

changes. The basis for this proposal is set forth in Exhibit D.

3. **Exhibit E. Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan Comments by: Surface Mining Unit**

- a. *Exhibit E needs to be placed in the MLUP instead of a separate document.*

Response: Done. It is now Sheets 10 through 12 of the MLUP.

- b. *Rename to Groundwater and Surficial Water Monitoring Plan.*

Response: Done. It is now Sheets 10 through 12 of the MLUP and titled Groundwater and Surface Water Monitoring Plan.

- c. *The report must be stamped by a GA Registered PG.*

Response: Done.

- d. *Monitoring of groundwater levels must be conducted monthly until groundwater levels are within one foot of groundwater levels shown on Figure 3. After groundwater levels reach within one foot of groundwater levels shown on Figure 3 groundwater levels may be measured once every six months.*

Response: See response to comment 2e.

- e. *Please add a contingent(cy) plan in case groundwater levels in the reclaimed mine are not restored to within one foot of groundwater levels shown on Figure 3. Such a plan may involve installation of a low hydraulic conductivity layer by the injection of bentonite slurry to a level/interval of 7 to 10 feet below the original land surface in closely spaced borings. Other engineered solutions may be feasible. The contingent plan must not be implemented without prior approval from the Georgia Environmental Protection Division.*

Response: An adaptive management plan is set forth on Sheet 11 - Part 2.4 and 2.5 of Groundwater and Surficial Water Monitoring Plan. See response to comment 2e regarding the target groundwater level.

- f. *In Section 2.0, 2nd Paragraph, the text states the ridge forms a hydrologic divide. Please clarify if it is a surficial and/or groundwater divide.*

Response: The paragraph has been removed from the revised Groundwater and Surface Water Monitoring Plan Sheet. However, the ridge forms both a topographic and hydrologic (groundwater) divide between the Okefenokee swamplands to the west and the Saint Marys River to the east.

- g. *In Section 2.0, 3rd Paragraph, give the approximate depth of the clay layer.*

Response: The paragraph has been removed from the revised Groundwater and Surface Water Monitoring Plan Sheet. However, near the proposed mine footprint, the top of Hawthorn Group was encountered at the following locations and depths: