



La Plata County  
Colorado

Board of County Commissioners

Julie Westendorff, Chair • Gwen Lachelt, Vice Chair • Bradford P. Blake, Commissioner

1101 East 2nd Ave  
Durango, CO 81301  
(970) 382-6219

June 27, 2017

*Via email at lucas.west@state.co.us*

Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety  
Mr. Lucas West  
Minerals Program, Grand Junction Field Office  
101 S 3<sup>rd</sup> St, Suite 301  
Grand Junction, CO 81501

**RECEIVED**

**JUN 27 2017**

**DIVISION OF RECLAMATION  
MINING AND SAFETY**

Re: May Day Idaho Mine Complex

Dear Mr. West,

The Board of County Commissioners of La Plata County received the notice issued by the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety for the May Day Idaho Mine Complex permit amendment. After reviewing the permit application, a few discrepancies were noted as listed below:

- The application indicates a county driveway permit has already been obtained. The driveway permit that was issued will not cover mining operations and a new driveway permit is required.
- The application indicates a sanitation permit has been issued by La Plata County. Since the County does not issue sanitation permits, the applicant needs to obtain a permit for sanitary facilities from San Juan Basin Public Health.

La Plata County does have concerns that a hard rock mine may produce acid mine runoff and would like assurance that the stormwater management plan is sufficient to properly convey any runoff that is generated from precipitation or mine drainage. While we understand this mill will not contain a crusher and the mined rock will be processed off-site, containment of the mill tailings is an important aspect of handling mine waste and protecting surface water. La Plata County would prefer stockpiles be handled in such a manner to prevent any potential contamination from entering the soil or surface water.

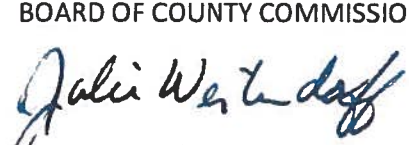
The County has additional concerns regarding the proposal to reclaim the area to a recreation use. The application indicates the access roads will remain after the mine is closed. The high level of precipitation and steep slopes in the project area exacerbate erosion and stormwater impacts. If the access roads are left in place, there is potential for increased stormwater impacts to adjacent water ways and public use of non-maintained roads. This action may lead to further degradation of the area if left uncontrolled.

The proposed development is expected to have impacts on adjacent land owners due to noise from mining operations and traffic. Noise was a concern expressed previously by the neighbors in the proposed project area. Blasting, generators, or ATVs on the site have the potential to create noise impacts. The use of sound attenuation walls, mufflers, and other mitigation measures is preferable. Also, please be aware that ATV use is not allowed on the county road adjacent to the project site. The traffic associated with transporting ore offsite for processing is expected to impact neighbors as well as county road maintenance costs and safety. A road impact agreement may be required to address these impacts. Although the expected impacts to adjacent land owners and the County will be addressed through the county land use permit process, please be aware that these issues are of concern to the County.

The Board of County Commissioners appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed May Day Idaho Mine Complex permit amendment.

Sincerely,

LA PLATA COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Julie Westendorff  
Chair



Gwen Lachelt  
Vice-Chair



Bradford P. Blake  
Commissioner

Cc: Joe Kerby, La Plata County Manager  
Sheryl Rogers, La Plata County Attorney  
Jason Meininger, Interim Planning Director