

10/1/2020

To: Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety

From: Tom Miller

Re: P2020011 (Metallic Minerals NOI)

RECEIVED

OCT 01 2020

**DIVISION OF RECLAMATION
MINING AND SAFETY**

I am registering my objection to Metallic Minerals Corporations proposal in P2020011. First, this mining site has an old mining tunnel that water runs out of during every runoff season that goes into Bedrock Creek and on into the La Plata River. Mitigation and reclamation of the old mining activities detrimental effects should be a prerequisite to any new mining activity. The current owner and applicant stand to benefit from new mining activity while downstream folks see the consequences of past mining activity.

Second, since the proposed bore holes are in the immediate vicinity of this tunnels' runoff water and whatever water contained deeper in the tunnel every springtime, I see no way of guaranteeing that this water will not find its' way into these bore holes and subsequently deep into whatever ground water these 2200 foot holes reach. The applicant states that if saturated zones are encountered, then a concrete plug will be placed, drilled through and a smaller bit used. The problem here is that this activity is occurring in the fall during an extreme drought event. Areas that may not be a saturated zone now, may well be during future wet periods and runoff seasons. New bore holes in the immediate vicinity of the existing mine tunnel will provide a conduit for the runoff from the tunnel.

Third, even though this is exploratory, given the well known and stated goals of the applicant to mine this and the surrounding area on a commercial level for profit, this fast tracked approval process is inappropriate. Any success on the part of the applicant in pursuing a profitable, commercial mining operation will have a profound impact on local residents and others that use the area. Since DRMS states that social and economic issues are not part of their jurisdiction, this application should be thoroughly reviewed by all appropriate agencies and local government with more robust input from the public. This area does not have the infrastructure to support such an operation and building it would completely change the character of La Plata Canyon.

With the applicants' equipment already on site, it feels like the approval of this application is a foregone conclusion. I hope that is not the case. In the interest of local residents, recreational users, and tourists from all over, it must be denied until a thorough review can be accomplished.

Sincerely,

Tom Miller

Durango