

Miller Creek Homeowners Association

**14407 US Highway 40
Empire, CO 80438**

June 4, 2018

Mr. Peter Hays
Colorado Division of Reclamation Mining and Safety
peter.hays@state.co.us
Email Original

Re: Douglas Mountain Mine (M-2018-016)

Dear Mr. Hays:

This letter is written on behalf of the Miller Creek Homeowner's Association. The residents and property owners of Miller Creek are extremely concerned with the possibility of a surface gravel mining operation in the meadow east of the Town of Empire, CO. The applicant hosted a public meeting on May 23rd. The meeting was attended by at least 50 unhappy local residents. According to information provided by the applicant, the expected area of disturbance will be 92 acres. The depth of the disturbed area will be 150-200' below its current elevation. This will lower the meadow to just above the current water level of Clear Creek. This will be the final elevation of area. The meadow will not be restored to anywhere near its current condition.

Our concerns include:

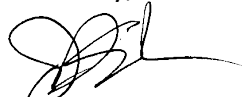
1. The West Fork of Clear Creek runs along the northern boundary of the slope below the meadow. This portion of Clear Creek is classified as a Class I Coldwater Fishery by CDPHE. It is home to Cutthroat, Rainbow, and Brown Trout. This project presents a hazard to water quality and the aquatic life of the stream due to sediments in runoff from the site.
2. The proposed mine site includes the largest accessible meadow in Clear Creek County. It is home to large numbers grazing animals including Big Horn Sheep, Elk and Deer. This project will destroy valuable habitat for all animals.
3. Big Horn Sheep in this area make up the largest herd in North America. Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife routinely harvest sheep from this herd to establish and/or populate herds in other areas around the State and Country. Destruction of this valuable habitat will have a major negative impact on the herd.

4. Raptors regularly seen above the meadow include Bald Eagles, Golden Eagles, Falcons, and numerous species of Hawks. This project will destroy a valuable hunting area for these animals and their prey.
5. Seismic equipment was installed on the mountainside north of the meadow and US Highway 40. This equipment was installed to monitor earthquake activity which has been determined to be high in this area. Mining activity such as the proposed gravel pit exacerbate earthquake potential and increase the risk of harmful earthquakes.
6. Access to the site would be from the I-70 frontage road. The frontage road is located at the bottom of the access road. The road to the site is approximately 1,500 LF long. The average grade of the road is approximately 10.5%. The road crosses a property owned by the Norsemen of the Rockies. The Norseman property is located in the eastern third of the road. The portion of the road which crosses the Norsemen of the Rockies property has a grade of approximately 12%. These grades exceed Clear Creek County regulations for local roads which have a maximum allowable grade of 8% and present an unsafe condition for those using the road. According to the applicant, there will be up to 300 trucks using this road daily.
7. Access road is on a north facing slope and generally runs east-west. This area is shaded throughout the winter. The access road will have up to 300 trucks per day. The road will be icy for several months each year. According to the applicant, trucks will not be allowed to use compression (Jake) brakes. This creates an extremely dangerous and unsafe situation for both the truck drivers and the public traveling on the I-70 frontage road.
8. The mine will not benefit residents of the valley. It will destroy a beautiful wildlife habitat and decrease the quality of life for the residents due to noise and air pollution and increased heavy truck traffic. It is estimated that 1,000,000 tons of material will be taken from this mine each year by up to 300 trucks per day.

In conclusion, this project will permanently change the valley and have a huge negative effect on the environment and residents of Clear Creek County. This application should be denied and the project should not be permitted.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



John Enoch

Member – Miller Creek Home Owner's Association



STATE OF
COLORADO

Hays - DNR, Peter <peter.hays@state.co.us>

Douglas Mountain Mine M-2018-016

John Enochs <johne@diamondbackeng.com>
To: "peter.hays@state.co.us" <peter.hays@state.co.us>
Cc: "Linda Enochs (jlenochs@gmail.com)" <jlenochs@gmail.com>

Fri, Jun 29, 2018 at 8:30 AM

Peter,

Attached is a letter from the Miller Creek HOA objecting to the proposed Douglas Mountain Mine. Miller Creek is located directly across from the meadow which would house the proposed Douglas Mountain Mine.

Please call with any questions,

Thank you,

John

John Enochs

Miller Creek Home Owner's Association

14407 US Highway 40

PO Box 203

Empire, CO 80438



Miller Creek HOA to CDRMS.pdf

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