;193:9 principal (1) 31:6
37:21;39:4,8;40:8, 20;94:17,21;96:9; 105:3 post (2) 126:5;204:16 potential (13) 36:10,21,23;38:21, 23,24;40:23;101:16; 133:24;141:23;153:9; 184:4;191:3 poured (1) 80:8 powdered (2) 8:13;136:4 powdered-activated (1) 209:15 practicable (1) 151:18 practical (11) 20:3,12;98:7,20,22; 149:25;150:6;151:12; 157:4;170:18;171:3 practiced (2) 159:20;160:4 preceding (1) 108:13	present (3) 179:4;180:22;184:2 presented (2) 37:11,14 president (1) 123:11 presume (1) 154:25 pretty (2) 12:3;27:8 prevailed (1) 189:24 prevent (3) 8:2;18:18;19:12 previous (4) 119:12;131:3; 143:14;207:19 previously (5) 5:4;51:16;60:9; 111:12;112:10 primarily (5) 71:1,20;124:17; 141:9;161:10 primary (3) 103:6,18;193:9 principal (1)
37:21;39:4,8;40:8, 20;94:17,21;96:9; 105:3 post (2) 126:5;204:16 potential (13) 36:10,21,23;38:21, 23,24;40:23;101:16; 133:24;141:23;153:9; 184:4;191:3 poured (1) 80:8 powdered (2) 8:13;136:4 powdered (2) 8:13;136:4 powdered (2) 8:13;136:4 powdered (2) 8:13;136:4 powdered (2) 8:13;136:4 powdered (2) 8:13;136:4 powdered (2) 8:13;136:4 powdered (1) 151:18 practicable (1) 151:18 practical (11) 20:3,12;98:7,20,22; 149:25;150:6;151:12; 157:4;170:18;171:3 practiced (2) 159:20;160:4 preceding (1) 108:13 precipitation (13)	present (3) 179:4;180:22;184:2 presented (2) 37:11,14 president (1) 123:11 presume (1) 154:25 pretty (2) 12:3;27:8 prevailed (1) 189:24 prevent (3) 8:2;18:18;19:12 previous (4) 119:12;131:3; 143:14;207:19 previously (5) 5:4;51:16;60:9; 111:12;112:10 primarily (5) 71:1,20;124:17; 141:9;161:10 primary (3) 103:6,18;193:9 principal (1) 31:6

prior (22)	
58:25;59:11;84:2,4,	
6,8;97:13;110:2,2;	
123:13;127:24;128:13,	pr
21;132:2;154:17,17; 162:19;164:23;166:16;	pr
175:22;183:1;186:6	
priorities (1) 161:15	pr
privy (1)	pr
131:7 probable (1)	
probable (1) 161:11	pr
probably (7)	Pr
35:12;102:19;127:9;	
134:4;140:8;149:17;	
209:10	
problem (6)	
34:5;72:3;180:22; 190:8,9,11	
problematic (1)	
211:15	
problems (5)	
20:25;107:25;128:8;	
144:8;176:10	
procedure (1)	
90:8	
procedures (2)	
112:12,13	
proceed (10)	
4:11;5:1;29:5;40:14;	
110:9;115:25;146:22;	
170:20;183:5;209:4 proceeding (5)	
18:24;34:19;75:21;	
123:13;155:15	
Proceedings (1)	
215:8	
process (10)	
72:2;76:1;89:8;	pr
104:8;133:18;134:16;	-
140:4;141:20;152:22;	pr
164:21	
produced (2)	
198:7,23	
product (48)	
80:19;82:3,6,9,10, 11;83:2,16,23;85:13,	
14;87:24;88:2;111:24;	
127:14,15;135:21;	
136:15,18,22;137:9;	pr
138:3,7,12;140:10,11,	Р
15,16;145:2,3;147:20;	pr
168:23;169:7,9;	_
171:13,14,14,17,20;	pr
175:10;184:24;185:16,	-
21;196:16;204:5,6;	pr
209:13,14	
production (1)	pr
141:13	
products (14)	pr
68:21;71:19;82:2; 85:20:124:23:135:18:	
85:20;124:23;135:18;	pr

	1 47 0 170 14 170 0
137:12;141:13;142:11;	147:3;172:14;173:2
145:17,23;149:23;	propose (4)
198:21;203:16	119:20;153:24;
professional (1)	164:2;207:24
166:22	proposed (12)
profile (1)	7:6;9:11;62:7,15;
92:10	80:18;133:3;134:3;
profiles (2)	145:11;151:17;161:1
92:2;93:9	178:20;214:21
program (3)	proposing (3)
105:16,17;205:18	64:13;66:25;67:2
progress (1)	protect (1)
190:24	134:19
Project (112)	protecting (1)
4:5;28:8,10;29:9;	47:14
37:4;46:1;69:22;70:3,	protection (1)
4,7;72:21;73:20,24;	125:21
75:17,22,25,25;76:7,9,	protocol (2)
9,13,13,19,21,22;	163:7,8
81:12;86:12;87:25;	protocols (1)
100:20;106:19;123:6,	127:5
14;124:6;127:15;	provide (18)
130:14;134:14,17;	18:18;53:10;74:6;
140:12;146:9;148:23;	75:16,19;82:1;86:21
152:8,15,20,22,24;	24;88:11;100:7;
153:1,7,8;154:7,10;	125:20;130:1;137:13
156:20;160:7,9;161:4,	162:20;174:21;184:1
	194:7;195:1
6,7,14,15,21;164:6;	
167:19;168:20;171:12,	provided (30)
18;173:13,14;175:1;	9:5;35:22;39:19;
187:6,10,16,16,19;	72:20;73:19;75:12;
188:8,9,12,15,19,21,23,	81:17,20;88:17;92:5
23;190:3,21;192:9,11,	95:2;106:17;119:11;
13;193:6,8,13,17,18;	122:3;123:16;124:12
194:5,23,23,24;195:7,	126:9,25;129:15;
8;196:2,3,8,15,19;	130:21;131:9;132:20
197:4;198:7,15;210:2,	25;139:24;140:3;
3,4,5;211:2;212:7;	149:4;156:13;157:9;
213:18,23	192:1;201:10
projection (1)	provides (4)
154:13	19:10;53:4;60:20;
projects (28)	92:1
76:3,3,25;77:23;	providing (6)
78:4,6,9;112:3,14;	79:4;88:1;100:5,12;
124:10,24;125:10;	127:17;179:10
127:19;129:15;132:10;	provisions (1)
144:24;152:5;154:16;	118:12
162:2;175:17;190:18;	proximity (1)
193:4;197:25;198:17;	130:2
199:13,15,15;202:16	prudent (6)
project's (1)	157:12;162:24;
7:6	
	165:17;166:1;170:1,
promise (1)	publications (1)
5:9	177:8
proper (1)	publish (1)
90:8	177:25
properly (3)	published (1)
74:18;153:16,19	24:18
properties (3)	pull (5)
86:18;87:8;141:21	63:16;158:22;182:6;
property (2)	196:4;199:21
131:15;205:17	pulled (1)
proposal (3)	182:19
Proposit (a)	102.17

4) 153:24; 207:24 (12) 1;62:7,15; 33:3;134:3; ;151:17;161:11; ;214:21 g (3) 6:25;67:2 l) g (1) n (1) (2) (1) 18) 53:10;74:6; 9;82:1;86:21, 1;100:7; ;130:1;137:13; 174:21;184:16; 95:1 (30)22:39:19: 3:19;75:12; 20;88:17;92:5; 6:17;119:11; 23:16;124:12; 5;129:15; ;131:9;132:20, 24;140:3; 56:13;157:9; 201:10 (4) 3:4;60:20; g (6) 8:1;100:5,12; 179:10 **is** (1) y (1) (6) 162:24; 166:1;170:1,8 ons (1) 1) d (1) 58:22;182:6; 99:21

Min-U-Script®

Volume 2 3-28-23

Evidentiary Hearing before Judge LaFave March 28, 2023

Permit to Mine Application	on - 60-2004-37824	3-28-23		March 28, 2023
numn (6)	02.15.02.12.05.11.	50.12 14.69.15.92.21.	62.2 5.72.11.102.17.	00.6.107.15 18
pump (6)	92:15;93:12;95:11;	59:12,14;68:15;83:21;	63:3,5;72:11;102:17;	99:6;107:15,18
19:6;26:8;27:15;	97:7;99:3;100:11;	95:16;99:9;104:15;	157:25;158:2;215:6	refine (1)
34:4;35:1,1	102:25;109:1;111:21;	106:12;150:4;175:7;	recognize (2)	133:16
pumped (2)	113:24;116:12;121:1;	192:15	113:24;162:7	reflect (5)
26:2;28:18	130:14;147:11,17;	readily (2)	recollection (8)	16:18;17:8;55:16,21;
pumping (14)	148:14;168:1,4	172:3,25	9:9,10;48:5;66:17;	169:8
19:11,20,23;20:4,5,	Radue's (6)	reading (7)	82:4;187:11;212:24;	reflected (2)
20;21:1;25:23;26:14,	73:10;139:3;146:17,	38:4;68:17;151:15;	213:14	15:25;110:12
20;32:3,4;34:9;35:7	21;147:14;148:11	152:4;162:6;194:5;	recollections (1)	reflective (1)
purchase (1)	rail (1)	205:4	77:18	161:19
147:8	211:22	ready (2)	recommend (2)	reflects (2)
purpose (10)	Railing (1)	74:20;157:8	163:15;177:12	38:23;111:22
9:12;75:15;100:4,7,	211:22	real (4)	recommendation (7)	refrain (1)
11;138:19;156:7;	rain (1)	27:6;42:24;73:5;	86:22,24;87:13,18,	74:12
160:13;193:5;213:18	38:17	90:14	22;152:16;164:16	refresh (1)
pushing (1)	rainwater (1)	realize (1)	recommendations (1)	213:14
126:6	141:9	208:4	88:1	regard (8)
put (15)	raise (2)	really (19)	recommended (1)	49:5;101:9;137:18;
44:9;55:5;80:21;	118:8;121:11	5:22;20:10;23:12;	86:11	141:23;171:23;177:5,
83:10;84:11,12;116:2,	raising (1)	24:15;27:18;29:22;	recompacted (1)	13;181:21
10;129:20;131:8;	170:17	66:23;71:25;135:1;	179:7	regarding (10)
149:8;189:2;206:13;	range (10)	147:9;153:1;162:25;	reconvened (1)	31:8,9;72:20;73:19;
213:3,4	44:13;53:23;60:6,10;	185:9,15;191:10;	4:4	81:1;84:25;123:17;
putting (2)	140:2;163:22;167:1;	206:22;208:3;212:3;	record (36)	133:5;135:21;138:10
34:15;156:6	179:9;209:21,22	214:13	10:23;17:4,20;19:4,	regards (1)
0.110,10010	ranges (1)	real-world (3)	18;22:11;23:10;31:17;	162:13
Q	189:13	123:16;130:10;	35:21;42:15;48:25;	regular (4)
×	rapidly (1)	131:18	49:4,10;52:18,21;55:6;	177:11;188:14,15;
qualification (1)	140:21	re-ask (3)	59:14;63:7;72:9,13;	190:24
151:20	rarely (1) 159:15	38:7;62:13;155:20	76:2;102:16,19;	regularly (1)
quality (13)		reason (6)	113:22;116:3,6;	150:11
47:15;105:25;106:4;	Rarey (1)	5:22;33:25;70:17;	119:21;121:4,5;137:8;	regulated (1)
160:10,11,13,14,19,19;	198:17	75:18;109:12;167:2	144:9;158:4;159:9;	6:24
163:9;183:21;189:12;	rate (16)	reasonable (4)	210:15,19;215:7	regulating (1)
201:18	6:9;44:3,25;46:15,	16:10;17:1;90:11;	recross (1)	179:20
quantifiable (4)	23;47:2;51:8;53:14,15,	170:7	120:13	regulations (1)
125:24;126:3,11,19	22;54:14;70:10;76:14;	reasons (2)	redirect (3)	163:1
Quarry (5)	77:3;113:11;114:4	39:19;177:24	95:7,9;117:20	regulator (2)
6:6,10,16,18;132:9	rates (4)	rebuttal (29)	reduce (7)	178:13,16
quick (2)	32:19;33:16;112:24;	7:23;8:10;36:7,9;	70:9;88:11;106:15;	Regulatory (7)
73:5;212:18	113:3	56:12,13;58:5,6;68:15,	126:2;174:21;211:23,	90:16;94:23;179:19,
quickly (11)	rather (17)	17;74:8;77:5;86:4,8;	24	20,24;180:11;202:18
27:6;42:24;66:23;	10:19;20:22;38:16;	99:19;122:5,10;	reduced (1)	rehabilitation (1)
90:20;133:13;150:3;	55:2,23;61:23;79:4;	138:14;140:17;143:19;	197:17	132:21
193:10;205:22;209:11,	81:24;87:24;94:14;	144:18;150:4,16;	refer (7)	relate (3)
	95:17;99:18;129:18;			
18;213:6		158:21;172:1;213:5,9,	15:16;23:10;61:4;	19:13;103:24;104:8
quite (6)	172:9;173:1;188:21;	11;214:1	107:13,19;108:14;	related (4)
19:4;27:20;140:2;	200:1	recall (41)	138:14	117:6,15,20;145:3
182:20;194:2;211:15	raw (1)	17:11;36:13;37:2,2;	reference (2)	relates (3)
quote (2)	211:22	53:17;60:18,22,23;	143:2;150:15	19:15;100:6,13
142:12;143:3	reach (7)	64:5;65:4;66:12;68:25;	referenced (1)	relating (2)
_	15:21;16:1,4;130:3,	69:21;78:1,2;81:19;	130:14	117:18,19
R	4,6,7	85:21,22,25;93:15;	referencing (1)	relation (3)
	reaching (1)	98:3,16;106:24;109:3,	90:24	50:21;97:14;183:20
radon (2)	141:8	18;123:18;124:2;	referred (3)	relationship (3)
90:17;93:2	Reactive (12)	127:21;134:17;143:25;	148:8;151:5;193:14	123:6;184:18;206:7
Radue (42)	6:24;7:16,19;8:22;	148:1,19;158:19;	referring (11)	relative (12)
4:9;5:3,9;9:22;12:4,	20:12;74:24;75:3;	168:3;188:5,22;	46:18;81:3;99:22;	36:22;126:5;129:3;
24;19:5;20:3;30:16;	76:10;118:9,13;	190:19;196:17;204:17;	100:22;108:9;124:16;	136:24;140:9;149:4;
37:13;40:16;42:2;63:7,	153:15;177:5	207:8;214:6	125:9,10;142:15;	162:11;185:22;186:18;
	-	received (3)	151:1;184:6	190:6;201:24;208:22
12;65:22;70:23;72:13;	read (19)			
74:20;82:23,24;84:11;	11:23;13:13;16:5,13;	96:23;111:13;148:17	refers (7)	relatively (7)
85:16;86:4;90:21;	27:9;31:19;43:4;46:21;	recess (7)	46:15;72:7;74:9,24;	132:13;141:11;
	1	1	1	i de la companya de l

