



October 8, 2020

Steve Glass  
Gault Group, LLC  
P.O. Box 1  
Cortez, CO 81321

**Re: La Plata Project, Notice of Intent (NOI) No. P-2020-011, Notice of Deficiency #2**

Dear Mr. Glass,

The Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division) has reviewed the Metallic Minerals US Inc. Notice of Intent to Conduct Prospecting Operations (NOI), No. P-2020-011, submitted on August 11, 2020. In addition to the Request for Final Clarifications document dated October 2, 2020 Division Staff has identified the following items that need to be addressed before a decision can be rendered on the application.

**1. Item III Project Description**

- a. The details included in the project description indicate that fluid drilling will be conducted using baffled tanks to recycle the drill water. In accordance with Rule 5.3.1 (d) please clarify that the baffled tanks are also used in the management of cuttings from the drilling process or identify how the residual material will be handled to prevent those materials from entering any drainage way.
- b. Similarly, In accordance with Rule 3.1.5 (5) please identify how the core samples to be extracted will be handled in order to prevent any potentially acid forming materials from entering the adjacent drainage.
- c. The project description along with the associated maps indicate the approximate drilling location in relation to a historic discharging mine adit. Please clarify in a narrative and any necessary drawings or more accurate maps that each of the drill holes are sufficient distance away from the flow path of the discharge waters that such waters will not come into contact with or have an effect on the drilling project as proposed.
- d. Item k of section III discusses the anticipated relationship to surface and groundwater of the project. While the narrative addresses the relationship between the surface waters of Bedrock Creek, and a contingency plan should a groundwater saturated zone be encountered please provide any and all necessary information required to support the claim that interception of groundwater is not anticipated.
- e. In conjunction with the clarifications required in item 1, a of this review, please identify the quantity and source of the water to be used in the fluid drilling operations of the proposed project.



**2. Item IV Operation and Reclamation Measures**

- a. While the proposed operation is to be conducted on an existing waste rock disturbance and no revegetation measures are proposed the potential for the importation of noxious weed species by personnel and equipment used on site exists. Please address how the applicant will ensure no noxious weeds will be imported by personnel or equipment and how the site will be monitored to ensure state listed noxious weeds will not impact the proposed project area.

Please submit a response to this final clarification as soon as you are able to allow the Division sufficient time to review. The current Decision Date for the application is Thursday October 22, 2020, however the above listed information must be received and reviewed before a decision can be rendered. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at the Division's Grand Junction field Office, by phone at 3030-866-3567 Ext. 8187 or by email at [lucas.west@state.co.us](mailto:lucas.west@state.co.us).

Sincerely,



**Lucas West**

Environmental Protection Specialist  
Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety

Cc: Travis Marshall, Senior Environmental Protection Specialist

Ec: Steve Glass, Gault Group, LLC  
Scott Petsel, Metallic Minerals US, Inc.