



File Code: 2810
Date: July 27, 2017

**CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN
RECEIPT REQUESTED
NUMBER: 7016 0910 0002 0319 8458**

Mr. Jeffrey Forrest
Claimant/ Operator
8057 S. Vermejo Peak
Littleton, CO 80814

Dear Mr. Forrest,

I am writing in regard to the Forrest Mine Plan of Operations (MPO) (#2810-021210-MPO-2017-001) for lode exploration on the South Park Ranger District of the Pike National Forest. In my July 19th letter to you, I informed you that I had signed the Forrest Mine Decision Memorandum (DM) on July 18th and also instructed you on the final two steps necessary for MPO approval.

On July 12, 2017, I received your signed Design Criteria that incorporated into Section IV-A the changes and additions that were identified in the DM. As per the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Forest Service and the State of Colorado, Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety (DRMS), the DRMS is the lead bond authority and will be responsible for calculating your reclamation bond. This bond will need to be submitted to and approved by DRMS and the Forest Service in accordance with 36 CFR 228.13, prior to the authorization of your MPO. This bond will be used as a guarantee of faithful performance with the terms and conditions listed in the MPO. As a reminder, the bond can be adjusted during the term of the POO in response to changes in the operations or to changes in the economy. Also, you may request a partial bond release following completion of the ground disturbing activities (i.e. all but monitoring).

These last two steps conclude the stipulations listed in the DM. Therefore, I have conditionally approved your Forrest Mine MPO with my signature in Section IX (attached). Operations are authorized to begin on August 1, 2017, and are authorized for 5 years, with completion of all activities including reclamation by August 1, 2022.

Please be aware, this approval does not constitute permission to conduct activities that require other agency permits. You are responsible for obtaining all other necessary permits prior to operation. Furthermore, approval of this operating plan in no way authorizes, or in any way permits, a release or threat of a release of hazardous substances or pollutants into the environment that will require a response action or result in the incurrence of response costs.

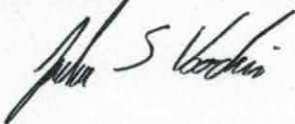
All designs, monitoring plans, and analyses required by the MPO are subject to the requirement of 36 CFR 228.8 that mining operations be conducted so as, where feasible, to minimize adverse environmental impacts on National Forest surface resources. The operator's compliance with this requirement in no way insulates or releases them from any liability or obligations that may arise



with respect to its operations under any applicable environmental law, including but not limited to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), 42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq. The United States reserves its rights and claims under CERCLA to seek performance of response actions and/or reimbursement of response costs that may be incurred as a result of any release or threat of a release of a hazardous substance from the project, or any ancillary operation for the mining activity.

Prior to ground breaking activities, please contact Geologist Amy Titterington to arrange a field meeting to review the final MPO on site. If you have any questions and/or need clarification regarding the above information, please contact Geologist Amy Titterington at the South Park Ranger District office, by phone at 719-836-2031, and/or by email at amyjtitterington@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,



JOSHUA S. VOORHIS
District Ranger

Enclosures:

- 1) Approved Mine Plan of Operations – signed July 27, 2017
- 2) Copy of signed Design Criteria

cc: elliott.russell@state.co.us; williamsd@co.teller.co.us; Jeffrey Otten