Volume 2 3-28-23

Evidentiary Hearing before Judge LaFave March 28, 2023

Permit to Mine Applicati	on - 60-2004-37824	3-28-23	-	March 28, 2023
150:9;172:5,24;	205:2;209:7,10,11,22	109:8;214:7	137:25;149:24;153:20;	rules (1)
200:18;204:14	reported (1)	respectfully (1)	157.23,149.24,155.20, 154:23;157:3;161:2;	178:16
relay (1)	69:14	207:7	167:9,16;171:24;	run (6)
157:1	Reporter (9)	respond (2)	173:14;176:3;177:15;	28:20;46:9;127:8;
relegating (1)	59:14;71:15,16;	118:15:183:18	178:5,10,18;179:14;	128:3;153:11;205:19
200:12	76:24;90:25;110:4;	responded (2)	180:7;181:19;182:22;	running (2)
relevance (4)	157:23;188:17;204:21	83:22;97:17	185:1;186:14;192:5,8;	119:6;126:6
27:24;73:6,8;191:18	reports (3)	response (7)	207:5;208:17	runoff (2)
relevant (4)	69:11;130:22;198:5	36:9;83:1,5;88:9,11;	right-hand (2)	30:22,24
21:12,23,23;118:12	represent (3)	153:7;211:18	16:20;79:14	rush (1)
reliable (1)	9:23;187:3;195:25	responsible (2)	rigorous (1)	203:12
110:15	representation (1)	154:23;156:18	163:8	203.12
relies (2)	183:3	rest (2)	rip (1)	S
159:21;160:5	representative (2)	43:15;196:5	204:24	
reluctant (1)	54:20;198:21	restate (3)	riprap (4)	safely (1)
176:11	represented (1)	38:6;41:23;74:21	134:19;204:25;	150:10
rely (8)	199:8	restrict (1)	205:6;207:3	safety (2)
150:10;153:20;	represents (1)	136:13	rip-up (3)	26:18;31:4
159:25;160:8;161:5,	144:13	restricting (1)	204:24;205:5;207:4	sake (1)
10;178:9,13	reputable (1)	136:16	rise (2)	183:2
relying (3)	110:18	result (8)	26:10,21	sale (1)
69:6;71:1;201:17	request (2)	7:18;20:25;47:24;	River (3)	199:11
remain (1)	81:16;214:8	51:9;57:14;106:1;	123:25,25;124:1	same (26)
100:1	requested (4)	200:18;206:12	road (3)	10:18,19;14:11;30:8,
remains (1)	81:19;110:4;188:17;	results (5)	154:14;198:18;212:2	18;35:23;47:6;59:25;
98:11	204:21	63:23;109:21;	Roberts (2)	76:1;85:1;98:12;
remediate (1)	requests (2)	133:14;160:8;165:12	184:13,17	101:10;125:3;140:13,
74:25	76:24;90:25	retain (1)	Roberts' (1)	14,16;144:8;145:8;
remediation (2)	require (10)	106:15	186:3	159:15;162:16;194:12,
153:1,7	19:23;20:20;34:25;	retained (1)	role (8)	15;197:8,10;205:5;
remedy (2)	35:11,13;54:13;64:24;	81:11	6:4,6;30:9;31:6;	207:3
72:3;153:24	160:10;161:2;174:17	retains (1)	106:17;156:4,6,10	sample (2)
remember (11)	required (8)	29:2	root (9)	84:3;163:10
36:25;37:24;49:12;	7:7;26:10,16;32:5;	review (2)	88:16;90:8,12;91:17,	samples (3)
78:8;97:8;155:19;	35:4;50:25;53:15;	94:22;148:18	19,20;93:23;94:8;	190:2;193:7;207:16
172:11;201:7,11,20;	76:20	reviewed (8)	214:23	sampling (1)
203:2	requirements (1)	131:21;143:19;	roots (13)	65:1
remind (6)	77:1	147:24;148:20;149:3,	88:10,12;91:8,13;	San (1)
4:7,9;63:7;72:13;	requires (3)	4;150:2;209:10	92:7,8,9;93:8;94:2,6,	201:8
102:20;158:4	35:7;44:16;76:20	reviewers (1)	10;214:11,14	sand (5)
remotely (1)	requiring (1)	179:24	rotates (2)	84:25;85:13;179:8;
130:5	74:13	reviewing (1)	101:20,21	200:6,17
removed (1)	reread (1)	143:22	rotogator (1)	sand/silt (1)
80:7	33:12	reviews (1)	99:18	179:9
Repair (1)	research (10)	178:17	rototill (1)	satisfied (1)
199:20	45:16;85:24,25;	revitalization (1)	99:22	155:7
repeat (8)	177:15,18,19,20,22;	193:12 Dishard (1)	rototiller (3)	satisfy (1)
29:6;52:23;59:17;	178:6;185:2	Richard (1)	99:17,18,23	20:12
73:15;79:1;83:20;	researchers (1)	78:5	rototillers (3)	saturated (11)
128:10;155:19	177:25	ridiculous (1)	99:7,11,12	16:8,9;48:11,14,15,
repeating (1) 43:22	reserve (1) 155:18	185:5	rough (3) 73:22;187:11;192:11	18,19;49:3,18,19;55:22
		right (65)		saturation (4)
rephrase (9) 34:22;36:18;52:3;	reserves (1) 155:16	6:18;11:2,4,6,8,17; 12:18;15:8;16:16;	roughly (1) 106:2	48:19,23;106:3; 165:13
84:21;85:3;151:7;	residential (1)	17:14,15,18;25:3;	row (8)	savings (1)
165:3;168:7;176:25	198:17	37:16;42:23;44:1;	41:5,9;44:1,6;58:7;	133:15
replace (1)	residual (1)	50:18;52:24;57:10;	114:12,15,21	saw (1)
184:4	125:13	64:23;68:16;79:16;	Rule (9)	131:8
replenish (2)	resolve (1)	80:4;84:5;96:4;97:19,	6:25;7:20;14:12;	saying (14)
184:4,8	34:8	24;103:4,20;105:5;	20:13;76:11;118:15;	14:1;70:19;82:9;
report (10)	Resources (1)	108:10;109:6;110:13,	162:12;165:18;166:14	83:16,23;94:5;97:18;
41:12;110:15;	22:18	21;114:21;121:11;	ruled (1)	103:8;132:4;174:18;
131:24;204:14,22;	respect (2)	128:7,8;132:4;135:22;	21:13	188:20;192:23;202:2;
101.21,201.17,22,	respect (a)	12017,0,152.7,155.22,	21.12	100.20,172.23,202.2,

Min-U-Script®

Evidentiary Hearing before Judge LaFave March 28, 2023

Permit to Mine Application	on - 60-2004-37824	3-28-23		March 28, 2023
20 6 25				
206:25	13,22;65:3,8,19,23;	16,17,18,20;106:10,13;	26:6;41:20,21;42:2;	15:11;77:24;92:12,
scalability (1)	71:12;93:1;114:15,21;	107:12,15,17,18;108:7,	91:13;95:21;100:17,	22;127:6,9,24;128:13,
133:6	138:24;139:8;140:7;	12;200:3	18;114:11	15,19;131:22
scale (20)	148:10;163:3;164:25;	separate (1)	shown (2)	site-specific (4)
16:20,21;78:8;103:4,	179:13;191:23;203:25;	168:12	58:7;92:4	37:23;60:20;161:24,
7,9;133:13,20;151:17;	211:7	September (4)	shows (5)	25
162:3;169:20;173:13;	secondly (1)	83:1;85:8,11,11	24:10;51:6;97:23;	Sitting (1)
199:1,3,7,9;201:1,2;	103:15	sequence (1)	168:4,10	53:18
211:20,24	section (5)	83:11	shut (1)	situ (1)
scenario (1)	13:23;39:5;97:23;	sequester (1)	24:24	99:10
141:6	188:5;199:23	192:25	Sibley (2)	situation (7)
scenarios (1)	sections (1)	sequestration (4)	6:6,15	25:6;34:2,14;153:15;
172:7	91:18	71:21;193:2;199:5;	side (14)	164:15;189:25;211:19
scene (1)	SEDflume (1)	202:15	10:13;13:2;14:5,6;	situations (2)
167:7	207:15	serious (1)	15:8;16:17;30:2;89:17;	96:20;190:7
scheduled (2)	sediment (4)	208:21	97:23,24,25;124:17;	six (2)
62:8,17	71:20;75:1;209:25;	served (1)	129:16;142:2	44:17;194:1
schematic (2)	210:1	213:18	sides (26)	six-and-a-half-inch (1)
10:4,7	sediment-capping (2)	service (1)	16:13;56:24;57:13,	211:13
scope (15)	206:11;209:9	204:16	23;58:15,23;59:2;	sixth (1)
18:23;23:7;27:17;	sediments (4)	set (3)	64:15;65:10,11;66:8,	92:18
28:20,23;31:10;33:1;	75:4;192:24;199:5;	21:15;146:10;162:16	18,20;67:1;79:21,24;	size (18)
34:19;35:16,24;98:9;	205:9	setbacks (2)	80:1;88:5,13;89:14;	10:18;22:12;23:3;
155:9;170:19;191:19;	seeded (1)	26:11,16	98:2,7;111:4;129:12;	41:5;43:9;44:15;45:13;
212:7	59:3	sets (1)	164:8;205:25	57:3;78:17,18;111:15;
score (2)	seeing (1)	150:7	sidewall (3)	128:17;152:20;170:19;
92:25;93:21	64:16	setting (1)	187:21,22;188:6	179:5;210:2,20;211:20
scouring (1)	seek (4)	199:5	signed (1)	sizes (2)
205:25	81:8;94:2,6;214:14	several (15)	147:3	91:20;140:7
screen (9)	seem (2)	19:16,17;21:10;26:8;	significant (3)	Ska (3)
38:11;68:18;74:3,4,	147:10;178:2	111:23;123:16;124:10;	105:25;133:15;134:9	22:19;23:3,7
13;124:22;150:18;	seemed (1)	129:15,17;131:1;	significantly (3)	skill (1)
194:13;195:12	173:1	132:11;135:1,17;	155:6;211:23,24	150:7
scroll (6)	seems (7)	149:5;207:1	silence (1)	skin (1)
11:19;12:12;13:19;	23:7;73:1;135:2;	shall (1)	4:8	161:13
22:22;78:13;210:6	151:15;152:5;162:8;	163:2	silty (1)	skipping (1)
scrolling (1)	171:2	shallow (1)	45:17	31:15
50:5	seep (1)	214:23	similar (14)	slide (4)
se (1)	62:21	shear (2)	56:25;63:24;73:23;	28:6,8,9;46:20
132:9	seepage (26)	206:10;207:16	75:16;79:23;115:20;	slimes (6)
sea (1)	6:9;25:22,23;26:1,2;	sheet (1)	124:10,15;129:16;	9:3,7,12;54:19,23;
16:18	28:13;29:14,20,22;	111:23	162:2;188:8;189:16;	61:24
seal (4)	30:2,4;46:14,23;47:15;	Shelby (1)	201:10;214:14	slope (4)
70:12;135:12;	56:16;113:19;114:4,8;	126:6	similarly (4)	182:19;187:23;
201:10;210:23	117:24;118:1,17,19;	short (3)	44:1;61:17;98:14;	188:7;191:3
sealed (3)	142:17;143:4,8;187:22	5:12;175:24;200:8	136:16	sloped (1)
70:1,9;198:14	segues (1)	shorter (1)	simple (1)	188:6
sealing (11)	157:17	16:22	171:3	slopes (14)
71:3;72:21;73:19;	select (3)	short-lived (1)	simpler (1)	43:9;57:13,23;88:5;
80:15;137:9,14;199:4,	139:23;140:5;154:4	129:1	56:10	89:17,18,19,24;90:4,6;
6;201:1;202:8;211:4	selected (2)	shortly (1)	simply (1)	124:17;129:16;142:2;
search (1)	136:10;154:17	171:2	53:7	164:8
85:19	sending (2)	show (25)	single (1)	slow (1)
searched (1)	96:10;163:11	10:4;13:21;22:17;	65:1	181:16
84:13	senior (3)	38:10;46:7,19;49:6,7;	site (26)	sludge (4)
searching (3)	8:1;31:3;123:7	58:9;82:21;86:3,5;	12:24;13:8,15;14:2,	8:14,16,19,22
83:18,25;85:15	sense (3)	89:11;90:2;97:21;	3,6,16,18,24;15:2,20;	slurry (1)
seasonal (1)	171:12,13;187:9	98:23;100:4;101:5,10,	17:6;36:12;39:25;	137:10
26:24	sent (6)	12;114:11;195:17;	124:1;127:11;132:22;	small (11)
seasons (2)	31:3;91:24;96:3,7,	199:9,14;202:21	162:15;168:11;174:13,	12:3;25:8;26:1;91:8;
37:10,12	21;106:22	showed (3)	14;186:7;190:12;	134:5;199:12;200:6,
second (24)	sentence (17)	63:23;101:8;185:2	211:22;214:22;215:1	17,18,18;211:16
41:9;49:7;51:1;58:1,	33:14;99:6,9;104:14,	showing (9)	sites (11)	smaller (11)

Volume 2 3-28-23

Permit to Mine Application	on - 60-2004-37824	3-28-23		March 28, 2023
25:1,19;111:16,16; 133:2;168:12,21; 169:11,14;170:5;210:3 SMC (1)	35:6;47:20;49:17,18; 56:6;68:15;72:6; 129:23;130:16;137:19; 167:10;174:8;182:9;	specifications (8) 65:6,13,13,15,20; 66:7;110:20;165:20 specifics (5)	17:9,14;66:15; 124:21;138:15 starts (2) 154:8,10	77:20;176:22 string (9) 31:2;83:21;84:11; 95:13,14,15,18,19,22
43:6 SMDS (1)	191:4,9;193:22,24; 194:9,10;201:10,21;	64:5,7;142:8;143:1,8 speculate (1)	State (7) 4:3;58:13;74:18;	strings (1) 84:9
93:20 Smith (13)	204:4,12;213:21;214:6	55:25 speculation (3)	121:17;137:19;156:15; 204:10	strong (2) 35:12;186:11
122:19,20,21,23;	sort (5) 175:23;187:23;	96:13;108:17;169:2	stated (15)	struck (1)
123:1;128:11;129:4;	198:3,6;199:2	spell (1)	21:13;39:20;60:3;	148:7
142:25;143:18;148:7; 187:5;188:25;192:10	sorts (1) 125:14	121:17 spending (1)	63:22;69:9;70:12,22; 78:5;81:11;87:1;110:5;	structure (6) 28:12;29:15,19,24;
smoother (1)	sought (1)	23:5	111:12;112:10;162:9;	30:6;109:15
135:2	81:5	spent (2)	166:11	structures (1)
snow (1) 38:16	sound (3) 11:8;57:5;150:13	149:6;208:22 spill (1)	Statement (10) 24:17;29:11;32:10;	29:12 studies (3)
sodium (1)	sounds (6)	153:7	33:19;36:2;49:15;	63:14;175:3;178:10
209:16	11:2,6;42:23;57:7,	spilled (1)	58:18;61:8;126:12;	study (42)
soil (28) 77:11;79:20;81:21;	10;150:14 source (3)	29:23 splitter (2)	183:20 statements (4)	63:19,23;64:1,10; 66:22;67:6,19;88:15,
91:22;92:2,20,24;	39:7;67:15;146:12	168:11,23	4:17,19,22;138:11	17,19,22;90:1,8,12,16,
93:20;94:25;110:18; 112:3,4;125:17;	south (2) 10:12;97:24	spoke (1) 105:18	states (4) 7:9;45:6,21;49:21	21;91:1,6,12,17,25; 92:6,17,19,21;93:5,7,
145:25;146:4,6;	southern (1)	spoken (3)	static (1)	14,17,19;94:23;95:2;
176:15;177:16;179:7;	25:22	39:24;80:25;113:5	139:19	105:8,13;205:20;
182:5,5,7;188:21; 189:1,2,15;192:12;	space (7) 10:17,18;25:12,25;	sponsored (1) 184:17	stating (2) 39:1;82:12	207:22,23;212:19; 213:15;214:3,18,20
207:16	30:8;54:5;210:24	spot (1)	station (1)	subaqueous (7)
soil-based (1)	spaces (1)	149:8	206:6	123:17;129:5;188:2,
177:13 soils (12)	58:14 speak (6)	spotlight (1) 198:5	status (2) 28:10;29:9	3,21;192:13;201:3 subaqueously (3)
111:15;112:17;	5:5,22;46:6;121:15;	spotlights (1)	steep (1)	133:1;135:5;199:16
137:10;145:16;162:13; 163:4;179:16;181:3,4;	152:7;177:21 speaking (10)	199:10 spreading (1)	89:24 steeper (1)	subcontractor (1) 31:7
188:13,24;200:5	38:21;62:10,11;	214:17	89:17	subgrade (1)
solely (4)	104:17,18;108:4,20;	spring (1)	step (6)	195:3
21:15;159:21;160:5; 161:5	131:16;183:24,25 speaks (1)	26:25 square (2)	21:2,6;40:1;72:1; 110:11;121:2	subject (4) 63:13;81:9;177:16;
solid (4)	139:13	210:4,8	still (18)	207:22
7:7,14;125:12;186:9	special (2)	squarely (1)	4:10;23:25;47:9,14;	submitted (2)
solids (1) 185:18	172:8;190:21 specialized (1)	142:23 stability (2)	63:8;67:22;72:14; 102:21;105:12;106:3,	135:16;148:16 submitting (1)
solution (2)	173:12	31:9;187:23	4;107:19;155:3;158:5;	156:8
100:19;170:8 Solutions (1)	species (1) 214:21	stabilize (2) 8:6,19	174:8;191:12,12; 198:15	substantial (2) 200:7,19
193:11	specific (30)	staff (2)	stock (2)	success (1)
solve (1)	35:21;51:5;57:20;	198:23;201:22	91:21;105:20	127:17
128:8 somebody (1)	60:12;67:19;76:14,20, 22,23,25;77:3;81:3;	stage (2) 165:25;170:3	stocking (2) 197:24;199:11	successful (3) 136:16;162:3;179:1
84:12	86:22;88:2;93:2,4;	stamp (1)	stored (6)	successfully (8)
somehow (1)	101:13,14;107:18;	96:22	61:3;116:12,22,25;	124:5,14;127:4;
174:4 someone (2)	108:8;127:12;137:2; 162:16;172:8;187:24;	stand (3) 38:5;72:25;121:8	117:3,6 Stormwater (1)	129:11;132:15;135:14; 136:13;202:15
64:21;116:5	193:13;214:20,24,24,	standard (7)	193:11	sufficient (1)
sometimes (4) 25:18,18;161:15;	25 specifically (13)	77:19;79:11;95:13; 112:11,12;146:11,14	straining (1) 175:11	116:7 sufficiently (3)
163:9	6:1,5,16;46:11;	standing (1)	strength (2)	sufficiently (3) 136:13;172:5,24
somewhat (1)	69:21;70:19;81:19;	188:11	206:10,13	suggest (2)
80:2 Song (2)	94:24;136:5;137:1; 148:20;155:14;192:17	start (8) 9:23;36:8;154:21;	stress (2) 206:10,14	15:18;55:19 suggested (1)
105:8;175:2	specification (6)	158:12;159:23;167:3;	stresses (1)	47:23
sorry (28)	65:18,23;66:3,10,14,	202:12;208:11	207:16	suggesting (1)
11:5;16:8;30:12;	19	starting (5)	strike (2)	205:13

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Evidentiary Hearing before Judge LaFave March 28, 2023

