



## COLORADO

Division of Reclamation,  
Mining and Safety

Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street, Room 215  
Denver, CO 80203

August 6, 2014

Michael D. Shumway  
Liberty Mining, LLC  
P.O. Box 1032  
Moab, UT 84532

**RE: *Liberty Mine, File No. M-2013-070, Designated Mining Limited Impact 110d  
Operation Reclamation Permit Application, Preliminary Adequacy Review***

Dear Mr. Shumway:

The Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division) is in the process of reviewing the above referenced application in order to ensure that it satisfies the requirements of the *Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Act* (Act) and the associated *Mineral Rules and Regulations of the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board for Hard Rock, Metal, and Designated Mining Operations* (Rules). During review of the material submitted, the Division determined that the following issue(s) shall be adequately addressed before the application can be considered for approval.

Exhibit C

1. Item C (1.i) states "In the event excessive ground water is encountered in the underground workings, the water will be treated and discharged in accordance with state and federal water quality standards." If quantifiable / excessive ground water is encountered the operator must submit a technical revision to address what methods will be implemented to address a ground water issue. Please commit to this requirement.
  - Response Adequate
2. In C (1.i) it states "On-site surface water will be captured and used in the underground mining operations or will be evaporated in the detention ponds." Does the applicant hold or is the applicant trying to acquire water rights that will allow the use of captured surface water in underground mining operations? If water rights are held please submit documentation that demonstrates the rights have been obtained.
  - Please commit to not storing or using any water collected on the site to support the mining operation until water rights have been obtained.



3. Item C (1.i) states that detailed stormwater management information can be found in Exhibit U (4.a.i). No storm water management information is included with the application. Please submit a detailed stormwater management plan along with an engineered drainage design plan.
  - Response adequate
4. Please address the requirements of Rule 6.3.3(1)(m).
  - Please disclose the maximum amount of time the ore is proposed to be stored on the ore storage pad.
5. Please address the requirements of Rule 6.3.3(1)(n).
  - Response adequate
6. Please identify the specific location(s) and the area required for the proposed mine ventilation system.
  - Response adequate
7. Please specify the exact amount of road improvement proposed to support the mining operation. If any widening of the existing roads is proposed will the roads remain within the proposed permit area? If not an amendment of the application or a submittal of a 112(d) application may be required if the total proposed disturbance is greater than ten acres.
  - Response adequate

Exhibit D

8. Addressing Rule 6.3.4(1)(b), please provide the Division with the maximum anticipated thickness that waste rock will be placed.
  - Response adequate
9. Section D (1) states "Access roads to the site will be up graded during mining operations and will be left open for recreational access after the mine has been reclaimed." Does the Bureau of Land Management concur with the proposed reclamation configuration?
  - Please provide documentation that indicates that the road was actually built prior to the 1980 BLM requirement for reclamation.

10. Section D (1.c.iv-v) describing seeding and mulching states "...broadcast seeding at one and a half times acceptable rate of drill seeding." Please commit to a broadcast seed rate of twice the drill seed rate.

- Response adequate

11. Please submit a weed control plan.

- Response adequate

12. Section D (1.e) Location Specific Reclamation; please clarify if topsoil will be placed on the waste rock and overburden stockpiles upon reclamation. If topsoil is not proposed to be placed please describe what growth medium is proposed.

- Please provide an estimate for the amount of topsoil proposed/required to be imported along with a legal source. Please state what depth of topsoil will be replaced, i.e. 6"-10".

#### Exhibit E

13. Per Rule 6.2.1(2)(b) maps must be signed by the map maker. Please submit maps that have the signature of the qualified map maker.

- Both the mine plan and reclamation plan maps require a signature per the requirements of the qualified map maker. Please provide signed and dated mine plan and reclamation plan maps.

14. The off-site topography is not portrayed on the maps provided. Please provide revised maps that portray contour lines with enough detail to determine how the proposed mining area is related to the adjacent land at a distance of at least 300' outside of the proposed permit area.

- Maps address the adequacy item regarding off-site topography however the maps are not signed by the map maker. Please submit signed maps.

15. Please address Rules 6.3.5(3)(d) and 6.3.5(3)(e).

- Response adequate.

Exhibit U

16. Please commit to submitting engineered "as-built" designs for the ore pad.
  - Response adequate.
17. Specify the proposed dimensions of the waste rock pile.
  - Response adequate.
18. On page 54 of the application it is stated that "Historical mining in the Uravan Mineral Belt has demonstrated that acid mine drainage is not likely because minerals commonly associated with uranium deposits lack sulfides necessary to produce acid leaching." Has any testing within in the proposed mining area been conducted to verify that acid forming conditions do not exist? If not please commit to conduct a site specific geochemical analysis of the waste rock and ore to determine whether or not acid forming conditions exist.
  - Response adequate.
19. U (7) states stormwater and water collected in the ore pad sump pond will be used in the underground mining process. As requested in adequacy item number two of this review, if water rights are held please submit documentation that demonstrates the water rights have been obtained.
  - Response adequate.
20. Please address the requirements of Rule 6.4.21(7)(e).
  - Response adequate.
21. Please address the requirements of Rule 6.4.21(7)(f).
  - Response adequate.
22. Please address the requirements of Rule 6.4.21(8). The application does not currently provide enough detail regarding this rule.
  - Response adequate.
23. Please address the requirements of Rule 6.4.21(9)(a).
  - Response adequate.
24. Addressing Rule 6.4.21(10)(a), please provide design specifications certified by a licensed professional engineer for all Environmental Protection Facilities.
  - Response adequate.
25. Please provide engineered designs for the proposed configuration of the detention ponds. Also, please commit to providing "as-built" drawings of each of the ponds once they are constructed.

- Response adequate.
26. Please provide a stormwater management plan. Per the requirements of Rule 6.4.21(10)(b) the plan must include a maintenance and inspection program to ensure all drainage control and containment facilities will be properly operated and maintained.
- Response adequate.
27. Please address the requirements of Rule 6.4.21(11)(a) and (b). According to the rule the application must include information regarding existing surface water receiving standards, existing or reasonably potential future uses of surface water and, where receiving standards have not been determined, within two (2) miles, downgradient of the affected lands. The information provided in the application only discusses water within 1.5 miles of the proposed mining area.
- Response adequate.
28. According to Rule 6.4.21(12) a water quality monitoring plan must be submitted. According to the quarterly water quality monitoring report received January 1, 2014 MW-1 had water collected and sampled. Please submit a water quality monitoring plan that meets the requirements of Rule 6.4.21(12) and Rule 3.1.7.
- Response adequate.
29. Per the requirements of Rule 6.4.21(13)(b)(i), please submit one data set for the wettest year on record for the area of the proposed mine.
- Response adequate.
30. Due to the waste rock containing constituents at levels higher than federal, state and agricultural levels is any type of impermeable liner proposed below the waste rock pile to prevent unpermitted discharges?
- Response adequate.

Please submit your response(s) to the above listed issue(s) by September 19, 2014, in order to allow the Division sufficient time for review prior to the November 1, 2014 decision date. The Division will continue to review your application and will contact you if additional information is needed.

If you require additional information or have questions or concerns, please contact me at the DRMS Grand Junction Field Office at phone no. (970) 241-2042.

Sincerely,



Travis Marshall  
Environmental Protection Specialist

cc: Cynthia A. Gray  
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