

RECEIVED

JUL 16 2018

WATER RIGHTS
PROGRAM

P.O. Box 591
Rapid City, SD 57709
(605) 787-2872
July 12, 2018

James Hutmacher, Chair
Water Management Board
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
523 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Mr. Hutmacher:

I am writing because I have questions about the use of water from the Lead Deadwood Sanitary District for the purpose of mining exploration outside the city limits of those towns. The water is apparently being gathered from a hydrant in Lead and currently used in the Mineral Mountain Resources gold exploration project near Rochford. I have been unable to get answers to these questions and believe that some of them may require the WMB's action for clarification. I would appreciate either your or the WMB's answers to these questions as soon as possible, as a misuse of water may be ongoing.

First, does the Water Management Board usually provide permits for the use of a water district's water outside the boundaries of the water district? Does the boundary of the water district have any impact on the need for a water use permit?

Second, it is my understanding that an entity needs a state permit for water use for mining exploration purposes, except in the case of water from a municipality. In this case, the water is actually coming from a water/sanitary district, not from a municipality. If the mining water is coming from a water district, rather than from a municipality, is a water permit needed?

Third, it is my understanding that the use of water is important, not just where it is pumped from. Is a permit required when water has been diverted to mining exploration purposes, when it was originally allocated for municipal use?

Thank you for your response to these questions.

Sincerely,



Liliias Jarding, Ph.D.