Evidentiary Hearing before Judge LaFave March 28, 2023

	on - 60-2004-37824	3-28-23		March 28, 2023
auggagta (1)	36:5;71:12;147:15;	149:14;164:12;167:12;	26.24.70.10.79.19.	25;181:20,25;182:9;
suggests (1)			26:24;70:10;78:18;	
79:3	167:15;179:23;180:2,	169:13,17;170:11;	124:10;128:16;131:10;	183:1,4,13;184:12;
summaries (2)	3,16,17;210:17	177:5;202:8;210:13;	133:21;134:21;136:6;	187:18;192:15,16;
195:21;198:6	Sutton (8)	214:13,16	149:18;165:12;191:17;	202:14;212:4,9,19;
summarize (1)	31:7,12;32:6,17;	tails (3)	199:1,3	213:5;214:1;215:5
124:9	33:4;34:6,13;54:24	6:21;87:19,20	test (30)	testing (47)
summarized (1)	Sutton's (2)	talk (13)	91:11;92:4;109:21;	63:24;77:14;103:4,7,
103:8	31:18;33:14	63:12,13;88:3;94:18;	110:11,15;111:2,6,11;	9,10;104:4,8,13,24;
summary (1)	swell (4)	102:25;112:19,21;	131:1;152:2;161:6;	105:3,5;110:12,18;
87:12	185:21,23;186:1,2	118:2;149:24;150:2;	164:3,4,17;166:11;	152:6,7,17,18,19;
summer (7)	swelling (2)	151:21;176:6;201:6	171:5,12,13;175:4;	153:23,23;154:18;
26:25;37:20,21;	204:20,22	talked (14)	179:15,18,21;180:8,12;	155:2;157:18;158:15;
38:17;39:9;40:20;	switch (1)	22:6;39:22;43:15,16;	186:16,20;189:10;	161:1,5;162:11,21;
200:9	128:6	45:4;52:20;78:5;	206:12;207:17,19	164:5;165:18,20,24;
sump (1)	sworn (2)	126:17;129:5;151:23;	tested (8)	166:3,23;167:3;
125:19	5:4;121:14	187:5;188:25;189:5;	89:13;109:24;	171:17;175:17,18;
super (1)	system (23)	214:2	165:11;185:16;189:22;	176:1;185:22;189:13,
182:16	32:1,3;35:14;63:24;	talking (21)	203:17;206:9;207:20	15;201:18;205:13;
Superfund (1)	73:21;90:3;106:1;	9:23;33:2,4,4,7;	testified (16)	207:15;212:20
132:22	109:12;125:17;126:9;	34:20;38:13;45:14;	5:6;19:17,18;20:4;	tests (13)
supplemental (1)	140:21,23;142:13,16,	78:8;97:3,7;108:23;	23:6;37:15;51:17;	126:4,6;127:23;
25:5	18;143:13,17;153:2;	128:19;133:19;138:17;	64:25;67:25;117:21;	128:12,21;129:1;
supplied (1)	164:1;170:2;176:15,	149:22;156:17;190:13;	121:16;138:9;168:4;	152:12,12;162:19;
77:24	16;186:19	192:10;193:13;214:8	173:20;182:22;213:6	163:13,17;186:6;190:1
support (6)	systems (19)	talks (2)	testify (1)	theme (1)
124:4;129:10;	72:22;81:25;112:9;	46:14;203:15	26:14	34:19
136:15;137:3;147:23;	137:15;143:5;145:6,7,	taller (5)	testifying (1)	thick (9)
172:2	7,10,12,18,21,23,25;	10:10;12:14,18;13:2;	172:13	39:22;64:3,11,14;
supporting (2)	146:3,5;177:5,13,16	15:5	testimonies (1)	66:25;67:2,5,17;
55:22;148:5		tallest (1)	183:16	113:15
supports (1)	Т	16:23	testimony (158)	thicker (1)
129:6		tap (1)	5:14,15,18;6:2,3;7:4,	113:12
1 (1)				
supposed (1)	table (4)	91:13	23,23;8:11,25;9:1;	thickness (8)
19:9	10:17;46:16,25;47:5	tape (1)	19:10;22:15;26:6;36:7,	50:9;51:18;54:1,4;
19:9 sure (30)	10:17;46:16,25;47:5 tables (1)	tape (1) 89:10	19:10;22:15;26:6;36:7, 9,14,16,20,25;37:16,	50:9;51:18;54:1,4; 65:14;113:7;163:2;
19:9 sure (30) 5:13;10:22;29:9;	10:17;46:16,25;47:5 tables (1) 44:11	tape (1) 89:10 target (8)	19:10;22:15;26:6;36:7, 9,14,16,20,25;37:16, 24;38:1,4,9;39:19;	50:9;51:18;54:1,4; 65:14;113:7;163:2; 189:12
19:9 sure (30) 5:13;10:22;29:9; 34:5;41:3;42:14,22;	10:17;46:16,25;47:5 tables (1) 44:11 tailing (11)	tape (1) 89:10 target (8) 18:4,11,14,17;22:7;	19:10;22:15;26:6;36:7, 9,14,16,20,25;37:16, 24;38:1,4,9;39:19; 44:13;48:10;52:2,12;	50:9;51:18;54:1,4; 65:14;113:7;163:2; 189:12 thicknesses (1)
19:9 sure (30) 5:13;10:22;29:9; 34:5;41:3;42:14,22; 43:15;48:9,17;71:25;	10:17;46:16,25;47:5 tables (1) 44:11 tailing (11) 10:18;23:22;25:12,	tape (1) 89:10 target (8) 18:4,11,14,17;22:7; 50:18;138:22;189:19	19:10;22:15;26:6;36:7, 9,14,16,20,25;37:16, 24;38:1,4,9;39:19; 44:13;48:10;52:2,12; 55:5,16;56:12,13;57:4;	50:9;51:18;54:1,4; 65:14;113:7;163:2; 189:12 thicknesses (1) 50:13
19:9 sure (30) 5:13;10:22;29:9; 34:5;41:3;42:14,22; 43:15;48:9,17;71:25; 96:19;102:10;117:18,	10:17;46:16,25;47:5 tables (1) 44:11 tailing (11) 10:18;23:22;25:12, 25;30:18;54:5;58:13;	tape (1) 89:10 target (8) 18:4,11,14,17;22:7; 50:18;138:22;189:19 targeted (4)	19:10;22:15;26:6;36:7, 9,14,16,20,25;37:16, 24;38:1,4,9;39:19; 44:13;48:10;52:2,12; 55:5,16;56:12,13;57:4; 58:5,6;59:11;60:14,18,	50:9;51:18;54:1,4; 65:14;113:7;163:2; 189:12 thicknesses (1) 50:13 third (7)
19:9 sure (30) 5:13;10:22;29:9; 34:5;41:3;42:14,22; 43:15;48:9,17;71:25; 96:19;102:10;117:18, 19;118:16;128:12;	10:17;46:16,25;47:5 tables (1) 44:11 tailing (11) 10:18;23:22;25:12, 25;30:18;54:5;58:13; 118:11;134:4;170:16;	tape (1) 89:10 target (8) 18:4,11,14,17;22:7; 50:18;138:22;189:19 targeted (4) 125:24;126:12;	19:10;22:15;26:6;36:7, 9,14,16,20,25;37:16, 24;38:1,4,9;39:19; 44:13;48:10;52:2,12; 55:5,16;56:12,13;57:4; 58:5,6;59:11;60:14,18, 22,24;61:12;63:15,18,	50:9;51:18;54:1,4; 65:14;113:7;163:2; 189:12 thicknesses (1) 50:13 third (7) 28:11;29:10;107:17,
19:9 sure (30) 5:13;10:22;29:9; 34:5;41:3;42:14,22; 43:15;48:9,17;71:25; 96:19;102:10;117:18, 19;118:16;128:12; 134:13;137:20;150:16;	10:17;46:16,25;47:5 tables (1) 44:11 tailing (11) 10:18;23:22;25:12, 25;30:18;54:5;58:13; 118:11;134:4;170:16; 210:24	tape (1) 89:10 target (8) 18:4,11,14,17;22:7; 50:18;138:22;189:19 targeted (4) 125:24;126:12; 140:5;148:8	19:10;22:15;26:6;36:7, 9,14,16,20,25;37:16, 24;38:1,4,9;39:19; 44:13;48:10;52:2,12; 55:5,16;56:12,13;57:4; 58:5,6;59:11;60:14,18, 22,24;61:12;63:15,18, 22;64:6,10,16;65:4;	50:9;51:18;54:1,4; 65:14;113:7;163:2; 189:12 thicknesses (1) 50:13 third (7) 28:11;29:10;107:17, 18;108:7;112:2;211:10
19:9 sure (30) 5:13;10:22;29:9; 34:5;41:3;42:14,22; 43:15;48:9,17;71:25; 96:19;102:10;117:18, 19;118:16;128:12; 134:13;137:20;150:16; 155:13;157:11,23;	10:17;46:16,25;47:5 tables (1) 44:11 tailing (11) 10:18;23:22;25:12, 25;30:18;54:5;58:13; 118:11;134:4;170:16; 210:24 tailings (109)	tape (1) 89:10 target (8) 18:4,11,14,17;22:7; 50:18;138:22;189:19 targeted (4) 125:24;126:12; 140:5;148:8 targeting (1)	19:10;22:15;26:6;36:7, 9,14,16,20,25;37:16, 24;38:1,4,9;39:19; 44:13;48:10;52:2,12; 55:5,16;56:12,13;57:4; 58:5,6;59:11;60:14,18, 22,24;61:12;63:15,18, 22;64:6,10,16;65:4; 68:13,17,20,25;69:7;	50:9;51:18;54:1,4; 65:14;113:7;163:2; 189:12 thicknesses (1) 50:13 third (7) 28:11;29:10;107:17, 18;108:7;112:2;211:10 though (5)
19:9 sure (30) 5:13;10:22;29:9; 34:5;41:3;42:14,22; 43:15;48:9,17;71:25; 96:19;102:10;117:18, 19;118:16;128:12; 134:13;137:20;150:16; 155:13;157:11,23; 158:21;160:14;163:12;	10:17;46:16,25;47:5 tables (1) 44:11 tailing (11) 10:18;23:22;25:12, 25;30:18;54:5;58:13; 118:11;134:4;170:16; 210:24 tailings (109) 5:17;9:2,6,7,11,24,	tape (1) 89:10 target (8) 18:4,11,14,17;22:7; 50:18;138:22;189:19 targeted (4) 125:24;126:12; 140:5;148:8 targeting (1) 186:9	19:10;22:15;26:6;36:7, 9,14,16,20,25;37:16, 24;38:1,4,9;39:19; 44:13;48:10;52:2,12; 55:5,16;56:12,13;57:4; 58:5,6;59:11;60:14,18, 22;24;61:12;63:15,18, 22;64:6,10,16;65:4; 68:13,17,20,25;69:7; 71:2,19;72:20,24;	50:9;51:18;54:1,4; 65:14;113:7;163:2; 189:12 thicknesses (1) 50:13 third (7) 28:11;29:10;107:17, 18;108:7;112:2;211:10 though (5) 15:4;102:14;176:8;
19:9 sure (30) 5:13;10:22;29:9; 34:5;41:3;42:14,22; 43:15;48:9,17;71:25; 96:19;102:10;117:18, 19;118:16;128:12; 134:13;137:20;150:16; 155:13;157:11,23; 158:21;160:14;163:12; 165:4;170:21;194:2;	10:17;46:16,25;47:5 tables (1) 44:11 tailing (11) 10:18;23:22;25:12, 25;30:18;54:5;58:13; 118:11;134:4;170:16; 210:24 tailings (109) 5:17;9:2,6,7,11,24, 25;10:1;12:15,16,19;	tape (1) 89:10 target (8) 18:4,11,14,17;22:7; 50:18;138:22;189:19 targeted (4) 125:24;126:12; 140:5;148:8 targeting (1) 186:9 technical (3)	19:10;22:15;26:6;36:7, 9,14,16,20,25;37:16, 24;38:1,4,9;39:19; 44:13;48:10;52:2,12; 55:5,16;56:12,13;57:4; 58:5,6;59:11;60:14,18, 22;24;61:12;63:15,18, 22;64:6,10,16;65:4; 68:13,17,20,25;69:7; 71:2,19;72:20,24; 73:19;74:1,4,6,8,10,24;	50:9;51:18;54:1,4; 65:14;113:7;163:2; 189:12 thicknesses (1) 50:13 third (7) 28:11;29:10;107:17, 18;108:7;112:2;211:10 though (5) 15:4;102:14;176:8; 195:21;208:4
19:9 sure (30) 5:13;10:22;29:9; 34:5;41:3;42:14,22; 43:15;48:9,17;71:25; 96:19;102:10;117:18, 19;118:16;128:12; 134:13;137:20;150:16; 155:13;157:11,23; 158:21;160:14;163:12; 165:4;170:21;194:2; 202:19	10:17;46:16,25;47:5 tables (1) 44:11 tailing (11) 10:18;23:22;25:12, 25;30:18;54:5;58:13; 118:11;134:4;170:16; 210:24 tailings (109) 5:17;9:2,6,7,11,24, 25;10:1;12:15,16,19; 14:3,24;15:5,9,16;16:7,	tape (1) 89:10 target (8) 18:4,11,14,17;22:7; 50:18;138:22;189:19 targeted (4) 125:24;126:12; 140:5;148:8 targeting (1) 186:9 technical (3) 63:20;123:11;136:1	$\begin{array}{c} 19:10;22:15;26:6;36:7,\\ 9,14,16,20,25;37:16,\\ 24;38:1,4,9;39:19;\\ 44:13;48:10;52:2,12;\\ 55:5,16;56:12,13;57:4;\\ 58:5,6;59:11;60:14,18,\\ 22,24;61:12;63:15,18,\\ 22;64:6,10,16;65:4;\\ 68:13,17,20,25;69:7;\\ 71:2,19;72:20,24;\\ 73:19;74:1,4,6,8,10,24;\\ 75:8,9,12,20;77:6,10;\\ \end{array}$	50:9;51:18;54:1,4; 65:14;113:7;163:2; 189:12 thicknesses (1) 50:13 third (7) 28:11;29:10;107:17, 18;108:7;112:2;211:10 though (5) 15:4;102:14;176:8; 195:21;208:4 thought (3)
19:9 sure (30) 5:13;10:22;29:9; 34:5;41:3;42:14,22; 43:15;48:9,17;71:25; 96:19;102:10;117:18, 19;118:16;128:12; 134:13;137:20;150:16; 155:13;157:11,23; 158:21;160:14;163:12; 165:4;170:21;194:2; 202:19 surface (23)	10:17;46:16,25;47:5 tables (1) 44:11 tailing (11) 10:18;23:22;25:12, 25;30:18;54:5;58:13; 118:11;134:4;170:16; 210:24 tailings (109) 5:17;9:2,6,7,11,24, 25;10:1;12:15,16,19; 14:3,24;15:5,9,16;16:7, 8;17:6,10,23;22:11,13;	tape (1) 89:10 target (8) 18:4,11,14,17;22:7; 50:18;138:22;189:19 targeted (4) 125:24;126:12; 140:5;148:8 targeting (1) 186:9 technical (3) 63:20;123:11;136:1 technicians (1)	$\begin{array}{c} 19:10;22:15;26:6;36:7,\\ 9,14,16,20,25;37:16,\\ 24;38:1,4,9;39:19;\\ 44:13;48:10;52:2,12;\\ 55:5,16;56:12,13;57:4;\\ 58:5,6;59:11;60:14,18,\\ 22,24;61:12;63:15,18,\\ 22;64:6,10,16;65:4;\\ 68:13,17,20,25;69:7;\\ 71:2,19;72:20,24;\\ 73:19;74:1,4,6,8,10,24;\\ 75:8,9,12,20;77:6,10;\\ 78:1;86:4,8,10;88:9;\\ \end{array}$	50:9;51:18;54:1,4; 65:14;113:7;163:2; 189:12 thicknesses (1) 50:13 third (7) 28:11;29:10;107:17, 18;108:7;112:2;211:10 though (5) 15:4;102:14;176:8; 195:21;208:4 thought (3) 85:23;136:8;180:21
19:9 sure (30) 5:13;10:22;29:9; 34:5;41:3;42:14,22; 43:15;48:9,17;71:25; 96:19;102:10;117:18, 19;118:16;128:12; 134:13;137:20;150:16; 155:13;157:11,23; 158:21;160:14;163:12; 165:4;170:21;194:2; 202:19 surface (23) 13:1,2,3,4;28:11,17;	10:17;46:16,25;47:5 tables (1) 44:11 tailing (11) 10:18;23:22;25:12, 25;30:18;54:5;58:13; 118:11;134:4;170:16; 210:24 tailings (109) 5:17;9:2,6,7,11,24, 25;10:1;12:15,16,19; 14:3,24;15:5,9,16;16:7, 8;17:6,10,23;22:11,13; 23:19;24:7;25:23;	tape (1) 89:10 target (8) 18:4,11,14,17;22:7; 50:18;138:22;189:19 targeted (4) 125:24;126:12; 140:5;148:8 targeting (1) 186:9 technical (3) 63:20;123:11;136:1 technicians (1) 189:14	$\begin{array}{c} 19:10;22:15;26:6;36:7,\\ 9,14,16,20,25;37:16,\\ 24;38:1,4,9;39:19;\\ 44:13;48:10;52:2,12;\\ 55:5,16;56:12,13;57:4;\\ 58:5,6;59:11;60:14,18,\\ 22,24;61:12;63:15,18,\\ 22;64:6,10,16;65:4;\\ 68:13,17,20,25;69:7;\\ 71:2,19;72:20,24;\\ 73:19;74:1,4,6,8,10,24;\\ 75:8,9,12,20;77:6,10;\\ 78:1;86:4,8,10;88:9;\\ 90:23;91:2;99:19;\\ \end{array}$	50:9;51:18;54:1,4; 65:14;113:7;163:2; 189:12 thicknesses (1) 50:13 third (7) 28:11;29:10;107:17, 18;108:7;112:2;211:10 though (5) 15:4;102:14;176:8; 195:21;208:4 thought (3) 85:23;136:8;180:21 thousand-acre (2)
19:9 sure (30) 5:13;10:22;29:9; 34:5;41:3;42:14,22; 43:15;48:9,17;71:25; 96:19;102:10;117:18, 19;118:16;128:12; 134:13;137:20;150:16; 155:13;157:11,23; 158:21;160:14;163:12; 165:4;170:21;194:2; 202:19 surface (23) 13:1,2,3,4;28:11,17; 29:11;30:3;37:22;	10:17;46:16,25;47:5 tables (1) 44:11 tailing (11) 10:18;23:22;25:12, 25;30:18;54:5;58:13; 118:11;134:4;170:16; 210:24 tailings (109) 5:17;9:2,6,7,11,24, 25;10:1;12:15,16,19; 14:3,24;15:5,9,16;16:7, 8;17:6,10,23;22:11,13; 23:19;24:7;25:23; 28:25;29:16;30:8;	tape (1) 89:10 target (8) 18:4,11,14,17;22:7; 50:18;138:22;189:19 targeted (4) 125:24;126:12; 140:5;148:8 targeting (1) 186:9 technical (3) 63:20;123:11;136:1 technicians (1) 189:14 technique (1)	$\begin{array}{c} 19:10;22:15;26:6;36:7,\\ 9,14,16,20,25;37:16,\\ 24;38:1,4,9;39:19;\\ 44:13;48:10;52:2,12;\\ 55:5,16;56:12,13;57:4;\\ 58:5,6;59:11;60:14,18,\\ 22,24;61:12;63:15,18,\\ 22;64:6,10,16;65:4;\\ 68:13,17,20,25;69:7;\\ 71:2,19;72:20,24;\\ 73:19;74:1,4,6,8,10,24;\\ 75:8,9,12,20;77:6,10;\\ 78:1;86:4,8,10;88:9;\\ 90:23;91:2;99:19;\\ 110:2,2;112:10;114:7;\\ \end{array}$	50:9;51:18;54:1,4; 65:14;113:7;163:2; 189:12 thicknesses (1) 50:13 third (7) 28:11;29:10;107:17, 18;108:7;112:2;211:10 though (5) 15:4;102:14;176:8; 195:21;208:4 thought (3) 85:23;136:8;180:21 thousand-acre (2) 167:12;210:12
19:9 sure (30) 5:13;10:22;29:9; 34:5;41:3;42:14,22; 43:15;48:9,17;71:25; 96:19;102:10;117:18, 19;118:16;128:12; 134:13;137:20;150:16; 155:13;157:11,23; 158:21;160:14;163:12; 165:4;170:21;194:2; 202:19 surface (23) 13:1,2,3,4;28:11,17; 29:11;30:3;37:22; 39:12;40:22;73:23;	10:17;46:16,25;47:5 tables (1) 44:11 tailing (11) 10:18;23:22;25:12, 25;30:18;54:5;58:13; 118:11;134:4;170:16; 210:24 tailings (109) 5:17;9:2,6,7,11,24, 25;10:1;12:15,16,19; 14:3,24;15:5,9,16;16:7, 8;17:6,10,23;22:11,13; 23:19;24:7;25:23; 28:25;29:16;30:8; 31:24;32:12,21;33:17;	tape (1) 89:10 target (8) 18:4,11,14,17;22:7; 50:18;138:22;189:19 targeted (4) 125:24;126:12; 140:5;148:8 targeting (1) 186:9 technical (3) 63:20;123:11;136:1 technicians (1) 189:14 technique (1) 80:10	$\begin{array}{c} 19:10;22:15;26:6;36:7,\\ 9,14,16,20,25;37:16,\\ 24;38:1,4,9;39:19;\\ 44:13;48:10;52:2,12;\\ 55:5,16;56:12,13;57:4;\\ 58:5,6;59:11;60:14,18,\\ 22,24;61:12;63:15,18,\\ 22;64:6,10,16;65:4;\\ 68:13,17,20,25;69:7;\\ 71:2,19;72:20,24;\\ 73:19;74:1,4,6,8,10,24;\\ 75:8,9,12,20;77:6,10;\\ 78:1;86:4,8,10;88:9;\\ 90:23;91:2;99:19;\\ 110:2,2;112:10;114:7;\\ 116:7;117:20;121:2;\\ \end{array}$	50:9;51:18;54:1,4; 65:14;113:7;163:2; 189:12 thicknesses (1) 50:13 third (7) 28:11;29:10;107:17, 18;108:7;112:2;211:10 though (5) 15:4;102:14;176:8; 195:21;208:4 thought (3) 85:23;136:8;180:21 thousand-acre (2) 167:12;210:12 three (4)
