



COLORADO
Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety
Department of Natural Resources

October 8, 2020

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

Re: La Plata Project, Notice of Intent (NOI) No. P-2020-011, Adequacy Review

The Division has received timely comments and objections to the La Plata Project, application File No. P-2020-011. The objections and comments were received within the public comment period which ended October 2, 2020. A total of 10 letters of objection (copies enclosed) and one comment were received. The submitting parties with timely comments and objections are;

Timely Objections Received:

1. Matt DeAmix, received September 24, 2020
2. Kara Armano, received September 24, 2020
3. Jennifer Boyer, received September 25, 2020
4. Ross Douglass, received September 25, 2020
5. Robbin Clark, received September 28, 2020
6. Joel Kraus, received September 28, 2020
7. Eula Yancey, received September 30, 2020
8. William Karls, received September 30, 2020
9. Tom Miller, received October 1, 2020
10. Jennifer Thurston and Jimbo Buickerood, received October 2, 2020

Timely Comments Recived

1. La Plata County BOCC, received October 2, 2020

The jurisdictional items have been incorporated into the Notice of Deficiency dated October 8, 2020. If the applicant chooses to further address any of the enclosed letters of objection please respond to the Division as a separate correspondence. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to contact me at the Division's Grand Junction Field Office, by phone at 303-866-3567 Extension 8187 or by email at lucas.west@state.co.us.

Sincerely,

Lucas J. West



Recipient
Page 2 of 2
Date

Environmental Protection Specialist

Cc: Travis Marshall, Senior Environmental Protection Specialist

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



STATE OF
COLORADO

West - DNR, Lucas <lucas.west@state.co.us>

Fwd: comment on application P2020011

DRMS - DNR, DMGweb <dnr_dmg_web@state.co.us>

Thu, Sep 24, 2020 at 4:36 PM

To: Lucas West - DNR <lucas.west@state.co.us>, Travis Marshall - DNR <travis.marshall@state.co.us>

Cc: Russ Means - DNR <russ.means@state.co.us>, Camille Mojar - DNR <camille.mojar@state.co.us>

Good afternoon everyone:

The following message is from our DMG website.

Thank you

Eléni

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Matt DeAmico** <mattdeamico@gmail.com>

Date: Thu, Sep 24, 2020 at 2:15 PM

Subject: comment on application P2020011

To: <dmg_web@state.co.us>

Hello

I am writing to officially oppose exploratory drilling operations as proposed in P2020011 in La Plata Canyon. I realize the footprint of the exploratory drilling is small, but if it is the first step leading toward a proposed mining operation I see no need to even perform this exploration. A copper (or any other) mining operation in La Plata Canyon would be devastating to residents like me, the wildlife, and the water resources in this fragile environment.

Please consider denying this application. My health, the health of my neighbors, and the environment all rely on being responsible with our natural resources, and this location is not appropriate for any further mining development.

Sincerely,
Matt DeAmico
23120 Highway 140
Hesperus, CO 81326
503.341.7538



STATE OF
COLORADO

West - DNR, Lucas <lucas.west@state.co.us>

Fwd: file number P2020011

1 message

DRMS - DNR, DMGweb <dnr_dmg_web@state.co.us>

Thu, Sep 24, 2020 at 4:42 PM

To: Lucas West - DNR <lucas.west@state.co.us>, Travis Marshall - DNR <travis.marshall@state.co.us>

Cc: Russ Means - DNR <russ.means@state.co.us>, Camille Mojar - DNR <camille.mojar@state.co.us>

Also, about La Plata County.

Thank you

Eléni

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Kara Armano** <ski3pin@yahoo.com>

Date: Thu, Sep 24, 2020 at 4:07 PM

Subject: file number P2020011

To: dmg_web@state.co.us <dmg_web@state.co.us>

La Plata Canyon mining exploration must not be approved. We do NOT need another mine in La Plata canyon, therefore we do not need exploration. This area is extremely important to me as they are public lands that I recreate on nearly daily. From fishing the river and its native cutthroat trout to hiking, biking and backcountry skiing.

Me and many other residents right down the road in Hesperus do not want to see this area explored, our public lands desecrated or our water polluted.

Please revoke the permit for exploration. No more mines in La Plata Canyon.

