

April 26, 2023

Jeremy Fleege
Environmental Engineer
Montana Resources, LLC
600 Shields Ave.
Butte, Montana 59701

Sent by email to: jfleege@montanaresources.com

RE: Approval of Revision 23-001, Updated Operations and Reclamation Plans, Montana Resources, LLC, Hard Rock Mine Operating Permit No. 00030

Dear Mr. Fleege:

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has reviewed the revision request 23-001 that Montana Resources, LLC (MR) submitted on January 10, 2023, and the deficiency responses submitted on March 28, 2023. This revision serves as a comprehensive update to the Operations Plan and Reclamation Plan documents for Hard Rock Mine Operating Permit No. 00030. This revision also resolves Stipulation MA-11-001 from DEQ's Decision Notice for Minor Amendment 011 on July 14, 2022. Please see the attached version of the updated final permit.


The updated plans incorporate information previously contained within: Amendment 010 for the Yankee Doodle Tailings Impoundment; Minor Amendment 011 for the Horseshoe Bend Rock Disposal Area; permit revisions approved between 2018 and 2022; various documents for the Butte Mine Flooding Operable Unit (BMFOU); and Annual Progress Reports submitted between 2018 and 2022. The Reclamation Plan combines and updates the reclamation procedures contained in four previously separate permits, which were consolidated into a single permit in 2021. This document includes modifications and supplemental information for reclamation procedures and permit requirements.

DEQ approves this permit revision and has determined that the existing bond amount for reclamation is sufficient to account for the updated Operations and Reclamation Plans. Additional bond is not required at this time and the total bond amount remains at \$116,905,203.

A bond filed for an operating permit obtained under Section 82-4-335, Montana Code Annotated (MCA) may not be released or decreased until DEQ has provided public notice and conducted any hearing that may be requested. If MR requests a reduction in the amount of obligated bond to reflect some aspects of the modified Reclamation Plan, DEQ must provide public notice and the opportunity for hearing in accordance with *82-4-338(5) and 82-4-341(3), MCA*.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Garrett Smith", with a horizontal line underneath.

Garrett Smith
Mining Environmental Scientist- Geochemist
Hard Rock Mining Section, Mining Bureau
Montana Department of Environmental Quality
(406) 444-1967 or gsmith5@mt.gov

e-File: 00030.3

Attachment 1: Final Permit

Electronic cc:

Mark Thompson (MR); mthompson@montanaresources.com


Eric Dahlgren (DEQ); edahlgren@mt.gov

Dan Walsh (DEQ); dwalsh@mt.gov



OPERATING PERMIT NO. 00030
 Pursuant to Montana Metal Mine Reclamation Act
 (Title 82, Chapter 4, Part 3, MCA)

Air, Energy & Mining Division
 Mining Bureau
 Hard Rock Mining Section
 PO Box 200901
 Helena, MT 59620-0901
 (406) 444-4953

<p>NAME & ADDRESS OF PERMITTEE:</p> <p>Montana Resources, LLC 600 Shields Ave. Butte, MT 59701</p>	<p>LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PERMIT AREA LOCATION:</p> <p>Consolidated Permit includes: T3N R7W Sec 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22 T3N R8W Sec 13 T4N R7W Sec 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33 T4N R8W Sec 36</p> <p>COUNTY: Silver Bow</p>
<p>PERMITTING ACTION: Revision 23-001, updated Operations and Reclamation Plans</p>	<p>MILES AND DIRECTION FROM NEAREST TOWN: Directly adjacent to north and east portions of Butte and Walkerville</p>
<p>MINERALS TO BE MINED: Copper and molybdenum from hard rock source, cement copper from precipitation facility</p>	<p>REVISION 23-001 (See Application Maps) Total Area To Be Disturbed: No change in revision Change to Permit Area: No change in revision</p> <p>OPERATING PERMIT (Cumulative) Disturbance Area: 5533 acres currently disturbed Total Permit Area: 6136 acres</p>
<p>BOND AMOUNT: The bond amount of \$116,905,203 was calculated by the Department of Environmental Quality (Department) following permit revision MR22-001. This amount was submitted by Montana Resources, LLC (Permittee) and approved by the Department on October 20, 2022. No bond increase is required for Revision 23-001.</p>	
<p>This final operating permit amendment authorizes the permittee to conduct mining activities as specified in:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The operating and reclamation plans set forth in a) the original application as revised during the deficiency review and approved by the Department, b) the application(s) for amendment as revised during the deficiency review and approved by the Department, and c) any revisions that have been submitted and approved by the Department. The applications, revisions, and amendments for the four previous Operating Permits (Nos. 00030, 00030A, 00041, and 00108) have been consolidated into Operating Permit No. 00030. Title 75, Chapters 2 and 5, Montana Code Annotated (MCA), and the administrative rules adopted pursuant thereto. Title 82, Chapter 4, Part 3, MCA and the administrative rules adopted pursuant thereto. The following permit stipulations: None Any incremental bonding conditions: N/A <p>Before commencing any activity authorized by this permit amendment, the permittee must be in compliance with Title 75, Chapter 2, MCA as amended, Title 75, Chapter 5, MCA as amended, Title 75, Chapter 6, MCA as amended, and administrative rules adopted pursuant to these laws.</p>	
<p>The Reclamation Plan may be modified by the Department, upon proper application of the permittee or after timely notice and opportunity for hearing, at any time during the term of the permit for any of the following reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To modify the requirements so that they will not conflict with existing laws; When the previously adopted reclamation plan is impossible or impracticable to implement and maintain; When significant environmental problem situations not permitted under the terms of regulatory permits held by the permittee are revealed by field inspection and the Department has the authority to address them under the provisions of this part. 	
<p>A person who violates any of the provisions of Title 82, Chapter 4, Part 3, MCA, or any rule adopted or order issued under this part, or a term or condition of a permit issued under this part, shall pay a civil penalty of not less than \$100 or more than \$1,000 for the violation and an additional administrative penalty of not less than \$100 or more than \$1,000 for each day during which a violation continues.</p>	
<p>Within 30 days after completion or abandonment of operations on an area under permit or within 30 days after each anniversary date of the permit, whichever is earlier, or at a later date that may be provided by rule and each year after that date until reclamation is completed and approved, the permittee shall pay the annual fee of \$100 and shall file a report of activities completed during the preceding year on a form prescribed by the Department.</p>	
<p>This final operating permit amendment is approved and issued by:</p> <p></p> <p>p.p. _____</p> <p>Dan Walsh, Bureau Chief Mining Bureau Department of Environmental Quality</p> <p style="text-align: right;">_____</p> <p style="text-align: right;">April 26, 2023 Date</p>	