19:9 sure (30) 5:13;10:22;29:9; 34:5;41:3;42:14,22; 43:15;48:9,17;71:25; 96:19;102:10;117:18, 19;118:16;128:12; 134:13;137:20;150:16; 155:13;157:11,23; 158:21;160:14;163:12; 165:4;170:21;194:2; 202:19 surface (23) 13:1,2,3,4;28:11,17; 29:11;30:3;37:22; 39:12;40:22;73:23; 79:19;80:8;81:24;	10:17;46:16,25;47:5 tables (1) 44:11 tailing (11) 10:18;23:22;25:12, 25;30:18;54:5;58:13; 118:11;134:4;170:16; 210:24 tailings (109) 5:17;9:2,6,7,11,24, 25;10:1;12:15,16,19; 14:3,24;15:5,9,16;16:7, 8;17:6,10,23;22:11,13; 23:19;24:7;25:23; 28:25;29:16;30:8; 31:24;32:12,21;33:17; 41:10;42:20;43:6;	tape (1) 89:10 target (8) 18:4,11,14,17;22:7; 50:18;138:22;189:19 targeted (4) 125:24;126:12; 140:5;148:8 targeting (1) 186:9 technical (3) 63:20;123:11;136:1 technicians (1) 189:14 technique (1) 80:10 techniques (3)	$\begin{array}{c} 19:10;22:15;26:6;36:7,\\ 9,14,16,20,25;37:16,\\ 24;38:1,4,9;39:19;\\ 44:13;48:10;52:2,12;\\ 55:5,16;56:12,13;57:4;\\ 58:5,6;59:11;60:14,18,\\ 22,24;61:12;63:15,18,\\ 22;64:6,10,16;65:4;\\ 68:13,17,20,25;69:7;\\ 71:2,19;72:20,24;\\ 73:19;74:1,4,6,8,10,24;\\ 75:8,9,12,20;77:6,10;\\ 78:1;86:4,8,10;88:9;\\ 90:23;91:2;99:19;\\ 110:2,2;112:10;114:7;\\ 116:7;117:20;121:2;\\ 122:5,5,9,9,10,14;\\ \end{array}$	50:9;51:18;54:1,4; 65:14;113:7;163:2; 189:12 thicknesses (1) 50:13 third (7) 28:11;29:10;107:17, 18;108:7;112:2;211:10 though (5) 15:4;102:14;176:8; 195:21;208:4 thought (3) 85:23;136:8;180:21 thousand-acre (2) 167:12;210:12 three (4) 10:8;68:2;163:2;
19:9 sure (30) 5:13;10:22;29:9; 34:5;41:3;42:14,22; 43:15;48:9,17;71:25; 96:19;102:10;117:18, 19;118:16;128:12; 134:13;137:20;150:16; 155:13;157:11,23; 158:21;160:14;163:12; 165:4;170:21;194:2; 202:19 surface (23) 13:1,2,3,4;28:11,17; 29:11;30:3;37:22; 39:12;40:22;73:23; 79:19;80:8;81:24; 130:9;136:20;139:2;	10:17;46:16,25;47:5 tables (1) 44:11 tailing (11) 10:18;23:22;25:12, 25;30:18;54:5;58:13; 118:11;134:4;170:16; 210:24 tailings (109) 5:17;9:2,6,7,11,24, 25;10:1;12:15,16,19; 14:3,24;15:5,9,16;16:7, 8;17:6,10,23;22:11,13; 23:19;24:7;25:23; 28:25;29:16;30:8; 31:24;32:12,21;33:17; 41:10;42:20;43:6; 45:13;48:7,13,14,21;	tape (1) 89:10 target (8) 18:4,11,14,17;22:7; 50:18;138:22;189:19 targeted (4) 125:24;126:12; 140:5;148:8 targeting (1) 186:9 technical (3) 63:20;123:11;136:1 technicians (1) 189:14 technique (1) 80:10 techniques (3) 172:10;173:9;179:11	$\begin{array}{c} 19:10;22:15;26:6;36:7,\\ 9,14,16,20,25;37:16,\\ 24;38:1,4,9;39:19;\\ 44:13;48:10;52:2,12;\\ 55:5,16;56:12,13;57:4;\\ 58:5,6;59:11;60:14,18,\\ 22,24;61:12;63:15,18,\\ 22;64:6,10,16;65:4;\\ 68:13,17,20,25;69:7;\\ 71:2,19;72:20,24;\\ 73:19;74:1,4,6,8,10,24;\\ 75:8,9,12,20;77:6,10;\\ 78:1;86:4,8,10;88:9;\\ 90:23;91:2;99:19;\\ 110:2,2;112:10;114:7;\\ 116:7;117:20;121:2;\\ 122:5,5,9,9,10,14;\\ 123:4,17,19;124:20;\\ \end{array}$	50:9;51:18;54:1,4; 65:14;113:7;163:2; 189:12 thicknesses (1) 50:13 third (7) 28:11;29:10;107:17, 18;108:7;112:2;211:10 though (5) 15:4;102:14;176:8; 195:21;208:4 thought (3) 85:23;136:8;180:21 thousand-acre (2) 167:12;210:12 three (4) 10:8;68:2;163:2; 203:17
19:9 sure (30) 5:13;10:22;29:9; 34:5;41:3;42:14,22; 43:15;48:9,17;71:25; 96:19;102:10;117:18, 19;118:16;128:12; 134:13;137:20;150:16; 155:13;157:11,23; 158:21;160:14;163:12; 165:4;170:21;194:2; 202:19 surface (23) 13:1,2,3,4;28:11,17; 29:11;30:3;37:22; 39:12;40:22;73:23; 79:19;80:8;81:24; 130:9;136:20;139:2; 182:8,16;188:14;	10:17;46:16,25;47:5 tables (1) 44:11 tailing (11) 10:18;23:22;25:12, 25;30:18;54:5;58:13; 118:11;134:4;170:16; 210:24 tailings (109) 5:17;9:2,6,7,11,24, 25;10:1;12:15,16,19; 14:3,24;15:5,9,16;16:7, 8;17:6,10,23;22:11,13; 23:19;24:7;25:23; 28:25;29:16;30:8; 31:24;32:12,21;33:17; 41:10;42:20;43:6; 45:13;48:7,13,14,21; 49:2,3,23;54:19,22;	tape (1) 89:10 target (8) 18:4,11,14,17;22:7; 50:18;138:22;189:19 targeted (4) 125:24;126:12; 140:5;148:8 targeting (1) 186:9 technical (3) 63:20;123:11;136:1 technicians (1) 189:14 technique (1) 80:10 techniques (3) 172:10;173:9;179:11 telescoping (1)	$\begin{array}{c} 19:10;22:15;26:6;36:7,\\ 9,14,16,20,25;37:16,\\ 24;38:1,4,9;39:19;\\ 44:13;48:10;52:2,12;\\ 55:5,16;56:12,13;57:4;\\ 58:5,6;59:11;60:14,18,\\ 22,24;61:12;63:15,18,\\ 22;64:6,10,16;65:4;\\ 68:13,17,20,25;69:7;\\ 71:2,19;72:20,24;\\ 73:19;74:1,4,6,8,10,24;\\ 75:8,9,12,20;77:6,10;\\ 78:1;86:4,8,10;88:9;\\ 90:23;91:2;99:19;\\ 110:2,2;112:10;114:7;\\ 116:7;117:20;121:2;\\ 122:5,5,9,9,10,14;\\ 123:4,17,19;124:20;\\ 127:3;132:12;135:17;\\ \end{array}$	50:9;51:18;54:1,4; 65:14;113:7;163:2; 189:12 thicknesses (1) 50:13 third (7) 28:11;29:10;107:17, 18;108:7;112:2;211:10 though (5) 15:4;102:14;176:8; 195:21;208:4 thought (3) 85:23;136:8;180:21 thousand-acre (2) 167:12;210:12 three (4) 10:8;68:2;163:2; 203:17 throughout (1)
19:9 sure (30) 5:13;10:22;29:9; 34:5;41:3;42:14,22; 43:15;48:9,17;71:25; 96:19;102:10;117:18, 19;118:16;128:12; 134:13;137:20;150:16; 155:13;157:11,23; 158:21;160:14;163:12; 165:4;170:21;194:2; 202:19 surface (23) 13:1,2,3,4;28:11,17; 29:11;30:3;37:22; 39:12;40:22;73:23; 79:19;80:8;81:24; 130:9;136:20;139:2; 182:8,16;188:14; 192:11;199:17	10:17;46:16,25;47:5 tables (1) 44:11 tailing (11) 10:18;23:22;25:12, 25;30:18;54:5;58:13; 118:11;134:4;170:16; 210:24 tailings (109) 5:17;9:2,6,7,11,24, 25;10:1;12:15,16,19; 14:3,24;15:5,9,16;16:7, 8;17:6,10,23;22:11,13; 23:19;24:7;25:23; 28:25;29:16;30:8; 31:24;32:12,21;33:17; 41:10;42:20;43:6; 45:13;48:7,13,14,21; 49:2,3,23;54:19,22; 57:12,23;60:19;61:3,5,	tape (1) 89:10 target (8) 18:4,11,14,17;22:7; 50:18;138:22;189:19 targeted (4) 125:24;126:12; 140:5;148:8 targeting (1) 186:9 technical (3) 63:20;123:11;136:1 technicians (1) 189:14 technique (1) 80:10 techniques (3) 172:10;173:9;179:11 telescoping (1) 130:6	$\begin{array}{c} 19:10;22:15;26:6;36:7,\\ 9,14,16,20,25;37:16,\\ 24;38:1,4,9;39:19;\\ 44:13;48:10;52:2,12;\\ 55:5,16;56:12,13;57:4;\\ 58:5,6;59:11;60:14,18,\\ 22,24;61:12;63:15,18,\\ 22;64:6,10,16;65:4;\\ 68:13,17,20,25;69:7;\\ 71:2,19;72:20,24;\\ 73:19;74:1,4,6,8,10,24;\\ 75:8,9,12,20;77:6,10;\\ 78:1;86:4,8,10;88:9;\\ 90:23;91:2;99:19;\\ 110:2,2;112:10;114:7;\\ 116:7;117:20;121:2;\\ 122:5,5,9,9,10,14;\\ 123:4,17,19;124:20;\\ 127:3;132:12;135:17;\\ 138:15;139:4,12;\\ \end{array}$	50:9;51:18;54:1,4; 65:14;113:7;163:2; 189:12 thicknesses (1) 50:13 third (7) 28:11;29:10;107:17, 18;108:7;112:2;211:10 though (5) 15:4;102:14;176:8; 195:21;208:4 thought (3) 85:23;136:8;180:21 thousand-acre (2) 167:12;210:12 three (4) 10:8;68:2;163:2; 203:17 throughout (1) 46:1
19:9 sure (30) 5:13;10:22;29:9; 34:5;41:3;42:14,22; 43:15;48:9,17;71:25; 96:19;102:10;117:18, 19;118:16;128:12; 134:13;137:20;150:16; 155:13;157:11,23; 158:21;160:14;163:12; 165:4;170:21;194:2; 202:19 surface (23) 13:1,2,3,4;28:11,17; 29:11;30:3;37:22; 39:12;40:22;73:23; 79:19;80:8;81:24; 130:9;136:20;139:2; 182:8,16;188:14; 192:11;199:17 surfaces (3)	$\begin{array}{c} 10:17;46:16,25;47:5\\ \textbf{tables (1)}\\ 44:11\\ \textbf{tailing (11)}\\ 10:18;23:22;25:12,\\25;30:18;54:5;58:13;\\118:11;134:4;170:16;\\210:24\\ \textbf{tailings (109)}\\ 5:17;9:2,6,7,11,24,\\25;10:1;12:15,16,19;\\14:3,24;15:5,9,16;16:7,\\8;17:6,10,23;22:11,13;\\23:19;24:7;25:23;\\28:25;29:16;30:8;\\31:24;32:12,21;33:17;\\41:10;42:20;43:6;\\45:13;48:7,13,14,21;\\49:2,3,23;54:19,22;\\57:12,23;60:19;61:3,5,\\10,10,17,20,21,22,23,\end{array}$	tape (1) 89:10 target (8) 18:4,11,14,17;22:7; 50:18;138:22;189:19 targeted (4) 125:24;126:12; 140:5;148:8 targeting (1) 186:9 technical (3) 63:20;123:11;136:1 technicians (1) 189:14 technique (1) 80:10 techniques (3) 172:10;173:9;179:11 telescoping (1) 130:6 ten (5)	$\begin{array}{c} 19:10;22:15;26:6;36:7,\\ 9,14,16,20,25;37:16,\\ 24;38:1,4,9;39:19;\\ 44:13;48:10;52:2,12;\\ 55:5,16;56:12,13;57:4;\\ 58:5,6;59:11;60:14,18,\\ 22,24;61:12;63:15,18,\\ 22;64:6,10,16;65:4;\\ 68:13,17,20,25;69:7;\\ 71:2,19;72:20,24;\\ 73:19;74:1,4,6,8,10,24;\\ 75:8,9,12,20;77:6,10;\\ 78:1;86:4,8,10;88:9;\\ 90:23;91:2;99:19;\\ 110:2,2;112:10;114:7;\\ 116:7;117:20;121:2;\\ 122:5,5,9,9,10,14;\\ 123:4,17,19;124:20;\\ 127:3;132:12;135:17;\\ 138:15;139:4,12;\\ 140:18;143:19,22,24;\\ \end{array}$	50:9;51:18;54:1,4; 65:14;113:7;163:2; 189:12 thicknesses (1) 50:13 third (7) 28:11;29:10;107:17, 18;108:7;112:2;211:10 though (5) 15:4;102:14;176:8; 195:21;208:4 thought (3) 85:23;136:8;180:21 thousand-acre (2) 167:12;210:12 three (4) 10:8;68:2;163:2; 203:17 throughout (1) 46:1 thumb (3)
19:9 sure (30) 5:13;10:22;29:9; 34:5;41:3;42:14,22; 43:15;48:9,17;71:25; 96:19;102:10;117:18, 19;118:16;128:12; 134:13;137:20;150:16; 155:13;157:11,23; 158:21;160:14;163:12; 165:4;170:21;194:2; 202:19 surface (23) 13:1,2,3,4;28:11,17; 29:11;30:3;37:22; 39:12;40:22;73:23; 79:19;80:8;81:24; 130:9;136:20;139:2; 182:8,16;188:14; 192:11;199:17 surfaces (3) 60:7;129:18;132:16	10:17;46:16,25;47:5 tables (1) 44:11 tailing (11) 10:18;23:22;25:12, 25;30:18;54:5;58:13; 118:11;134:4;170:16; 210:24 tailings (109) 5:17;9:2,67,11,24, 25;10:1;12:15,16,19; 14:3,24;15:5,9,16;16:7, 8;17:6,10,23;22:11,13; 23:19;24:7;25:23; 28:25;29:16;30:8; 31:24;32:12,21;33:17; 41:10;42:20;43:6; 45:13;48:7,13,14,21; 49:2,3,23;54:19,22; 57:12,23;60:19;61:3,5, 10,10,17,20,21,22,23, 23;62:2,21;65:2;67:3;	tape (1) 89:10 target (8) 18:4,11,14,17;22:7; 50:18;138:22;189:19 targeted (4) 125:24;126:12; 140:5;148:8 targeting (1) 186:9 technical (3) 63:20;123:11;136:1 technicians (1) 189:14 techniques (3) 172:10;173:9;179:11 telescoping (1) 130:6 ten (5) 12:8;208:7,8,12,15	$\begin{array}{c} 19:10;22:15;26:6;36:7,\\ 9,14,16,20,25;37:16,\\ 24;38:1,4,9;39:19;\\ 44:13;48:10;52:2,12;\\ 55:5,16;56:12,13;57:4;\\ 58:5,6;59:11;60:14,18,\\ 22,24;61:12;63:15,18,\\ 22;64:6,10,16;65:4;\\ 68:13,17,20,25;69:7;\\ 71:2,19;72:20,24;\\ 73:19;74:1,4,6,8,10,24;\\ 75:8,9,12,20;77:6,10;\\ 78:1;86:4,8,10;88:9;\\ 90:23;91:2;99:19;\\ 110:2,2;112:10;114:7;\\ 116:7;117:20;121:2;\\ 122:5,5,9,9,10,14;\\ 123:4,17,19;124:20;\\ 127:3;132:12;135:17;\\ 138:15;139:4,12;\\ 140:18;143:19,22,24;\\ 144:18;146:17,21;\\ \end{array}$	50:9;51:18;54:1,4; 65:14;113:7;163:2; 189:12 thicknesses (1) 50:13 third (7) 28:11;29:10;107:17, 18;108:7;112:2;211:10 though (5) 15:4;102:14;176:8; 195:21;208:4 thought (3) 85:23;136:8;180:21 thousand-acre (2) 167:12;210:12 three (4) 10:8;68:2;163:2; 203:17 throughout (1) 46:1 thumb (3) 162:12;165:19;
19:9 sure (30) 5:13;10:22;29:9; 34:5;41:3;42:14,22; 43:15;48:9,17;71:25; 96:19;102:10;117:18, 19;118:16;128:12; 134:13;137:20;150:16; 155:13;157:11,23; 158:21;160:14;163:12; 165:4;170:21;194:2; 202:19 surface (23) 13:1,2,3,4;28:11,17; 29:11;30:3;37:22; 39:12;40:22;73:23; 79:19;80:8;81:24; 130:9;136:20;139:2; 182:8,16;188:14; 192:11;199:17 surfaces (3) 60:7;129:18;132:16 surficial (4)	$\begin{array}{c} 10:17;46:16,25;47:5\\ \textbf{tables (1)}\\ 44:11\\ \textbf{tailing (11)}\\ 10:18;23:22;25:12,\\25;30:18;54:5;58:13;\\118:11;134:4;170:16;\\210:24\\ \textbf{tailings (109)}\\ 5:17;9:2,6,7,11,24,\\25;10:1;12:15,16,19;\\14:3,24;15:5,9,16;16:7,\\8;17:6,10,23;22:11,13;\\23:19:24:7;25:23;\\28:25;29:16;30:8;\\31:24;32:12,21;33:17;\\41:10;42:20;43:6;\\45:13;48:7,13,14,21;\\49:2,3,23;54:19,22;\\57:12,23;60:19;61:3,5,\\10,10,17,20,21,22,23,\\23;62:2,21;65:2;67:3;\\68:9;69:16,17,18;70:6,\end{array}$	tape (1) 89:10 target (8) 18:4,11,14,17;22:7; 50:18;138:22;189:19 targeted (4) 125:24;126:12; 140:5;148:8 targeting (1) 186:9 technical (3) 63:20;123:11;136:1 technicians (1) 189:14 technique (1) 80:10 techniques (3) 172:10;173:9;179:11 telescoping (1) 130:6 ten (5) 12:8;208:7,8,12,15 tend (2)	$\begin{array}{c} 19:10;22:15;26:6;36:7,\\ 9,14,16,20,25;37:16,\\ 24;38:1,4,9;39:19;\\ 44:13;48:10;52:2,12;\\ 55:5,16;56:12,13;57:4;\\ 58:5,6;59:11;60:14,18,\\ 22,24;61:12;63:15,18,\\ 22;64:6,10,16;65:4;\\ 68:13,17,20,25;69:7;\\ 71:2,19;72:20,24;\\ 73:19;74:1,4,6,8,10,24;\\ 75:8,9,12,20;77:6,10;\\ 78:1;86:4,8,10;88:9;\\ 90:23;91:2;99:19;\\ 110:2,2;112:10;114:7;\\ 116:7;117:20;121:2;\\ 122:5,5,9,9,10,14;\\ 123:4,17,19;124:20;\\ 127:3;132:12;135:17;\\ 138:15;139:4,12;\\ 140:18;143:19,22,24;\\ 144:18;146:17,21;\\ 147:14,19,24,25;\\ \end{array}$	50:9;51:18;54:1,4; 65:14;113:7;163:2; 189:12 thicknesses (1) 50:13 third (7) 28:11;29:10;107:17, 18;108:7;112:2;211:10 though (5) 15:4;102:14;176:8; 195:21;208:4 thought (3) 85:23;136:8;180:21 thousand-acre (2) 167:12;210:12 three (4) 10:8;68:2;163:2; 203:17 throughout (1) 46:1 thumb (3) 162:12;165:19; 166:14
19:9 sure (30) 5:13;10:22;29:9; 34:5;41:3;42:14,22; 43:15;48:9,17;71:25; 96:19;102:10;117:18, 19;118:16;128:12; 134:13;137:20;150:16; 155:13;157:11,23; 158:21;160:14;163:12; 165:4;170:21;194:2; 202:19 surface (23) 13:1,2,3,4;28:11,17; 29:11;30:3;37:22; 39:12;40:22;73:23; 79:19;80:8;81:24; 130:9;136:20;139:2; 182:8,16;188:14; 192:11;199:17 surfaces (3) 60:7;129:18;132:16 surficial (4) 15:14,20,25;16:3	$\begin{array}{c} 10:17;46:16,25;47:5\\ \textbf{tables (1)}\\ 44:11\\ \textbf{tailing (11)}\\ 10:18;23:22;25:12,\\25;30:18;54:5;58:13;\\118:11;134:4;170:16;\\210:24\\ \textbf{tailings (109)}\\ 5:17;9:2,6,7,11,24,\\25;10:1;12:15,16,19;\\14:3,24;15:5,9,16;16:7,\\8;17:6,10,23;22:11,13;\\23:19;24:7;25:23;\\28:25;29:16;30:8;\\31:24;32:12,21;33:17;\\41:10;42:20;43:6;\\45:13;48:7,13,14,21;\\49:2,3,23;54:19,22;\\57:12,23;60:19;61:3,5,\\10,10,17,20,21,22,23,\\23;62:2,21;65:2;67:3;\\68:9;69:16,17,18;70:6,\\8,20,22;86:19;88:4;\\ \end{array}$	tape (1) 89:10 target (8) 18:4,11,14,17;22:7; 50:18;138:22;189:19 targeted (4) 125:24;126:12; 140:5;148:8 targeting (1) 186:9 technical (3) 63:20;123:11;136:1 technicians (1) 189:14 techniques (3) 172:10;173:9;179:11 telescoping (1) 130:6 ten (5) 12:8;208:7,8,12,15 tend (2) 128:21;133:1	$\begin{array}{c} 19:10;22:15;26:6;36:7,\\ 9,14,16,20,25;37:16,\\ 24;38:1,4,9;39:19;\\ 44:13;48:10;52:2,12;\\ 55:5,16;56:12,13;57:4;\\ 58:5,6;59:11;60:14,18,\\ 22,24;61:12;63:15,18,\\ 22;64:6,10,16;65:4;\\ 68:13,17,20,25;69:7;\\ 71:2,19;72:20,24;\\ 73:19;74:1,4,6,8,10,24;\\ 75:8,9,12,20;77:6,10;\\ 78:1;86:4,8,10;88:9;\\ 90:23;91:2;99:19;\\ 110:2,2;112:10;114:7;\\ 116:7;117:20;121:2;\\ 122:5,5,9,9,10,14;\\ 123:4,17,19;124:20;\\ 127:3;132:12;135:17;\\ 138:15;139:4,12;\\ 140:18;143:19,22,24;\\ 144:18;146:17,21;\\ 147:14,19,24,25;\\ 148:11;149:10;150:1,\\ \end{array}$	50:9;51:18;54:1,4; 65:14;113:7;163:2; 189:12 thicknesses (1) 50:13 third (7) 28:11;29:10;107:17, 18;108:7;112:2;211:10 though (5) 15:4;102:14;176:8; 195:21;208:4 thought (3) 85:23;136:8;180:21 thousand-acre (2) 167:12;210:12 three (4) 10:8;68:2;163:2; 203:17 throughout (1) 46:1 thumb (3) 162:12;165:19; 166:14 tied (1)