Kara



STATE OF
COLORADO

West - DNR, Lucas <lucas.west@state.co.us>

Fwd: P2020011 public comment in opposition

1 message

DRMS - DNR, DMGweb <dnr_dmg_web@state.co.us>

Fri, Sep 25, 2020 at 10:54 AM

To: Lucas West - DNR <lucas.west@state.co.us>, Travis Marshall - DNR <travis.marshall@state.co.us>

Cc: Russ Means - DNR <russ.means@state.co.us>, Camille Mojar - DNR <camille.mojar@state.co.us>

Hello everyone:

I'm forwarding the following message from our general DMG website.

Thank you

Eléni



COLORADO
Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety
Department of Natural Resources

P 303.866.3567 | F 303.832.8106

1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, CO 80203

dnr_dmg_web@state.co.us | <https://mining.state.co.us>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jennifer Boyer** <jenlaurenboyer@gmail.com>

Date: Fri, Sep 25, 2020 at 8:30 AM

Subject: P2020011 public comment in opposition

To: <dnr_dmg_web@state.co.us>

Good morning,

I am a resident and homeowner in Hesperus, Colorado and yesterday I learned that an exploratory drilling operations permit P2020011 has been filed with DRMS for a copper mine in La Plata Canyon. As a resident of this area, I am strongly in opposition of this permit. Although I understand that this permit is the first step and exploratory with a "small footprint", it is still unnecessary and opens up the door for a future mine. Even if small, it is still a disruption of the environment. The La Plata River provides drinking water for thousands (considering its traverse south through the County) of residents, including my household. This area has several neighborhoods with families and communities that will be impacted by potential mining. Also the La Plata River has been continually stressed due to ongoing drought. Despite the drought, there is a thriving fish population that remains and it would be awful to see this precarious population disrupted. I do not understand the need for a copper mine in this location and cannot imagine that this endeavor will produce anything more than a bad legacy in our neighborhood. Living in the shadow of the Gold King Mine has made all of us in this region acutely aware of what can go wrong. We do not need an active mine, nor a legacy mine that is abandoned and which we the community are then stuck with remediation. And the first step to prevent a future mine and the associated problems, is to deny this exploratory drilling permit.

I implore you to consider the health of the river, the environment and the people of these communities and decline this permit. We care about this canyon and this river. Please help us maintain the community we love and contribute to.

All the best,
Jennifer Boyer
23120 Hwy 140
Hesperus, CO 81326
(503) 226-4462



STATE OF
COLORADO

West - DNR, Lucas <lucas.west@state.co.us>

Fwd: Exploratory drilling in LaPlata Canyon

1 message

DRMS - DNR, DMGweb <dnr_dmg_web@state.co.us>

Fri, Sep 25, 2020 at 10:55 AM

To: Lucas West - DNR <lucas.west@state.co.us>, Travis Marshall - DNR <travis.marshall@state.co.us>

Cc: Russ Means - DNR <russ.means@state.co.us>, Camille Mojar - DNR <camille.mojar@state.co.us>

Also from the DMG website.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Ross Douglas** <ross_douglas@hotmail.com>

Date: Fri, Sep 25, 2020 at 10:12 AM

Subject: Exploratory drilling in LaPlata Canyon

To: dnr_dmg_web@state.co.us <dnr_dmg_web@state.co.us>

I am against exploration and mining in La Plata Canyon. LaPlata Canyon is a valuable resource for the recreation and tourist economy of La Plata County. The exploratory drilling, and future potential mining operation in LaPlata Canyon would have adverse economic impact on tourism that should be considered.

Ross Douglas
Durango



STATE OF
COLORADO

West - DNR, Lucas <lucas.west@state.co.us>

Fwd: Exploration in La Plata Canyon

1 message

DRMS - DNR, DMGweb <dnr_dmg_web@state.co.us>

Mon, Sep 28, 2020 at 7:50 AM

To: Lucas West - DNR <lucas.west@state.co.us>, Travis Marshall - DNR <travis.marshall@state.co.us>

Cc: Russ Means - DNR <russ.means@state.co.us>, Camille Mojar - DNR <camille.mojar@state.co.us>

Good morning everyone:

I'm forwarding the following message from our DMG website.

Thank you

Eléni



COLORADO
Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety
Department of Natural Resources

P 303.866.3567 | F 303.832.8106
1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, CO 80203
dnr_dmg_web@state.co.us | <https://mining.state.co.us>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Robbin Clark** <clark.robbin@gmail.com>

Date: Sun, Sep 27, 2020 at 6:55 PM

Subject: Exploration in La Plata Canyon

To: <dnr_dmg_web@state.co.us>

I strongly object to Metallic Minerals Corp. doing exploratory drilling in La Plata canyon. Although it sounds like the exploration would not cause disruption of the area, if something is found and mining moves forward, the entire complexion of the area is going to change. Scars on the landscape, trucks in and out.. to name a few. This process should undergo a complete impact and environmental review. Seems like corners are being cut, and this is being green-lighted too fast.

