

Section 17.24.804

AVF: MONITORING

(1) South Fork of Spring Creek is designated an AVF insignificant to farming within the mine permit area. A surface and groundwater monitoring network exists on this valley floor and is addressed in Sections 17.24.645 and 17.24.646.

Appendix I, “South Fork Hydrologic Restoration Plan” contains a discussion of the numerous studies conducted since the mid-1970s that led to the revision of the interpretation of the essential hydrologic functions of the South Fork AVF. Appendix I, “South Fork Hydrologic Restoration Plan” will allow the Department to determine that:

- a) the agricultural utility and production of the alluvial valley floor not within the affected area is being preserved;
- b) the potential agricultural utility and production on the alluvial valley floor within the area the land affected has been reestablished;
- c) the important characteristics supporting the essential hydrologic functions of the alluvial valley floor in the affected area have been reestablished after mining;
- d) the important characteristics supporting the essential hydrologic function of an alluvial valley floor in areas not affected are preserved during and after mining;
- e) farming on lands protected under ARM 17.24.802 is not being interrupted, discontinued, or precluded; and
- f) the operation is not causing material damage to the quantity or quality of water in the surface or underground systems that supply alluvial valley floors protected under ARM 17.24.802.

(2) A monitoring network also exists for Spring Creek. Details of the surface water and groundwater monitoring networks are presented in Appendix L-1 and the mine’s Annual Hydrologic Reports.

(3) Monitoring, as present in the mine’s Annual Report of Hydrologic Monitoring, will be performed during operations. This monitoring will help to identify characteristics of the AVF not identified in the permit application.

(4) Monitoring data is presented in the mine’s Annual Report of Hydrologic Monitoring.