19:9 sure (30) 5:13;10:22;29:9; 34:5;41:3;42:14,22; 43:15;48:9,17;71:25; 96:19;102:10;117:18, 19;118:16;128:12; 134:13;137:20;150:16; 155:13;157:11,23; 158:21;160:14;163:12; 165:4;170:21;194:2; 202:19 surface (23) 13:1,2,3,4;28:11,17; 29:11;30:3;37:22; 39:12;40:22;73:23; 79:19;80:8;81:24; 130:9;136:20;139:2; 182:8,16;188:14; 192:11;199:17 surfaces (3) 60:7;129:18;132:16 surficial (4) 15:14,20,25;16:3 suspenders (1)	10:17;46:16,25;47:5 tables (1) $44:11$ tailing (11) $10:18;23:22;25:12,$ $25;30:18;54:5;58:13;$ $118:11;134:4;170:16;$ $210:24$ tailings (109) $5:17;9:2,6,7,11,24,$ $25;10:1;12:15,16,19;$ $14:3,24;15:5,9,16;16:7,$ $8;17:6,10,23;22:11,13;$ $23:19;24:7;25:23;$ $28:25;29:16;30:8;$ $31:24:32:12,21;33:17;$ $41:10;42:20;43:6;$ $45:13;48:7,13,14,21;$ $49:2,3,23;54:19,22;$ $57:12,23;60:19;61:3,5,$ $10,10,17,20,21,22,23,$ $23;62:2,21;65:2;67:3;$ $68:9;69:16,17,18;70:6,$ $8,20,22;86:19;88:4;$ $89:16,17,23;90:4,5,17;$	tape (1) 89:10 target (8) 18:4,11,14,17;22:7; 50:18;138:22;189:19 targeted (4) 125:24;126:12; 140:5;148:8 targeting (1) 186:9 technical (3) 63:20;123:11;136:1 technicians (1) 189:14 techniques (3) 172:10;173:9;179:11 telescoping (1) 130:6 ten (5) 12:8;208:7,8,12,15 tend (2) 128:21;133:1 tension (2)	$\begin{array}{c} 19:10;22:15;26:6;36:7,\\ 9,14,16,20,25;37:16,\\ 24;38:1,4,9;39:19;\\ 44:13;48:10;52:2,12;\\ 55:5,16;56:12,13;57:4;\\ 58:5,6;59:11;60:14,18,\\ 22,24;61:12;63:15,18,\\ 22;64:6,10,16;65:4;\\ 68:13,17,20,25;69:7;\\ 71:2,19;72:20,24;\\ 73:19;74:1,4,6,8,10,24;\\ 75:8,9,12,20;77:6,10;\\ 78:1;86:4,8,10;88:9;\\ 90:23;91:2;99:19;\\ 110:2,2;112:10;114:7;\\ 116:7;117:20;121:2;\\ 122:5,5,9,9,10,14;\\ 123:4,17,19;124:20;\\ 127:3;132:12;135:17;\\ 138:15;139:4,12;\\ 140:18;143:19,22,24;\\ 144:18;146:17,21;\\ 147:14,19,24,25;\\ 148:11;149:10;150:1,\\ 2,5,16,21;151:2;152:5;\\ \end{array}$	50:9;51:18;54:1,4; 65:14;113:7;163:2; 189:12 thicknesses (1) 50:13 third (7) 28:11;29:10;107:17, 18;108:7;112:2;211:10 though (5) 15:4;102:14;176:8; 195:21;208:4 thought (3) 85:23;136:8;180:21 thousand-acre (2) 167:12;210:12 three (4) 10:8;68:2;163:2; 203:17 throughout (1) 46:1 thumb (3) 162:12;165:19; 166:14 tied (1) 114:20
19:9 sure (30) 5:13;10:22;29:9; 34:5;41:3;42:14,22; 43:15;48:9,17;71:25; 96:19;102:10;117:18, 19;118:16;128:12; 134:13;137:20;150:16; 155:13;157:11,23; 158:21;160:14;163:12; 165:4;170:21;194:2; 202:19 surface (23) 13:1,2,3,4;28:11,17; 29:11;30:3;37:22; 39:12;40:22;73:23; 79:19;80:8;81:24; 130:9;136:20;139:2; 182:8,16;188:14; 192:11;199:17 surfaces (3) 60:7;129:18;132:16 surficial (4) 15:14,20,25;16:3 suspenders (1) 125:20	$\begin{array}{c} 10:17;46:16,25;47:5\\ \textbf{tables (1)}\\ 44:11\\ \textbf{tailing (11)}\\ 10:18;23:22;25:12,\\ 25;30:18;54:5;58:13;\\ 118:11;134:4;170:16;\\ 210:24\\ \textbf{tailings (109)}\\ 5:17;9:2,6,7,11,24,\\ 25;10:1;12:15,16,19;\\ 14:3,24;15:5,9,16;16:7,\\ 8;17:6,10,23;22:11,13;\\ 23:19;24:7;25:23;\\ 28:25;29:16;30:8;\\ 31:24;32:12,21;33:17;\\ 41:10;42:20;43:6;\\ 45:13;48:7,13,14,21;\\ 49:2,3,23;54:19,22;\\ 57:12,23;60:19;61:3,5,\\ 10,10,17,20,21,22,23,\\ 23;62:2,21;65:2;67:3;\\ 68:9;69:16,17,18;70:6,\\ 8,20,22;86:19;88:4;\\ 89:16,17,23;90:4,5,17;\\ 101:11,25;109:9,24;\\ \end{array}$	tape (1) 89:10 target (8) 18:4,11,14,17;22:7; 50:18;138:22;189:19 targeted (4) 125:24;126:12; 140:5;148:8 targeting (1) 186:9 technical (3) 63:20;123:11;136:1 technicians (1) 189:14 technique (1) 80:10 techniques (3) 172:10;173:9;179:11 telescoping (1) 130:6 ten (5) 12:8;208:7,8,12,15 tend (2) 182:8,16	$\begin{array}{c} 19:10;22:15;26:6;36:7,\\ 9,14,16,20,25;37:16,\\ 24;38:1,4,9;39:19;\\ 44:13;48:10;52:2,12;\\ 55:5,16;56:12,13;57:4;\\ 58:5,6;59:11;60:14,18,\\ 22,24;61:12;63:15,18,\\ 22;64:6,10,16;65:4;\\ 68:13,17,20,25;69:7;\\ 71:2,19;72:20,24;\\ 73:19;74:1,4,6,8,10,24;\\ 75:8,9,12,20;77:6,10;\\ 78:1;86:4,8,10;88:9;\\ 90:23;91:2;99:19;\\ 110:2,2;112:10;114:7;\\ 116:7;117:20;121:2;\\ 122:5,5,9,9,10,14;\\ 123:4,17,19;124:20;\\ 127:3;132:12;135:17;\\ 138:15;139:4,12;\\ 140:18;143:19,22,24;\\ 144:18;146:17,21;\\ 147:14,19,24,25;\\ 148:11;149:10;150:1,\\ 2,5,16,21;151:2;152:5;\\ 158:16,19,21;159:8;\\ \end{array}$	50:9;51:18;54:1,4; 65:14;113:7;163:2; 189:12 thicknesses (1) 50:13 third (7) 28:11;29:10;107:17, 18;108:7;112:2;211:10 though (5) 15:4;102:14;176:8; 195:21;208:4 thought (3) 85:23;136:8;180:21 thousand-acre (2) 167:12;210:12 three (4) 10:8;68:2;163:2; 203:17 throughout (1) 46:1 thumb (3) 162:12;165:19; 166:14 tied (1) 114:20 tight (1)
19:9 sure (30) 5:13;10:22;29:9; 34:5;41:3;42:14,22; 43:15;48:9,17;71:25; 96:19;102:10;117:18, 19;118:16;128:12; 134:13;137:20;150:16; 155:13;157:11,23; 158:21;160:14;163:12; 165:4;170:21;194:2; 202:19 surface (23) 13:1,2,3,4;28:11,17; 29:11;30:3;37:22; 39:12;40:22;73:23; 79:19;80:8;81:24; 130:9;136:20;139:2; 182:8,16;188:14; 192:11;199:17 surfaces (3) 60:7;129:18;132:16 surficial (4) 15:14,20,25;16:3 suspenders (1) 125:20 sustain (1)	$\begin{array}{c} 10:17;46:16,25;47:5\\ \textbf{tables (1)}\\ 44:11\\ \textbf{tailing (11)}\\ 10:18;23:22;25:12,\\ 25;30:18;54:5;58:13;\\ 118:11;134:4;170:16;\\ 210:24\\ \textbf{tailings (109)}\\ 5:17;9:2,6,7,11,24,\\ 25;10:1;12:15,16,19;\\ 14:3,24;15:5,9,16;16:7,\\ 8;17:6,10,23;22:11,13;\\ 23:19;24:7;25:23;\\ 28:25;29:16;30:8;\\ 31:24;32:12,21;33:17;\\ 41:10;42:20;43:6;\\ 45:13;48:7,13,14,21;\\ 49:2,3,23;54:19,22;\\ 57:12,23;60:19;61:3,5,\\ 10,10,17,20,21,22,23,\\ 23;62:2,21;65:2;67:3;\\ 68:9;69:16,17,18;70:6,\\ 8,20,22;86:19;88:4;\\ 89:16,17,23;90:4,5,17;\\ 101:11,25;109:9,24;\\ 110:6;111:11,12,18;\\ \end{array}$	tape (1) 89:10 target (8) 18:4,11,14,17;22:7; 50:18;138:22;189:19 targeted (4) 125:24;126:12; 140:5;148:8 targeting (1) 186:9 technical (3) 63:20;123:11;136:1 technicians (1) 189:14 technique (1) 80:10 techniques (3) 172:10;173:9;179:11 telescoping (1) 130:6 ten (5) 12:8;208:7,8,12,15 tend (2) 182:8,16 term (6)	$\begin{array}{c} 19:10;22:15;26:6;36:7,\\ 9,14,16,20,25;37:16,\\ 24;38:1,4,9;39:19;\\ 44:13;48:10;52:2,12;\\ 55:5,16;56:12,13;57:4;\\ 58:5,6;59:11;60:14,18,\\ 22,24;61:12;63:15,18,\\ 22;64:6,10,16;65:4;\\ 68:13,17,20,25;69:7;\\ 71:2,19;72:20,24;\\ 73:19;74:1,4,6,8,10,24;\\ 75:8,9,12,20;77:6,10;\\ 78:1;86:4,8,10;88:9;\\ 90:23;91:2;99:19;\\ 110:2,2;112:10;114:7;\\ 116:7;117:20;121:2;\\ 122:5,5,9,9,10,14;\\ 123:4,17,19;124:20;\\ 127:3;132:12;135:17;\\ 138:15;139:4,12;\\ 140:18;143:19,22,24;\\ 144:18;146:17,21;\\ 147:14,19,24,25;\\ 148:11;149:10;150:1,\\ 2,5,16,21;151:2;152:5;\\ 158:16,19,21;159:8;\\ 164:23;166:11,16;\\ \end{array}$	50:9;51:18;54:1,4; 65:14;113:7;163:2; 189:12 thicknesses (1) 50:13 third (7) 28:11;29:10;107:17, 18;108:7;112:2;211:10 though (5) 15:4;102:14;176:8; 195:21;208:4 thought (3) 85:23;136:8;180:21 thousand-acre (2) 167:12;210:12 three (4) 10:8;68:2;163:2; 203:17 throughout (1) 46:1 thumb (3) 162:12;165:19; 166:14 tied (1) 114:20 tight (1) 161:18
19:9 sure (30) 5:13;10:22;29:9; 34:5;41:3;42:14,22; 43:15;48:9,17;71:25; 96:19;102:10;117:18, 19;118:16;128:12; 134:13;137:20;150:16; 155:13;157:11,23; 158:21;160:14;163:12; 165:4;170:21;194:2; 202:19 surface (23) 13:1,2,3,4;28:11,17; 29:11;30:3;37:22; 39:12;40:22;73:23; 79:19;80:8;81:24; 130:9;136:20;139:2; 182:8,16;188:14; 192:11;199:17 surfaces (3) 60:7;129:18;132:16 surficial (4) 15:14,20,25;16:3 suspenders (1) 125:20 sustain (1) 94:6	$\begin{array}{c} 10:17;46:16,25;47:5\\ \textbf{tables (1)}\\ 44:11\\ \textbf{tailing (11)}\\ 10:18;23:22;25:12,\\ 25;30:18;54:5;58:13;\\ 118:11;134:4;170:16;\\ 210:24\\ \textbf{tailings (109)}\\ 5:17;9:2,6,7,11,24,\\ 25;10:1;12:15,16,19;\\ 14:3,24;15:5,9,16;16:7,\\ 8;17:6,10,23;22:11,13;\\ 23:19;24:7;25:23;\\ 28:25;29:16;30:8;\\ 31:24;32:12,21;33:17;\\ 41:10;42:20;43:6;\\ 45:13;48:7,13,14,21;\\ 49:2,3,23;54:19,22;\\ 57:12,23;60:19;61:3,5,\\ 10,10,17,20,21,22,23,\\ 23;62:2,21;65:2;67:3;\\ 68:9;69:16,17,18;70:6,\\ 8,20,22;86:19;88:4;\\ 89:16,17,23;90:4,5,17;\\ 101:11,25;109:9,24;\\ 110:6;111:11,12,18;\\ 114:3;130:11;131:4,\\ \end{array}$	tape (1) 89:10 target (8) 18:4,11,14,17;22:7; 50:18;138:22;189:19 targeted (4) 125:24;126:12; 140:5;148:8 targeting (1) 186:9 technical (3) 63:20;123:11;136:1 technicians (1) 189:14 technique (1) 80:10 techniques (3) 172:10;173:9;179:11 telescoping (1) 130:6 ten (5) 12:8;208:7,8,12,15 tend (2) 182:8,16 term (6) 9:25;15:15;36:10;	$\begin{array}{c} 19:10;22:15;26:6;36:7,\\ 9,14,16,20,25;37:16,\\ 24;38:1,4,9;39:19;\\ 44:13;48:10;52:2,12;\\ 55:5,16;56:12,13;57:4;\\ 58:5,6;59:11;60:14,18,\\ 22,24;61:12;63:15,18,\\ 22;64:6,10,16;65:4;\\ 68:13,17,20,25;69:7;\\ 71:2,19;72:20,24;\\ 73:19;74:1,4,6,8,10,24;\\ 75:8,9,12,20;77:6,10;\\ 78:1;86:4,8,10;88:9;\\ 90:23;91:2;99:19;\\ 110:2,2;112:10;114:7;\\ 116:7;117:20;121:2;\\ 122:5,5,9,9,10,14;\\ 123:4,17,19;124:20;\\ 127:3;132:12;135:17;\\ 138:15;139:4,12;\\ 140:18;143:19,22,24;\\ 144:18;146:17,21;\\ 147:14,19,24,25;\\ 148:11;149:10;150:1,\\ 2,5,16,21;151:2;152:5;\\ 158:16,19,21;159:8;\\ 164:23;166:11,16;\\ 168:1;169:4;171:23;\\ \end{array}$	50:9;51:18;54:1,4; 65:14;113:7;163:2; 189:12 thicknesses (1) 50:13 third (7) 28:11;29:10;107:17, 18;108:7;112:2;211:10 though (5) 15:4;102:14;176:8; 195:21;208:4 thought (3) 85:23;136:8;180:21 thousand-acre (2) 167:12;210:12 three (4) 10:8;68:2;163:2; 203:17 throughout (1) 46:1 thumb (3) 162:12;165:19; 166:14 tied (1) 114:20 tight (1) 161:18 times (39)
19:9 sure (30) 5:13;10:22;29:9; 34:5;41:3;42:14,22; 43:15;48:9,17;71:25; 96:19;102:10;117:18, 19;118:16;128:12; 134:13;137:20;150:16; 155:13;157:11,23; 158:21;160:14;163:12; 165:4;170:21;194:2; 202:19 surface (23) 13:1,2,3,4;28:11,17; 29:11;30:3;37:22; 39:12;40:22;73:23; 79:19;80:8;81:24; 130:9;136:20;139:2; 182:8,16;188:14; 192:11;199:17 surfaces (3) 60:7;129:18;132:16 surficial (4) 15:14,20,25;16:3 suspenders (1) 125:20 sustain (1) 94:6 sustained (13)	$\begin{array}{c} 10:17;46:16,25;47:5\\ \textbf{tables (1)}\\ 44:11\\ \textbf{tailing (11)}\\ 10:18;23:22;25:12,\\ 25;30:18;54:5;58:13;\\ 118:11;134:4;170:16;\\ 210:24\\ \textbf{tailings (109)}\\ 5:17;9:2,6,7,11,24,\\ 25;10:1;12:15,16,19;\\ 14:3,24;15:5,9,16;16:7,\\ 8;17:6,10,23;22:11,13;\\ 23:19;24:7;25:23;\\ 28:25;29:16;30:8;\\ 31:24;32:12,21;33:17;\\ 41:10;42:20;43:6;\\ 45:13;48:7,13,14,21;\\ 49:2,3,23;54:19,22;\\ 57:12,23;60:19;61:3,5,\\ 10,10,17,20,21,22,23,\\ 23;62:2,21;65:2;67:3;\\ 68:9;69:16,17,18;70:6,\\ 8,20,22;86:19;88:4;\\ 89:16,17,23;90:4,5,17;\\ 101:11,25;109:9,24;\\ 110:6;111:11,12,18;\\ 114:3;130:11;131:4,\\ 19,20;132:3,8,9;\\ \end{array}$	tape (1) 89:10 target (8) 18:4,11,14,17;22:7; 50:18;138:22;189:19 targeted (4) 125:24;126:12; 140:5;148:8 targeting (1) 186:9 technical (3) 63:20;123:11;136:1 technicians (1) 189:14 technique (1) 80:10 techniques (3) 172:10;173:9;179:11 telescoping (1) 130:6 ten (5) 12:8;208:7,8,12,15 tend (2) 182:8,16 term (6) 9:25;15:15;36:10; 145:22;149:4;200:21	$\begin{array}{c} 19:10;22:15;26:6;36:7,\\ 9,14,16,20,25;37:16,\\ 24;38:1,4,9;39:19;\\ 44:13;48:10;52:2,12;\\ 55:5,16;56:12,13;57:4;\\ 58:5,6;59:11;60:14,18,\\ 22,24;61:12;63:15,18,\\ 22;64:6,10,16;65:4;\\ 68:13,17,20,25;69:7;\\ 71:2,19;72:20,24;\\ 73:19;74:1,4,6,8,10,24;\\ 75:8,9,12,20;77:6,10;\\ 78:1;86:4,8,10;88:9;\\ 90:23;91:2;99:19;\\ 110:2,2;112:10;114:7;\\ 116:7;117:20;121:2;\\ 122:5,5,9,9,10,14;\\ 123:4,17,19;124:20;\\ 127:3;132:12;135:17;\\ 138:15;139:4,12;\\ 140:18;143:19,22,24;\\ 144:18;146:17,21;\\ 147:14,19,24,25;\\ 148:11;149:10;150:1,\\ 2,5,16,21;151:2;152:5;\\ 158:16,19,21;159:8;\\ 164:23;166:11,16;\\ 168:1;169:4;171:23;\\ 172:11,17;175:22;\\ \end{array}$	50:9;51:18;54:1,4; 65:14;113:7;163:2; 189:12 thicknesses (1) 50:13 third (7) 28:11;29:10;107:17, 18;108:7;112:2;211:10 though (5) 15:4;102:14;176:8; 195:21;208:4 thought (3) 85:23;136:8;180:21 thousand-acre (2) 167:12;210:12 three (4) 10:8;68:2;163:2; 203:17 throughout (1) 46:1 thumb (3) 162:12;165:19; 166:14 tied (1) 114:20 tight (1) 161:18 times (39) 32:4;38:24;41:12;
19:9 sure (30) 5:13;10:22;29:9; 34:5;41:3;42:14,22; 43:15;48:9,17;71:25; 96:19;102:10;117:18, 19;118:16;128:12; 134:13;137:20;150:16; 155:13;157:11,23; 158:21;160:14;163:12; 165:4;170:21;194:2; 202:19 surface (23) 13:1,2,3,4;28:11,17; 29:11;30:3;37:22; 39:12;40:22;73:23; 79:19;80:8;81:24; 130:9;136:20;139:2; 182:8,16;188:14; 192:11;199:17 surfaces (3) 60:7;129:18;132:16 surficial (4) 15:14,20,25;16:3 suspenders (1) 125:20 sustain (1) 94:6	$\begin{array}{c} 10:17;46:16,25;47:5\\ \textbf{tables (1)}\\ 44:11\\ \textbf{tailing (11)}\\ 10:18;23:22;25:12,\\ 25;30:18;54:5;58:13;\\ 118:11;134:4;170:16;\\ 210:24\\ \textbf{tailings (109)}\\ 5:17;9:2,6,7,11,24,\\ 25;10:1;12:15,16,19;\\ 14:3,24;15:5,9,16;16:7,\\ 8;17:6,10,23;22:11,13;\\ 23:19;24:7;25:23;\\ 28:25;29:16;30:8;\\ 31:24;32:12,21;33:17;\\ 41:10;42:20;43:6;\\ 45:13;48:7,13,14,21;\\ 49:2,3,23;54:19,22;\\ 57:12,23;60:19;61:3,5,\\ 10,10,17,20,21,22,23,\\ 23;62:2,21;65:2;67:3;\\ 68:9;69:16,17,18;70:6,\\ 8,20,22;86:19;88:4;\\ 89:16,17,23;90:4,5,17;\\ 101:11,25;109:9,24;\\ 110:6;111:11,12,18;\\ 114:3;130:11;131:4,\\ \end{array}$	tape (1) 89:10 target (8) 18:4,11,14,17;22:7; 50:18;138:22;189:19 targeted (4) 125:24;126:12; 140:5;148:8 targeting (1) 186:9 technical (3) 63:20;123:11;136:1 technicians (1) 189:14 technique (1) 80:10 techniques (3) 172:10;173:9;179:11 telescoping (1) 130:6 ten (5) 12:8;208:7,8,12,15 tend (2) 182:8,16 term (6) 9:25;15:15;36:10;	$\begin{array}{c} 19:10;22:15;26:6;36:7,\\ 9,14,16,20,25;37:16,\\ 24;38:1,4,9;39:19;\\ 44:13;48:10;52:2,12;\\ 55:5,16;56:12,13;57:4;\\ 58:5,6;59:11;60:14,18,\\ 22,24;61:12;63:15,18,\\ 22;64:6,10,16;65:4;\\ 68:13,17,20,25;69:7;\\ 71:2,19;72:20,24;\\ 73:19;74:1,4,6,8,10,24;\\ 75:8,9,12,20;77:6,10;\\ 78:1;86:4,8,10;88:9;\\ 90:23;91:2;99:19;\\ 110:2,2;112:10;114:7;\\ 116:7;117:20;121:2;\\ 122:5,5,9,9,10,14;\\ 123:4,17,19;124:20;\\ 127:3;132:12;135:17;\\ 138:15;139:4,12;\\ 140:18;143:19,22,24;\\ 144:18;146:17,21;\\ 147:14,19,24,25;\\ 148:11;149:10;150:1,\\ 2,5,16,21;151:2;152:5;\\ 158:16,19,21;159:8;\\ 164:23;166:11,16;\\ 168:1;169:4;171:23;\\ \end{array}$	50:9;51:18;54:1,4; 65:14;113:7;163:2; 189:12 thicknesses (1) 50:13 third (7) 28:11;29:10;107:17, 18;108:7;112:2;211:10 though (5) 15:4;102:14;176:8; 195:21;208:4 thought (3) 85:23;136:8;180:21 thousand-acre (2) 167:12;210:12 three (4) 10:8;68:2;163:2; 203:17 throughout (1) 46:1 thumb (3) 162:12;165:19; 166:14 tied (1) 114:20 tight (1) 161:18 times (39)