Please reconsider approval for drilling.

Sincerely,
Robbin Clark



STATE OF
COLORADO

West - DNR, Lucas <lucas.west@state.co.us>

Fwd: Metallic Minerals' proposal for exploratory drilling

1 message

DRMS - DNR, DMGweb <dnr_dmg_web@state.co.us>

Mon, Sep 28, 2020 at 11:59 AM

To: Lucas West - DNR <lucas.west@state.co.us>, Travis Marshall - DNR <travis.marshall@state.co.us>

Cc: Russ Means - DNR <russ.means@state.co.us>, Camille Mojar - DNR <camille.mojar@state.co.us>

Hello everyone:

I'm forwarding the following message from our DMG website.

Thank you

Eléni



COLORADO
Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety
Department of Natural Resources

P 303.866.3567 | F 303.832.8106
1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, CO 80203
dnr_dmg_web@state.co.us | <https://mining.state.co.us>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Joel Kraus <joel.the.kraus@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Sep 28, 2020 at 11:53 AM

Subject: Metallic Minerals' proposal for exploratory drilling

To: <dmg_web@state.co.us>

Cc: tyler lawrence <durangoboats@hotmail.com>, tyler lawrence <flyfishpurg@hotmail.com>, tyler lawrence <tlaw44@hotmail.com>

Good Morning to Whom this May Concern,

Regarding their proposition for exploring minerals in La Plata Canyon, I still have concern for contamination into the earth during and after their mineral exploration. I also hope that their operation won't adversely impact public access in the surrounding forest or nearby public roads access. I trust that your agency complies with due process and transparency and therefore has the best interests in mind for the protection and preservation of our Mother Earth.

Thank you for accepting comments.

Happy Fall,

Joel Kraus
Dude/Bro/Brosef



STATE OF
COLORADO

West - DNR, Lucas <lucas.west@state.co.us>

Fwd: Metallic Minerals Exploratory Drilling in La Plata Canyon

1 message

DRMS - DNR, DMGweb <dnr_dmg_web@state.co.us>

Wed, Sep 30, 2020 at 2:55 PM

To: Lucas West - DNR <lucas.west@state.co.us>, Travis Marshall - DNR <travis.marshall@state.co.us>

Cc: Russ Means - DNR <russ.means@state.co.us>, Camille Mojar - DNR <camille.mojar@state.co.us>

Good afternoon everyone:

I am forwarding the following message from our DMG website.

Thank you

Eleni



COLORADO
Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety
Department of Natural Resources

P 303.866.3567 | F 303.832.8106

1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, CO 80203

dnr_dmg_web@state.co.us | <https://mining.state.co.us>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Eula Yancey <eulayancey@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, Sep 30, 2020 at 2:50 PM

Subject: Metallic Minerals Exploratory Drilling in La Plata Canyon

To: <dnr_dmg_web@state.co.us>

I am against Metallic Minerals exploratory drilling in La Plata Canyon.

The roads and trails have been disturbed this summer and destruction has occurred.

Fire danger is high in the area.

There is no extra water for the project.

Sincerely,

Eula Yancey

9/30/20

To: Travis Marshall

Re: Notice of Intent P-2020-011

From: William Karls

RECEIVED

SEP 30 2020

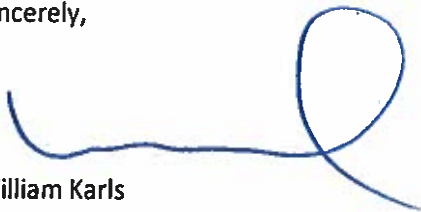
DIVISION OF RECLAMATION
MINING AND SAFETY

Mr. Marshall. I would like to officially respond and have recorded, my opposition to Metallic Minerals proposed exploration (and eventual mining) in La Plata Canyon. A copper mine in La Plata Canyon is completely incompatible with the public use of this recreational area. This corporation is ALREADY creating a nuisance issue in the area. Today (9/30/20) and yesterday they were flying a helicopter for hours in the residential area of Mayday shuttling (they said) people and equipment to the proposed site. They landed several times in the area and buzzed homes in the area. Thus, they are already causing problems and things haven't even started. Residents of Mayday fear we are facing (another) round of problems such as those encountered with the Mayday mining debacle of the past 5 years.

