



## COLORADO

Division of Reclamation,  
Mining and Safety

Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street, Room 215  
Denver, CO 80203

September 26, 2014

Julio Madrid  
Battle Mountain Resources, Inc.  
P.O. Box 310  
San Luis, CO 81152-0310

**RE: Comments and Objections for Acreage Reduction (AR-02),  
San Luis Project, Permit No. M-1988-112**

Dear Mr. Madrid:

The public comment period for AR-02 opened on the filing date, on August 20, 2014. The public notice for AR-02 was published in the Costilla County Free Press newspaper on September 18, 2014. Pursuant to Rule 7.2.10(2)(c), the public comment period will close on October 18, 2014. However, October 18 is a Saturday and the Division will roll the deadline to the next work day, October 20, 2014. Therefore, any written comment or objection received on or before October 20, 2014, will be deemed timely. As of the date of this correspondence the Division has received the following comments and objections:

**Timely Objections:**

1. John C. McClure, Esq., on behalf of the Costilla County Conservancy District, dated September 26, 2014, received September 26, 2014; and
2. John C. McClure, Esq., on behalf of the Costilla County Board of County Commissioners, dated September 26, 2014, received September 26, 2014.

Please respond to the Division, clarifying how the request for acreage reduction (AR-02) addresses the jurisdictional issues raised by the objecting parties.

Sincerely,

Wallace H. Erickson

Environmental Protection Specialist

Enclosure: Items 1 and 2 as listed above

Ec w/enclosure: Julio Madrid, BMRI  
Melissa Chalona, AESI  
Russ Means, DRMS GJFO



McCLURE & EGGLESTON, L.L.C.

A Limited Liability Company  
Attorneys at Law

PETER M. EGGLESTON  
JOHN C. McCLURE

RUBY M. WHITELEY, PARALEGAL

1600 BROADWAY, SUITE 920  
DENVER, COLORADO 80202  
TELEPHONE: (303) 294-0822

15 WASHINGTON, SUITE 103B  
MONTE VISTA, COLORADO 81144  
PLEASE DIRECT ALL MAIL TO THE DENVER ADDRESS  
TELEPHONE: (719) 852-5609

September 26, 2014

Mr. Wally Erickson  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety  
691 County Road 233, Suite A-2  
Durango, CO 81301

RECEIVED  
SEP 26 2014  
Durango Field Office  
Division of Reclamation  
Mining and Safety

*Re: August 14, 2014 BMRI Letter*

Dear Mr. Erickson,

The Costilla County Conservancy District ("District") desires to comment on a matter with respect to the San Luis Project, Permit No. M-1988-112 ("Project"). The District is aware of an August 14, 2014 Battle Mountain Resources, Inc. ("BMRI") letter ("BMRI Letter") to the Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety ("DRMS"), requesting a partial release of acreage on the Project. Although it did not receive formal notice, the District requests permission from DRMS to submit its comments and/or objections to the BMRI Letter.

The District, through undersigned counsel, submits its position and objections and comments, as follows:

- (a) BMRI appears to seek DRMS approval to have permitted acreage in the Project area decreased by 35.14 acres pursuant to an October 31, 1997 deed given by BMRI to the Costilla County Soil Conservation District;
- (b) BMRI makes its request in the context of an overall reclamation concept within the Project site (see "Remaining Reclamation" section), however BMRI provides no explanation of its planned or actual activities to achieve reclamation on its permitted land or how the 35.14 acres is accounted for in those plans or activities, either in 1997 or 2014;
- (c) The content of the BMRI Letter is unclear and confusing, assuming the request is only directed at the 1997 deed. It is not clear what purpose BMRI seeks to accomplish with the extraneous content inserted in the BMRI Letter.
- (d) The quantity of acreage within the Project permit area before and after the purported deletion of 35.14 acres is unclear. BMRI states that "the permit area is currently 1,801 acres..." yet its September 24, 1989 permit application refers to 2,200 acres. The BMRI Letter further states that the permit area is divided into permitted disturbance areas (547 acres) and undisturbed areas (1,254 acres). It states that "a reduction of 35.14 acres from the Permit Area (1,801 acres) would result in a new Permit

Area of 1,765.86 acres. There is no reference to use of 1,801 acres, as opposed to 2,200 acres, as its starting point.