Volume 2 3-28-23

Evidentiary Hearing before Judge LaFave March 28, 2023

27:18;190 44:11,12,17;47:21; trouble (1) 51:1:52:24:53:19: 54:14,16,18:57:14,25; 143:16 58:12.22:59:8.23:61:1. true (4) 56:22:82: 19;65:3,8,19,25;66:1; 112:18;113:11,16; truly (2) 99:10:208 138:23;139:7;148:9; 149:10:163:3:173:11 truth (4) today (10) 5:5,5;121 53:18:62:4:67:25; truthful (1) 130:14;146:16;156:18; 122:10 163:15;165:8,10;178:5 try (8) together (2) 55:5:72:5 84:11,12 120:10;19 told (1) 208:14,16 78:3 trying (15) 21:8;27:2 tolerances (1) 72:3;79:2 162:21 **TOM** (1) 142:25;14 5:3 171:8;176 tomorrow (2) 205:4;213 208:12;215:6 tubes (2) ton (1) 126:6.7 211:3 turn (48) tons (1) 10:21;17: 24:6,14;3 187:12 47:19;49: took (2)151:19;201:21 56:11:58: tool (2) 68:13:72: 203:12;209:9 79:7:80:4 top (22) 87:11:88: 15:21:16:1.4:20:23: 90:14:91:4 24:10,12:43:2:46:21; 92:17:98: 61:22;82:24;95:14,17, 100:10:10 106:8:109 18,22;131:20,23;132:3, 140:17;19 8;195:17;198:4; 205:22;209:19 196:23:20 209:6.11. topic (7) 63:2;88:3;102:7; turning (6) 113:20;118:24,25; 17:19:25: 202:12 89:12:104 totals (1) tweak (1) 115:22 55:16 touched (1) twice (1) 23:3 176:7 track (1) two (15) 10:11;20: 131:3 transcript (1) 64:3,10;66 99:20 68:2;113: transcripts (2) 193:4;197 122:4,13 type (8) 94:4.8:99 transition (1) 88:5 136:3,9;17 trash (1) types (6) 129:20;13 190:23 140:6;164 treatment (6) 205:21 8:13,22;35:4,10,13; typical (2) 211:2 trench (1) 26:8;100: 137:10 Typically (9 trial (1) 13:20:26: 143:5 128:1:133 tried (2) 156:23;15