My home is located at 4465 CR 124, Hesperus CO. My mailing address is PO Box 91, Hesperus, CO. 81326

My phone # is 9707594421. Email: wkarls@gmail.com (wkarls@gmail.com)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a long horizontal stroke followed by a large loop and a final upward stroke.

William Karls

10/1/2020

To: Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety

From: Tom Miller

Re: P2020011 (Metallic Minerals NOI)

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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



La Plata County
Colorado

Board of County Commissioners

Clyde Church, Chair • Gwen Lachelt, Vice Chair • Julie Westendorff, Commissioner

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

Notice of Intent for Proposed Mine Exploration Drilling in La Plata River Watershed

October 1, 2020

Colorado Department of Natural Resources
Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety
Travis Marshall - Senior Environmental Protection Specialist
101 South 3rd, Suite 301
Grand Junction, CO 81501

RECEIVED

OCT 02 2020

**DIVISION OF RECLAMATION
MINING AND SAFETY**

Comments submitted via email (travis.marshall@state.co.us)

RE: Notice of Intent P-2020-011
La Plata Project, Gault Group, LLC. & Metallic Minerals US Inc.

Dear Mr. Marshall:

La Plata County appreciates the opportunity to provide a comment letter to the Colorado Department of Natural Resources Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety in reference to the Gault Group LLC., and Metallic Minerals US Inc. **Notice of Intent P-2020-011**, La Plata Project. The site is located approximately 200 feet above, and 300 feet northwest of the headwaters of Bedrock Creek and sits just inside of La Plata County below Gibbs Peak.

Based on the information provided in the Notice of Intent (NOI), our understanding is that the operator plans to utilize fluid drilling procedures with a closed loop system to extract approximately 8,900 feet of core in search of copper, all within existing disturbance. The operator plans one vertical hole and three directional holes kicking off from the same surface location. The operator will reclaim each hole before advancing to the next. The final result will be a finished level consistent with existing grade.

As proposed, La Plata County has the following areas of concern that we believe require further analysis prior to the approval of the exploratory drilling.

Proposed Location Information

The location has been described as 9 miles northwest of Hesperus, Colorado within La Plata County and approximately 300 feet northwest of and 200 feet above the headwaters of Bedrock Creek. The latitude and longitude provided on the NOI identify a location within Montezuma County

approximately 1.3 miles north of the described location. This discrepancy in location must be addressed and clarified prior to approval of the proposed exploration.

37.407, -108.089 – correct location information

Surface Water and Groundwater Impacts

Surface water may not be present at the location but the location is in a sensitive area where any form of precipitation that falls on the location will run off into important and sensitive habitats and essential water resources for wildlife, agricultural practices and citizens of La Plata County. If there is any surface contamination during or following exploratory activities, it is likely these contaminants will migrate into surface waters and impact down gradient users and resources. It is essential to see a summary of the proposed best management practices and plans that the operator intends to utilize to protect against and prevent such occurrences. The La Plata River and its associated watershed are a primary resource for both citizens in La Plata County as well as residents downstream in New Mexico. A portion of the water resources associated with the La Plata River are subject to interstate compacts, including the La Plata River and Colorado River interstate compacts. Agricultural practices are at extreme risk from these potential impacts to water as they are heavily dependent on this resource to operate. Protections for these resources are imperative as part of planning and operations and must be assessed and implemented as part of the exploratory operations.

Groundwater is unlikely to be intercepted given the elevation and location of the proposed exploration, however, it is possible that the operator will encounter a perched aquifer or a restrictive layer supporting a large volume of groundwater. Zones where groundwater are intercepted may create a permeable zone or cause a new subsurface flow and groundwater resources may be impacted. Impacts to groundwater may not be anticipated, but they must be planned for in the event of contact. Impacts to groundwater as part of exploratory actions are unacceptable.

While it is understood that the geology in this area differs from others within La Plata County, acid mining drainage is a known concern within La Plata County and the surrounding counties. With this type of exploratory activity, toxic and/or heavy metals are anticipated and should be accounted for. It is recommended that a plan for managing drainage and migration of toxic metals and other contaminants be included prior to approval and execution of this exploratory activity. This plan should include management both during and after exploratory activities in order to protect the surrounding environment and down gradient users.