(e) Under the section entitled "Remaining Reclamation", it states "the remaining reclamation to be performed is a total of 86.2 acres and is associated with the West Pit water treatment plant operation, the tailing area water management and reclamation, and access road reclamation." It is unclear what it purports to seek by its referencing reclamation in these areas or whether these contentions are appropriately part of an application to reduce the permitted acreage by 35.14 acres. If this constitutes some type of request for a finding unrelated to the acre reduction application, then the application should clearly state that fact, or the statement should be disregarded. Further, it is unclear what is meant by the term "tailing area water management and reclamation."

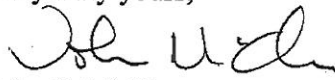
(f) Under the section "Statement of Completion", it states "BMRI believes that all applicable portions of the reclamation plan requirements have been satisfied in accordance with the Act and Mineral Rules and Regulations for Hard Rock, Metal, and Designated Mining Operations for the 35.14 acres requested to be removed from the permit area." To make this assertion, BMRI should accompany the BMRI Letter with factual support and/or an engineering analysis to support how and in what manner it contends the reclamation plan is purportedly satisfied, both in 1997 and 2014, as to the 35.14 acres.

(g) It is not clear if the BMRI Letter requests some type of an implicit acknowledgment of its contention that the remaining areas subject to reclamation is 86.2 acres, as BMRI defines the "Remaining Unclaimed Disturbance Areas". With respect to its 86.2 acre contention, BMRI provides no facts, documents, and/or engineering analyses to support it, or its component parts (38.7 acres – West Pit and 22.6 acres – Tailings Facility Storage Pond). Also, how and in what manner the 38.7 acres and the 22.6 acres will be reclaimed should be referenced.

(h) In the Published Notice section of BMRI's Letter, it also states that "BMRI requests that CDMG permit boundary be adjusted to account for land reclaimed in accordance with the approved CMLRB reclamation plan and undisturbed lands that have previously been deeded..." However, BMRI provides no factual or engineering basis to support how and in what manner this land was reclaimed.

The District reserves the right to make further comments as more information becomes known.

Very truly yours,

  
John C. McClure

JCM/sq

cc: Ms. Ginny Brannon



STATE OF  
COLORADO

Erickson - DNR, Wally <wally.erickson@state.co.us>

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## DRMS/BMRI August 2014 letter

1 message

John McClure <jmcclure@melawllc.com>

Fri, Sep 26, 2014 at 5:08 PM

To: "Wally.Erickson@state.co.us" <Wally.Erickson@state.co.us>

Cc: "Brannon - DNR, Ginny (ginny.brannon@state.co.us)" <ginny.brannon@state.co.us>, "ejlobo2003@yahoo.com" <ejlobo2003@yahoo.com>

Dear Wally,

Enclosed please find:

- 1) The Board of County Commissioners objections and comments to BMRI's August 14, 2014 letter;
- 2) The Costilla County Conservancy District's objections and comments to BMRI's August 14, 2014 letter.

The District is aware of the BMRI letter and for that reason is submitting its position statement.

Thank you.

John C. McClure

McClure & Eggleston, LLC

1600 Broadway, Suite 920

Denver, CO 80202

Office: (303) 294-0822

Direct: (303) 953-5805

E-mail: [jmcclure@melawllc.com](mailto:jmcclure@melawllc.com)

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### 2 attachments



**CCBCC Letter to Wally Erickson re BMRI Letter 9.26.14.pdf**  
88K



**CCCD Letter to Wally Erickson re BMRI Letter 9.26.14.pdf**  
89K

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*Re: August 14, 2014 BMRI Letter*

Dear Mr. Erickson,

The following is a response by the Board of County Commissioners of Costilla County ("County") to your notice of September 12, 2014 in reference to the San Luis Project, Permit No. M-1988-112 ("Project"). The notice relates to an August 14, 2014 Battle Mountain Resources, Inc. ("BMRI") letter ("BMRI Letter") to the Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety ("DRMS"), requesting a partial release of acreage on the Project.

On behalf of the County, through its counsel Ed Lobato, and the undersigned, the County's objection and comments to the BMRI letter are submitted as follows:

- (a) BMRI appears to seek DRMS approval to have permitted acreage in the Project area decreased by 35.14 acres pursuant to an October 31, 1997 deed given by BMRI to the Costilla County Soil Conservation District;
- (b) BMRI makes its request in the context of an overall reclamation concept within the Project site (see "Remaining Reclamation" section), however BMRI provides no explanation of its planned or actual activities to achieve reclamation on its permitted land or how the 35.14 acres is accounted for in those plans or activities, either in 1997 or 2014;
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cc: Ms. Ginny Brannon



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