-37824	3-28-23
):9	U
5;89:13,23	unamended (3) 41:5,10;42:20
3:9	uncertain (1) 32:13
:15,15	unclear (1) 85:8
	uncommon (1) 152:11
;73:4; 90:14;203:13; 5	under (26) 4:10;6:24;26:22; 28:17;63:8;72:14; 79:15;93:10;102:21;
5;67:22; 3;101:1; 45:9;153:3,4;	104:15,20;117:4,4; 125:18;136:24;140:13; 158:5;161:17,20; 166:13;168:5;172:4,7;
5:9;191:9; 3:20	188:7;190:2;202:16 underlying (1)
	134:20 underneath (1)
2;23:25;	192:25 underperforming (1)
1:1,16;36:7; 11,13;54:25; 5;63:14;	160:25 understands (1)
17;77:5;78:7; ,20;86:15;	151:5 understood (2)
24;89:5; 4,12,16;	5:14;143:9 underwater (1) 123:17
25;99:19; 04:11;105:7;	unfamiliar (1) 82:3
9:17;111:20; 93:10,16;	uniform (1) 133:17
03:6;204:9; 18	uniformly (3) 130:9;174:4;179:9
4;81:15;	unique (3) 162:5;167:6,8
4:6,6	Unless (1) 116:5
	unlikely (2) 88:12;141:5
17;24:20;	unpublished (3) 177:18,20;178:10 unreasonable (1)
6:25;67:5,17; 7;184:20,25;	155:4 unsaturated (7)
7:25;212:18	48:6,15,21,23;49:18, 18:55:21
:17;124:12; 72:14;176:15	unusual (1) 201:19
37:16; 4:19;165:11;	up (33) 12:12;13:19;16:15; 31:21;33:18;34:10; 42:21:46:20:62:8,17;
7	43:21;46:20;62:8,17; 63:16;74:9,10;80:21; 85:18,22;95:16;
9) 23;127:17;	113:21;117:16;133:17; 140:11;141:10;146:10;
3:16;136:8; 57:9;160:10	140:11,141:10,140:10, 158:23;182:6,17,19; 194:2;196:4;197:15;

199:21:213:3,4 update (3) 28:8,10:29:9 upgrade (1) 205:18 upon (6) 62:4;65:18;163:5; 166:20;186:18;210:2 upper (3) 193:19:194:6.25 upset (1) 160:21 uptake (1) 93:23 Uranium (1) 90:17 usage (1) 40:13; 186:7 use (45) 9:25;18:18;36:10,20; 54:15:60:11:64:17; 69:7;71:2,24;77:11; 87:3,13,19,22,24; 99:11;110:22;125:6; 130:1;135:21;136:22; 137:3,17,20;138:1,4; 141:13;146:18;167:20, 21;169:6,8,12;171:5,6, 11;173:12;174:12; 177:11;189:11;205:21; 207:24;208:5;209:9 used (63) 9:3:16:7:22:10:50:1; 51:16,19;53:13;57:16, 20;58:3,13;59:6;60:12; 64:2;67:6;68:7;69:10, 12,14;70:2,5,6,12,15, 20,22;76:4;77:2;81:18; 89:8;92:4;95:2;99:13; 100:8;101:14;103:11; 106:14;107:13;110:19; 112:12,18,25;129:23; 132:23;136:3;137:4,8; 146:3;149:11;164:13; 165:8;167:19;168:12; 172:23;177:19;187:10; 190:14,18,22;191:2,5, 7;203:16 useful (1) 198:6 uses (2) 64:10;112:1 using (23) 9:11;53:12;54:20; 56:25;68:2;70:17; 75:18;80:15;149:9; 161:10;164:18;172:7; 174:15;175:12;179:8; 185:10;188:22;189:10, 12,15;197:11;201:22; 33:17; 209:13 46:10; usually (2) 144:8;199:10

V vague (3) 84:20;85:1;191:4 valid (2) 47:14;155:3 value (21) 37:14;45:9,23,25; 47:6:48:16:51:15: 52:15;53:6,11;54:19, 23;57:16,20;58:7,13, 21;59:1,3,6,24 values (4) 37:11;43:20,21;60:7 variability (5) 103:11;134:21; 162:14;163:18,19 variable (3) 25:17:113:2:149:7 variables (4) 113:7:161:17: 175:15.16 variation (4) 26:24;46:11;162:25; 197:13 variations (1) 203:17 variety (4) 112:13:136:20.25: 172:4 various (12) 60:7;92:2;127:19,24; 135:18;136:22;144:23; 164:19;165:11;172:7; 177:7;185:17 vary (4) 37:23;39:12;48:15; 125:25 vegetation (10) 38:15;88:3,6;92:12; 93:11,13:94:4,5,8,9 Verdantas (1) 123:8 verify (2) 154:18:196:14 verifying (1) 34:14 versus (3) 134:24;136:5;211:4 vertical (1) 197:16 via (6) 28:12,13;29:12,13, 18:81:13 viable (1) 187:13 Vicksburg (1) 206:7 view (4) 94:19;106:5;124:4; 169:21 virus (1)

Evidentiary Hearing before Judge LaFave March 28, 2023

Permit to Mine Application	on - 60-2004-37824	3-28-23		March 28, 2023
CA A	21 144 24 140 12	• • • •	15 14 17 12 27 0	105 0 175 2
64:4	21;144:24;149:13;	wick (1)	15:14;17:13;27:9;	105:8;175:3
visible (2)	173:22;174:3;182:3,6,	182:16	160:2;162:6;172:23;	year (47)
79:19;94:16	7,15,17,17,23;183:10,	wide (2)	173:2	24:9;26:20;37:19;
visually (2)	12,21;184:1,2,4,8;	53:23;112:13	work (35)	38:14,24;39:12,12,16,
89:9;94:19	188:7,11;197:15;	widely (1)	21:9,20;52:7;67:23;	17;41:7;44:4,25;45:2;
volume (8)	200:7,12,13,19;201:9,	106:14	79:24;84:9;103:1,3;	46:19,23;47:3,6,7,11,
93:22;116:13,22,25;	18,21;212:21	Williams (1)	106:17;107:1;111:1;	16;51:4;53:25;56:16,
117:3,6,9,10	WaterLegacy (2)	90:16	128:15;153:4,25;	17;57:1;59:2;60:5;
W	9:23;187:4	willing (1)	155:25,25;156:24;	68:10;70:11;112:22,
vv	water's (1)	159:8	163:20;168:5,21,22;	23;114:16,18,19;115:1,
	28:1	wind (1)	170:5;173:9;175:15;	2,6,7,11,12;116:13,18;
wait (4)	waterways (1)	134:6	178:22;179:25;181:16,	118:3;131:2,3;161:16;
14:12;71:11;85:5;	195:2 wave (5)	winter (8)	16,18;184:14;186:9;	164:9 year-round (1)
164:25 waiting (1)	133:25;134:3,9,12;	180:24;181:1,2,7,8, 10,17,18	190:14;192:11;206:5; 210:10	39:10
18:21	205:24	wish (2)	workable (12)	years (22)
walls (2)	waves (1)	64:19;80:22	20:12;98:7,20,22;	12:8;24:23;25:3;
137:10.14	134:7	within (4)	150:1,6;151:12,19;	26:8;32:8;37:13;46:2,
wandering (1)	way (10)	57:15;82:10;200:5;	157:4;170:8,18;171:3	7,10;62:8,17,22;86:10;
27:16	19:18;22:23;48:18;	211:14	worked (4)	90:19;108:13;127:16;
wants (4)	55:7;73:11;78:24;	without (8)	130:3;152:6;153:22;	131:1;144:25;189:22;
55:16;74:12;159:8;	99:10;139:20;154:14;	32:22;66:23;68:23;	198:2	206:9;207:13;212:1
213:6	188:1	69:3;73:11;143:16;	working (1)	year-to-year (1)
wards (1)	ways (2)	154:21;178:8	144:23	37:23
205:19	161:13;182:20	witness (87)	works (5)	yep (1)
warranted (3)	website (1)	5:4;13:19;14:10,16,	34:18;128:25;137:1;	192:25
104:22,23;105:5	196:1	21,23;28:23;29:6;40:4,	168:10;203:23	yesterday (15)
Waste (29)	weight (3)	13;41:20;44:21;46:4,6,	world (1)	5:14;13:14;48:10;
6:24;7:7,16,20;8:23;	21:23;140:9;203:24	20;48:5;51:14;52:14,	204:12	64:25;77:22;81:11;
20:13;42:4;49:9,15,19;	well-distributed (1)	15;58:19;59:15,17;	worried (1)	103:2,8;104:13;
69:19;76:10;81:10,18,	179:9	60:2,3;73:15;74:5,21;	158:24	105:18;106:12;107:4,
23;118:9,13;124:24;	well-known (2)	85:6,7;87:16,18;96:14,	worries (1)	11,22;129:24
125:12,13;132:9;	172:5,14	16;97:11,13;98:11;	74:19	York (1)
144:23;145:12;153:15;	well-marked (1)	100:16,23;108:4,18,20;	worry (2)	124:1
156:12;186:10;214:4,	24:15	110:5;115:19,22;	181:21;183:9	
12,19	west (4)	117:20;119:17;121:1,	worrying (1)	Z
wastes (2)	13:2;30:2;89:13,17	10,14,19,24;128:4,9,	63:19	
7:14;69:17	western (1)	25;143:9,12;146:23;	worst (1)	zero (1)
wastewater (2)	14:5	147:16;151:4;152:11;	32:9	65:18
8:13,22	wet (3)	158:6;159:4,13;	Woyshner (5)	zone (6)
water (127)	48:18;168:11;204:16	164:24;166:8,19;	63:19,22;64:2;66:22;	88:5;96:9,23;116:25;
5:16;6:9;8:3,15;	wet-dry (4)	168:17;171:9;172:20;	67:6	117:4;214:23
15:16;18:7;19:6,23;	39:17,19;40:10,23	173:6,20;174:8;	write (1)	zones (1)
20:4,5,15,20,23;26:9,	wetlands (1)	175:20;179:24;180:5;	82:19	96:22
15;27:14,15;28:12,13,	118:10	182:12,14;183:19;	writing (1)	zoom (2)
18;29:11,23;30:10;	what-have-you (1)	191:21;194:16,18;	12:3	106:9;107:5
32:1,4,4,18,23;33:14,	165:14 what's (15)	196:11;207:11,13; 210:16;212:12;213:8	written (2) 178:13;199:25	0
21,25;34:3,4,9,15;35:1,	20:7;21:22,23;27:24;	witness' (1)		0
1,7;39:22;42:4;43:18,	71:25;73:6;90:7;	36:2	wrong (1) 183:7	0.2 (2)
20;44:2;47:10,14; 49:17;52:21;53:1;	115:15;118:5;133:2;	witnesses (3)	wrote (6)	0.2 (2) 50:10;54:9
56:23;57:25;61:2;68:9;	135:4;151:14;191:16;	19:17;45:6;73:2	82:8,10,16,25;83:4,	0067041 (2)
71:20;74:25;75:6,11,	194:13;204:9	witness's (1)	15	52:22;53:2
22;76:15;79:4;80:7;	wherein (1)	55:5	Wyo-Ben (6)	0715517 (1)
81:24;93:23;94:3,6;	185:6	woody (1)	77:23,24;78:4;79:10;	10:6
103:24;104:5,8;	Whistle (4)	91:14	80:5,6	09 (1)
105:25;106:4,15;	131:24;175:3;176:7,	word (8)	Wyoming (1)	92:18
113:9;114:2;116:12,	8	35:12;36:21;64:17;	67:13	
14,22,25;117:3,6,9;	whole (5)	107:9,13;108:8;		1
118:2,5,10,20;124:11,	5:5;40:10;110:11;	110:21,23	Y	
17,24;126:2;133:25;	121:15;211:11	worded (1)		1 (6)
134:6,8;136:14,16,19,	who's (1)	159:14	Yanful (6)	10:11;23:18;41:5;
20;137:4,14;138:18,	156:6	words (7)	63:19,23;64:2;67:6;	79:17,17;163:3

Min-U-Script®

	In the Matter of the North Permit to Mine Application		Volume 2 3-28-23	Evidentiary Hea	ring before Judge LaFave March 28, 2023
$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	1.000-acre (1)	46.16	64.14.116.17 19.	210 (1)	61.19.86.11.109.22
$\begin{array}{c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c $					
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$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	1,600 (1)		2.0 (1)	221 (1)	86:13
$\begin{array}{c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c $					3.2.3 (2)
$\begin{array}{c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c $					
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$\begin{array}{c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c $					
65:25 $17.78,13$ $189:22;203:22;212:1$ $197:18$ $91:25;95:3;12:1$ 1.10 (1) 16 (3) 200 (2) $32(1)$ 300 (1) $65:22$ $109:17,19;110:12$ $32:8;130:7$ $8:10$ $209:21$ 1.5 (1) 160 (4) $200,24$ (1) 25 (1) 304 (2) $67:2$ $56:15;14:19;118:3$ $105:7$ $107:2$ $114:6,12$ 1.6 (1) 12 2001 (1) 26 (1) 308 (2) $65:2$ $17:16;116:19$ $25:11$ $99:20$ $63:15;64:9$ 1.8 (1) $77:23:78:77:9:11;$ 2002 (1) $26(10)$ 318 (2) $65:2$ $11:120,22;23$ $77:11$ $106:7$ $63:15;64:9$ 1.9 (1) 170 (2) 2009 (3) 266095 (1) 32 (1) $65:8$ $17:16:116:19$ $24:15;18:25:2$ $31:17$ $16:25$ $17:16:116:19$ $24:45:18:55:2$ $31:17$ $16:26$ $17:16:116:19$ $24:42:5:21$ $31:1$ $88:25$ $54:14;16;18:57:14;25;18:21$ $11:3$ $201(1)$ $232 (1)$ $51:1:52:24;53:19;$ $11:3$ $10:12$ $2012 (4)$ $29:5(1)$ $328 (2)$ $54:14;16;138:23;$ $19(2)$ $2013 (1)$ $29:328 (1)$ $331 (1)$ $19:25:66:100:61$ $2017 (2)$ $293.14 (1)$ $34 (1)$ $19:25:60:400:000 (1)$ $2017 (2)$ $293.14 (1)$ $34 (2)$ $10:10:11:13$ $102:21$ $202:6(1)$ $23:20$ $147:25$ $103:1$ $19:25:19:560:600:000 (1)$ $2017 (2)$ $293.14 (1)$ $34 (1)$ <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>					
65:22109:17,19:110:1232:8:130:78:10209:211.5 (1)160 (4)200.24 (1)253 (1)304 (2)67:256:15:114:19:118:3,105:7107:2114:6;121.6 (1)122001 (1)26 (1)308 (2)65:2517 (6)25:1199:2063:15;64:91.8 (1)77:23:78:779:11;2002 (1)26 (1)318 (2)65:2111:20,22,2377:11106:763:15;64:91.9 (1)170 (2)2009 (3)266095 (1)32 (1)65:817:16;116:1924:15,18:25:231:17160:510 (43)17:40 (1)2010 (1)28 (1)32,180,000,000 (1)11:12;42:19;43:6;12,17:1712:427:12116:2417:44:11,21,74:721;180 (1)2011 (2)28 (1)32 (1)54:14,16,18:57:14,25;100:452012 (4)295 (1)328 (2)54:14,16,18:57:14,25;100:4280:24;83:1;85:8,1278:1924:627:713:11,16:138,23;10(2)2013 (1)293,12 (1)331 (1)19:25;66:178:9;89:12;100:4,525:4104:12209:613:14,16:138,23;19:50,000,000 (1)2017 (2)293,14 (1)34 (1)19:97,148:9;149:10;17:7831:4209:22104:728:813:31,16:138,23;19:72,(1)2019 (1)293,28 (1)345 (2)209:16117:7831:4209:22104:728:813:31,16:138,23;19:50,000,000 (1)2017 (2)293,28 (1)345 (2)<					
$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$					
1.6 (1)122001 (1)26 (1)308 (2) $65:25$ 17 (6)25:1199:2063:15;64:91.8 (1)77:23;78:7;9:11;2002 (1)261 (1)318 (2) $65:2$ 111:20,22,2377:11106:763:15;64:91.9 (1)170 (2)2009 (3)266095 (1)32 (1) $65:8$ 17:46;116:1924:15,18;25:231:17160:510 (43)1740 (1)2010 (1)28 (1)32,100,000 (0)11:32:42:19:43:61;2;17:1712:427:12116;2414:12;42:19:43:61;4;57:14.25;180 (1)2011 (2)284 (1)320 (1)51:1;52:24;53:19;11:312:4;25:2131:188:2554:14.16,18:57:14.25;180-degree (1)2012 (4)29:5 (1)328 (2)58:12,22:59:8,23:61:1101:2280:24:83:1;85:8,1278:1924:6;27:719:62:8,17,22:65:3,8;19 (2)2013 (1)293.12 (1)331 (1)19:25:66:17:89:89:12;100:4,525:4104:1220:613:31:1,61:38:23;19:560,000,000 (1)2017 (2)293.14 (1)34 (1)19:27:1831:42:209:22103:1139:10,25100 (2)1981 (1)2020 (2)293.9 (1)347 (2)20:91:623:20147:25103:1193:10,25109 (1)1989 (1)2020 (2)293.9 (1)348 (1)36:887:4,8203.01 (1)117:17:15;52:32;120:639:663:22:64:1206 (2)293.9 (1)349 (4)36:8 </td <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>					
$\begin{array}{c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c $					
$\begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$					
65:817:16:116:1924:15.18;25:231:17160:510 (43)1740 (1)2010 (1)28 (1)32,180,000,000 (1)41:12:42:19;43:6,12,17:1712:427:12116:2417:44:11.12,17:47:21;180 (1)2011 (2)284 (1)320 (1)51:1;52:24;53:19;11:312:4;25:2131:188:2554:14,1618;57:14,25;180-degree (1)2012 (4)295.5 (1)328 (2)58:12,22;59:8,23;61:1,101:222013 (1)293.12 (1)331 (1)19:25:66:1789:98:12;100:4,525:4100:4,525:413:11,16;138:23;19.560,000,000 (1)2017 (2)293.14 (1)34 (1)13:97:148:91:19:10;117:831:4;209:22104:12209:613:11,16;138:23;19.560,000,000 (1)2017 (2)293.14 (1)34 (1)209:1623:20147:25103:1193:10,25209:1623:20147:25103:1345 (2)209:1623:2591:192:19;93:11103:22192:2,4100 (2)981 (1)2022 (4)28 (1)348 (1)36:887:4,8203.01 (1)11:7;17:15;23:23;42:2;56:5;119:25;39:663:22;64:1206 (1)292:18100:14,19,25;159:49 (3)39:611:13206:02 (1)292:30:34,21,24;349 (3)1038 (1)1A (1)138:1560:19;62:4;17:1055:19;56:6;120:639:611:13206:02 (1)292:30:34,21,24;350 (2)1036 (1)192 (2)24					
$\begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$					
$\begin{array}{c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c $					
$\begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$					
$\begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$				284 (1)	
$\begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$	51:1;52:24;53:19;	11:3	12:4;25:21		88:25
$\begin{array}{c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c $	54:14,16,18;57:14,25;	180-degree (1)	2012 (4)	29.5 (1)	328 (2)
$\begin{array}{c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c $	58:12,22;59:8,23;61:1,				
$\begin{array}{c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c $					
$\begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$	19,25;66:1;78:9;89:12;	,			
$\begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$					
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$\begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$					
$36:8$ $23:25$ $91:1;92:19;93:14;$ $11:13$ $72:18$ $1022 (1)$ $1990 (2)$ $94:23$ $2E (15)$ $349 (4)$ $36:8$ $87:4,8$ $203.01 (1)$ $11:7;17:15;23:23;$ $42:2;56:5;119:25;$ $1036 (1)$ $1995 (2)$ $202:24$ $24:4;25:8,17;26:15;$ $120:6$ $39:6$ $63:22;64:1$ $206 (1)$ $29:12;30:3,4,21,24;$ $349A (3)$ $1038 (1)$ $1A (1)$ $138:15$ $60:19;62:4;117:10$ $55:19;56:6;120:6$ $39:6$ $11:13$ $206.02 (1)$ $2W (36)$ $35 (1)$ $1063 (1)$ $1E (30)$ $92:18$ $10:10,14,19,25;$ $158:23$ $9:2$ $14:5,19;15:10;16:1,$ $206.09 (2)$ $12:16,20;14:19;15:6,$ $350 (2)$ $9:2$ $24;26:3,15;28:12,18;$ $2080 (3)$ $24:3,12,20;25:7,13;$ $350 \cdot (1)$ $1072 (1)$ $29:2,12,13,15,18;30:3,$ $197:7,12;203:22$ $28:11,18;29:11,15,18;$ $209:22$ $11:5:10$ $4,17,21,24;60:19;62:4;$ $2085 (1)$ $30:3,4,9,9,19,24;109:2,$ $351 (2)$ $11 (2)$ $109:16;117:9$ $203:21$ $5,8,10,15;115:8,9;$ $192:2,4$ $27:12;138:14$ $20-acre (1)$ $117:7$ $354 (1)$			·		
1022 (1)1990 (2)94:232E (15)349 (4) $36:8$ $87:4,8$ 203.01 (1) $11:7;17:15;23:23;$ $42:2;56:5;119:25;$ $1036 (1)$ $1995 (2)$ $20:2:24$ $24:4;25:8,17;26:15;$ $120:6$ $39:6$ $63:22;64:1$ $206 (1)$ $29:12;30:3,4,21,24;$ $349A (3)$ $1038 (1)$ $1A (1)$ $138:15$ $60:19;62:4;117:10$ $55:19;56:6;120:6$ $39:6$ $11:13$ $206.02 (1)$ $2W (36)$ $35 (1)$ $1063 (1)$ $1E (30)$ $92:18$ $10:10,14,19,25;$ $158:23$ $9:2$ $14:5,19;15:10;16:1,$ $206.09 (2)$ $12:16,20;14:19;15:6,$ $350 (2)$ $9:2$ $14:5,19;15:10;16:1,$ $206.09 (2)$ $12:16;23;17:16;23:22;$ $119:25;195:15$ $9:2$ $24;26:3,15;28:12,18;$ $2080 (3)$ $24:3,12,20;25:7,13;$ $350 \cdot (1)$ $1072 (1)$ $29:2,12,13,15,18;30:3,$ $197:7,12;203:22$ $28:11,18;29:11,15,18;$ $209:22$ $115:10$ $4,17,21,24;60:19;62:4;$ $2085 (1)$ $30:3,4,9,9,19,24;109:2,$ $351 (2)$ $11 (2)$ $109:16;117:9$ $20:321$ $5,8,10,15;115:8,9;$ $192:2,4$ $27:12;138:14$ $20-acre (1)$ $117:7$ $354 (1)$					
$36:8$ $87:4,8$ $203.01 (1)$ $11:7;17:15;23:23;$ $42:2;56:5;119:25;$ $1036 (1)$ $1995 (2)$ $202:24$ $24:4;25:8,17;26:15;$ $120:6$ $39:6$ $63:22;64:1$ $206 (1)$ $29:12;30:3,4,21,24;$ $349A (3)$ $1038 (1)$ $1A (1)$ $138:15$ $60:19;62:4;117:10$ $55:19;56:6;120:6$ $39:6$ $11:13$ $206.02 (1)$ $2W (36)$ $35 (1)$ $1063 (1)$ $1E (30)$ $92:18$ $10:10,14,19,25;$ $158:23$ $9:2$ $14:5,19;15:10;16:1,$ $206.09 (2)$ $12:16,20;14:19;15:6,$ $350 (2)$ $9:2$ $24;26:3,15;28:12,18;$ $2080 (3)$ $24:3,12,20;25:7,13;$ $350 \cdot (1)$ $9:2$ $29:2,12,13,15,18;30:3,$ $197:7,12;203:22$ $28:11,18;29:11,15,18;$ $209:22$ $11:5:10$ $4,17,21,24;60:19;62:4;$ $109:16;117:9$ $203:21$ $30:3,4,9,9,19,24;109:2,$ $351 (2)$ $11 (2)$ $109:16;117:9$ $203:21$ $5,8,10,15;115:8,9;$ $192:2,4$ $27:12;138:14$ $20-acre (1)$ $117:7$ $354 (1)$					
$\begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$					
$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$		-			
$\begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$					
39:6 11:13 206.02 (1) 2W (36) 35 (1) 1063 (1) 1E (30) 92:18 10:10,14,19,25; 158:23 9:2 14:5,19;15:10;16:1, 206.09 (2) 12:16,20;14:19;15:6, 350 (2) 1066 (1) 3,4,7,9,22;24:4;25:17, 90:14;91:1 21;16:23;17:16;23:22; 119:25;195:15 9:2 24;26:3,15;28:12,18; 2080 (3) 24:3,12,20;25:7,13; 350- (1) 1072 (1) 29:2,12,13,15,18;30:3, 197:7,12;203:22 28:11,18;29:11,15,18; 209:22 115:10 4,17,21,24;60:19;62:4; 2085 (1) 30:3,4,9,9,19,24;109:2, 351 (2) 11 (2) 109:16;117:9 20:321 5,8,10,15;115:8,9; 192:2,4 27:12;138:14 20-acre (1) 117:7 354 (1)					
$\begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$					
9:214:5,19;15:10;16:1, 3,4,7,9,22;24:4;25:17, 9:2206.09 (2) 90:14;91:112:16,20;14:19;15:6, 21;16:23;17:16;23:22; 24:3,12,20;25:7,13; 24:3,12,20;25:7,13;350 (2) 119:25;195:159:224;26:3,15;28:12,18; 29:2,12,13,15,18;30:3, 115:1029:2,12,13,15,18;30:3, 					
1066 (1)3,4,7,9,22;24:4;25:17, 24;26:3,15;28:12,18; 115:1090:14;91:121;16:23;17:16;23:22; 24:3,12,20;25:7,13; 24:3,12,20;25:7,13; 28:11,18;29:11,15,18; 30:3,4,9,9,19,24;109:2, 30:3,4,9,9,19,24;109:2, 351 (2)119:25;195:151072 (1)29:2,12,13,15,18;30:3, 4,17,21,24;60:19;62:4; 109:16;117:990:14;91:1 2080 (3)21;16:23;17:16;23:22; 24:3,12,20;25:7,13; 28:11,18;29:11,15,18; 30:3,4,9,9,19,24;109:2, 351 (2)350- (1) 350- (1)11 (2)109:16;117:9203:21 203:2130:3,4,9,9,19,24;109:2, 5,8,10,15;115:8,9; 117:7354 (1)					
9:2 24;26:3,15;28:12,18; 2080 (3) 24:3,12,20;25:7,13; 350- (1) 1072 (1) 29:2,12,13,15,18;30:3, 197:7,12;203:22 28:11,18;29:11,15,18; 209:22 115:10 4,17,21,24;60:19;62:4; 2085 (1) 30:3,4,9,9,19,24;109:2, 351 (2) 11 (2) 109:16;117:9 203:21 5,8,10,15;115:8,9; 192:2,4 27:12;138:14 20-acre (1) 117:7 354 (1)					
1072 (1)29:2,12,13,15,18;30:3,197:7,12;203:2228:11,18;29:11,15,18;209:22115:104,17,21,24;60:19;62:4;2085 (1)30:3,4,9,9,19,24;109:2,351 (2)11 (2)109:16;117:9203:215,8,10,15;115:8,9;192:2,427:12;138:1420-acre (1)117:7354 (1)					
11 (2)109:16;117:9203:215,8,10,15;115:8,9;192:2,427:12;138:1420-acre (1)117:7354 (1)	1072 (1)	29:2,12,13,15,18;30:3,	197:7,12;203:22	28:11,18;29:11,15,18;	209:22
27:12;138:14 20-acre (1) 117:7 354 (1)					
		109:16;117:9			
				117:7	
	12 (3)	2	169:22	-	72:18
85:11;104:11;197:16 20th (2) 3 36 (1)				3	
123 (1) 2 (13) 85:8,11 158:23			-		
$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$					
131 (1) 47:20;50:14;54:6,8; 140:17;192:5;209:12 41:13;43:12;54:6,8; 7:24	131 (1)	4/:20;50:14;54:6,8;	140:17;192:5;209:12	41:13;43:12;54:6,8;	/:24

Permit to Mine Applicat	ion - 60-2004-37824	3-28-23		March 28, 202
376 (1)	47:21	47:3;106:2,3;115:7	60:16	
7:24	5.56 (8)	65451 (1)	8th (2)	
38 (4)	43:16;44:16;45:14;	11:18	52:25;54:17	
98:23;99:1;209:18;	57:25;58:12,21;59:8,	655 (2)	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
213:12	23	213:5,11	9	
380 (1)	5.6 (1)	65611 (1)		
57:3	57:14	43:2	9 (9)	
387 (1)	5.7 (1)	659 (2)	46:12;58:7;90:3;	
62:12	37:6	213:6,11	167:23,25;179:12;	
389 (1)	5.85 (3)	66 (3)	194:17,18,19	
62:12	44:3;45:1;57:1	80:21;81:15;86:17	9:00 (1)	
3rd (2)	50 (3)	66.15 (2)	215:6	
42:19;43:6	47:6;124:19,21	82:21;84:15	9:02 (1)	
4	500 (3)	66.16 (1)	82:25	
4	46:2,10;47:7	82:14	9:03 (1)	
		6615 (2)	85:9	
4 (9)	26:6;77:5,6,7,8	95:21,22	9:38 (4)	
28:9;42:24;44:11;	520 (1)	67 (3)	83:5,15,22;85:12	
79:8;87:11;89:6;	117:5	80:21;86:15;150:17	90 (2)	
124:19;150:16;203:6	56 (2)	67113 (1)	16:22;172:1	
4,000 (1) 187:12	6:3;209:19 563 (1)	17:4	900 (5)	
	563 (1) 115:12	67128 (1) 17:20	11:4;22:14;92:9;	
4.5 (1) 37:5		68 (5)	210:11;211:14 900- (1)	
40 (1)	58 (2) 77:6,7	100:10,12,15,22,23	115:18	
144:25	598 (1)	6th (1)	900-acre (2)	
408 (1)	74:8	61:1	133:3,8	
140:18	5th (1)	01.1	904 (1)	
40-acre (1)	44:12	7	6:4	
169:22	11.12	,	905 (2)	
41 (1)	6	7 (6)	22:15;56:14	
204:10		65:3,8;86:13;98:25;	905-acre (5)	
419 (1)	6 (24)	99:3;163:3	23:6;69:3;73:11;	
22:24	31:4,16;43:17;54:18;	7.7 (1)	80:17;210:21	
427 (1)	57:14,25;58:12,22;	41:6	912 (1)	
57:8	59:8,24;61:19;65:19,	70 (1)	6:16	
45 (2)	22;66:1;113:12,17;	150:17	913 (1)	
133:8;145:1	138:24;148:9;149:10;	724 (1)	6:17	
457 (1)	193:17;194:1,17,18,19	7:4	915 (1)	
8:11	6.5 (22)	726 (1)	6:4	
459 (1)	45:8,9;46:19;47:3,6,	7:5	94 (1)	
8:11	10,16,24;49:1;51:4,16,	73 (1)	172:1	
46 (1)	19,25;52:7;53:15,22,	115:2	940-acre (1)	
7:4	24;59:2;60:5;68:10;	741193 (1)	169:22	
4-6 (1)	112:21,23	113:22	941 (1)	
91:4	60 (1)	7th (1)	56:12 045 (1)	
473 (1)	64:3	47:22	945 (1)	
214:2 48 (2)	602 (1) 74:9	8	56:12	
48 (2) 77:5,8	74:9 60-2004-37824 (1)	0	980 (1) 11:5	
490 (1)	60-2004-37824 (1) 4:7	8 (7)	9-acre (1)	
490 (1) 214:2	4:7 603 (2)	5 (7) 51:1;53:20;54:14;	9-acre (1) 196:18	
492 (1)		56:15;90:2;139:8;	170.10	
7/4 \1/	68.14.10			
	68:14,19 605 (2)			
99:20	605 (2)	199:19		
99:20 4th (1)	605 (2) 68:14,19	199:19 81 (3)		
99:20	605 (2) 68:14,19 620 (1)	199:19 81 (3) 119:21;120:1,9		
99:20 4th (1) 44:11	605 (2) 68:14,19 620 (1) 11:8	199:19 81 (3) 119:21;120:1,9 843 (1)		
99:20 4th (1)	605 (2) 68:14,19 620 (1) 11:8 625 (4)	199:19 81 (3) 119:21;120:1,9 843 (1) 26:7		
99:20 4th (1) 44:11 5	605 (2) 68:14,19 620 (1) 11:8 625 (4) 18:15;22:8;173:25;	199:19 81 (3) 119:21;120:1,9 843 (1) 26:7 845 (1)		
99:20 4th (1) 44:11 5 5 (4)	605 (2) 68:14,19 620 (1) 11:8 625 (4) 18:15;22:8;173:25; 174:5	199:19 81 (3) 119:21;120:1,9 843 (1) 26:7 845 (1) 26:7		
99:20 4th (1) 44:11 5 5 (4) 50:16;78:9;172:1;	605 (2) 68:14,19 620 (1) 11:8 625 (4) 18:15;22:8;173:25; 174:5 64 (2)	199:19 81 (3) 119:21;120:1,9 843 (1) 26:7 845 (1) 26:7 877 (1)		
99:20 4th (1) 44:11 5 5 (4)	605 (2) 68:14,19 620 (1) 11:8 625 (4) 18:15;22:8;173:25; 174:5	199:19 81 (3) 119:21;120:1,9 843 (1) 26:7 845 (1) 26:7		