Impacts to La Plata County Citizens

Potential factors that may directly impact La Plata County citizens include increased traffic and noise in a remote area. An additional impact to be considered is the impact to recreation and the quality of the user experience in this area. Hunters, hikers and localized residents may experience impacts during drilling operations. It is understood that due to the topographical isolation of the drilling site these factors are likely to go unobserved, however, if there are observed noise and traffic impacts, an avenue to provide complaint or an incident report should be made available.

Additionally, La Plata County has concerns about the potential impacts of heavy equipment and increased traffic on county road surfaces as well as safety concerns with the increased and different traffic patterns and types. Changing patterns and use may result in both damages to the county roads and may create safety concerns for the citizens utilizing the general area. La Plata County would


recommend a road maintenance plan in the event that there are damages observed from these activities as well as a traffic control and safety plan.

Many residents within the La Plata Canyon area have raised concerns about the future impacts of the proposed activities. As this project continues to move forward La Plata County requests that a resource be made available, or if one already exists that it be shared as part of future outreach, to provide clarification, project tracking, and progress to the citizens who may be directly impacted by the future of these actions or citizens who have an invested interest in the project.

It is recognized that the Gault Group and Metallic Minerals US have diligently worked with the Colorado Department of Natural Resources – Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety to prepare a NOI that identifies the proposed activity as well as areas of concern and protection that may be observed as or identified as impacts. La Plata County appreciates the work that has been put into this proposal thus far, but requests the above issues be rectified or provided prior to the approval and execution of any further exploratory activities.

Sincerely,

LA PLATA COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Clyde Church
Chair


Gwen Lachelt
Vice Chair


Julie Westendorf
Commissioner

RECEIVED

OCT 02 2020

**DIVISION OF RECLAMATION
MINING AND SAFETY**

Oct. 2, 2020

Travis Marshall
Senior Environmental Protection Specialist
Division of Reclamation, Mining & Safety
101 South 3rd Street, Suite 301
Grand Junction, Colorado 81501

Via email to travis.marshall@state.co.us, russ.means@state.co.us

Re: Objection to Notice of Intent P-2020-011, La Plata Project

Dear Mr. Marshall,

These comments are submitted on behalf of Information Network for Responsible Mining (INFORM), a Colorado nonprofit organization that addresses hardrock mining issues in Colorado, and San Juan Citizens Alliance (SJCA), a nonprofit organization that protects clean air, pure water, and healthy lands in the San Juan Basin.

Metallic Minerals submitted to the Division a Notice of Intent for the La Plata Project, P-2020-011, on Aug. 11, 2020. INFORM received a copy of the Notice on Sept. 18, 2020, and the Notice was made available to the public and published on the Division's website on Sept. 21, 2020. As such these comments are timely and relevant to the Division's review under the Mined Land Reclamation Act's public noticing requirements. We request and appreciate your acknowledgment of the timely filing of these comments pursuant to Rule 5.1.3.

Commenters have the following questions and concerns regarding the La Plata Project:

1. The prospector appears to have misidentified the location of the proposed activities. Rule 5.1.2(d) requires the prospector to provide a description and location of the affected lands in sufficient detail so that the public may identify the prospecting site and any impacted surface areas. In the Notice, the prospector has identified the location of the drill site at 37° 25'20.40" N, 108° 05'19.63 W, which is a site near the summit of Spiller Peak in Montezuma County. However, according to the included map Figure 2 in the Notice, the drilling location appears to be located closer to 37.407089°, -108.088708° [attached], east of Gibbs Peak in La Plata County.
2. The Notice does not adequately describe how waste materials from the drilling process will be managed and handled to prevent the release of contaminants into the environment, nor how core samples will be handled. The Notice indicates that mud pits will not be utilized. The Notice does not include enough information to determine whether the requirements of Rule 5.3.1(d) to prevent cuttings and residual fluids from entering drainageways can be met. The operator should provide a complete description of the

methods that will be used to prevent toxic or acid-forming materials from entering the environment, as required by Rule 3.1.5(5).

3. The prospector incorrectly asserts that no new disturbance will be created by the proposed activities and does not provide enough information to determine how much surface area will be utilized during operations, even if uses and impacts are temporary in nature as required by Rule 5.1.2(d)(iv). Weed control is not indicated but should be required regardless of pre-existing disturbances on the site.

