



**Environmental
Protection Agency**

John R. Kasich, Governor
Mary Taylor, Lt. Governor
Scott J. Nally, Director

February 26, 2013

RE: CARROLL COUNTY
STERLING MINING CORP.
CARROLL HOLLOW MINE
NPDES PERMIT NO. 3IN00328
90 COLONY ROAD

Mr. Tater Bleakney III, P.E.
Mining Engineer
Sterling Mining Corporation
P.O. Box 217
North Lima, OH 44452

Dear Mr. Bleakney:

On February 21, 2013, this writer conducted an inspection of Carroll Hollow Mine, located at 90 Colony Road, Mechanicstown, Ohio. The purpose of the inspection was to review the water pollution control facilities and evaluate compliance with the facility's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit prior to drafting the renewal permit. The following was observed at the time of the inspection:

- 1) The facility currently uses multiple entrances to the mine. The facility is now mining in the deeper formation from the same location but at a lower elevation. The proposed mine entrance adjacent to this location was never used. The treatment system collects storm water runoff from the mine area and runoff from the active mining pit. The system also captures discharge from groundwater encountered from underground mining pumped to the surface. Water is collected in a pond in the active mine pit and recirculated through a sedimentation pond on the west side of Colony Road. The discharge from this pond enters Carroll Run. At the time of the inspection, the sedimentation pond appeared to be producing a satisfactory effluent.
- 2) A review of the monthly operating report (MOR) data for the period of January 2011 through January 2013. During that time, there were two suspended solids violations of the permitted effluent limits.
- 3) There was some minor erosion at the discharge point of the pond. This should be repaired as soon as weather permits.

The draft permit will be available for your review shortly.

Should you have any comments or concerns regarding this letter, please feel free to contact me at (330) 963-1193.

Respectfully,

Joseph E. Trocchio
Environmental Engineer
Division of Surface Water

JET/cs

File: Industrial/Permit Compliance/Sterling Mining-Carroll Hollow Mine