4. The prospector indicates that approximately 8,900 feet will be drilled in four holes averaging 2,200 feet in depth and asserts that, "Interception of groundwater is not anticipated." The Division does not have adequate information from the Notice to determine whether the prevailing hydrological balance of the site will be protected and impacts minimized as required under the Act at C.R.S. §34-32-116(7)(g). No hydrological data or analysis has been submitted by the prospector, nor information about existing hydrological conditions in the vicinity of the drilling location and the connected watershed. The Notice entirely lacks any statements or evidence to describe the hydrology of the site in order to make an assertion that groundwater is not likely to be encountered. At such a depth for drilling at this location, it actually seems unlikely that groundwater wouldn't be encountered.

The prospector should be required to provide a thorough and detailed discussion of the hydrological conditions at the site before being allowed to drill 8,900 feet without a plan for how to address the interception of groundwater. If hydrological data cannot be provided to determine in advance that no groundwater disturbances will occur as a result of drilling, then the prospector should be required to conduct new analysis in order to answer these questions. If groundwater is present in the drilling zone, then Rule 3.1.7(7)(a) allows the Division to require a groundwater monitoring program on a case-by-case basis "where an adverse impact on groundwater quality may be reasonably expected." Rule 3.1.7(2)(c)(i-ii) requires that the Division impose conditions to protect existing groundwater quality from the adverse impacts of mining and exploration activities.

The La Plata Project site is historically known as the Allard Tunnel and is included in the Abandoned Mines Water Quality Study released in 2017 by the Division and CDPHE. Sampling data from that study taken from the Allard Tunnel indicate elevated levels of multiple constituents of concern to local waterways (attached).

5. Rule 3.1.6(1)(a) requires the operator to adhere to all Colorado water laws and regulations, but the Notice lacks any information about what water source will supply the drilling operation, where it will be stored, and how it will arrive at the drilling location, and whether the prospector has adequate water rights for water used during prospecting.

For these reasons, we request that the Division deny the Notice of Intent for the La Plata Project, Permit No. P-2020-011. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer Thurston
Executive Director
Information Network for Responsible Mining
P.O. Box 332
Paradox, CO 81429
(970) 859-7456
jennifer@informcolorado.org



Jimbo Buickerood
Lands and Forest Protection Program Manager
San Juan Citizens Alliance
1309 East Third Avenue #5
PO Box 2461
Durango, CO 81302
970.259.3583 Ext. 2
sanjuancitizens.org
jimbo@sanjuancitizens.org

Mine Name	SiteID	Mine Categor	Latitude	Longitude	Visit Date	Field Form	Photo	Stream Temp
Allard Tunnel DRMS-48		Red - Drainin	37.406813	-108.088909	09/19/2016	1AllardTunnel.	DRMS-48.pdf	9.6 degrees C

Stream Cond	Stream pH	Flow	SampleID	Aluminum (di	Aluminum (tc	Arsenic (dis	Arsenic (tot)	Cadmium (dis	Cadmium (tot)
717.2 uS/cm	7.04	11.9 gpm	2017920300C	300 ug/L	330 ug/L	12 ug/L	14 ug/L	<0.12 ug/L	<0.12 ug/L

Calcium (dis)	Calcium (tot)	Chromium (d)	Chromium (t)	Copper (dis)	Copper (tot)	Iron (dis)	Iron (tot)	Lead (dis)	Lead (tot)
98 mg/L	98 mg/L	<0.97 ug/L	<0.97 ug/L	<3.7 ug/L	<3.7 ug/L	2200 ug/L	3300 ug/L	<0.11 ug/L	<0.11 ug/L

Magnesium (Mg)		Manganese (Mn)		Molybdenum (Mo)		Nickel (Ni)		Potassium (K)	
15 mg/L	15 mg/L	810 ug/L	820 ug/L	<1.1 ug/L	<1.1 ug/L	3.8 ug/L	3.7 ug/L	4.7 mg/L	4.8 mg/L

Selenium (dis Selenium (tot Silver (dis)	Silver (tot)	Sodium (dis)	Sodium (tot)	Uranium (dis)	Uranium (tot)	Zinc (dis)	Zinc (tot)
<0.052 ug/L	<0.073 ug/L	9.3 mg/L	9.3 mg/L	2.4 ug/L	2.4 ug/L	130 ug/L	140 ug/L

Alkalinity (tot Hardness (tot Mercury (tot Sulfate		Comments
110 mg/L	310 mg/L	<0.039 ug/L 220 mg/L