

## United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT Royal Gorge Field Office 3028 East Main Street Cañon City, Colorado 81212

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Zephyr Gold USA Ltd. Attn: David Felderhof 1301-1959 Upper Water Street, Purdy's Wharf Tower 1 Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 3N2 Canada

Surface Management

Dear Mr. Felderhof,

In mid-2019, BLM engaged in discussions with Zephyr regarding a portion of the Windy Point trenches that were inadvertently dug adjacent to the Windy Point patented claim and slightly within the Grape Creek Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). When this issue was initially addressed, BLM directed Zephyr to either reclaim the trenches or file a Plan of Operations, in order to comply with 43 CFR 3809.

In June 2019, Zephyr filed a Plan of Operations to conduct exploration at the Windy Point trench location, as well as within the Lower Grape Creek Wilderness Study Area (WSA). This Plan of Operations would address the compliance issue identified above regarding exploration operations in a designated ACEC. However in February 2020, BLM received a modified proposal from Zephyr that proposed only conducting exploration operations within the WSA. Since a Plan of Operations would no longer be required for this revised action, Zephyr made the decision to complete reclamation on the portion of the Windy Point trenches that were inadvertently dug slightly within the Grape Creek Area of Critical Environmental Concern.

Based on recent discussions with Zephyr, it is BLM's understanding that the access into the Windy Point area, which partially crosses private property, is being disputed between the private landowner and Zephyr. Therefore, once this access issue is resolved, Zephyr will have 30-days to adequately complete reclamation of the disturbance within the ACEC. Zephyr will be required to:

- 1. Notify BLM upon resolution of the access issue,
- 2. Provide documentation of the reclamation effort upon completion, and
- 3. Accompany BLM on an inspection of the reclaimed area.

Based on the modified proposal, it is BLM's understanding that the disturbance will be reclaimed as follows:

- 1. The main heavy equipment to be used is a CAT 324DL excavator.
- 2. The excavator will harvest the excavated material from the trench side and replace it in the trench.
- 3. The material will be compacted with the excavator bucket in approximately two-foot lifts.
- 4. The native plant growth material (which is present in the bottom layers of excavated material) will be placed on the backfill material, compacted and roughened with the excavator bucket.
- 5. Straw will be applied by hand and crimped with the excavator bucket during final seed bed preparation. Seed will be applied by broadcasting. The seed mix will consist of blue gramma, Indian rice grass, sand drop seed, little bluestem, side oats gramma, bottlebrush squirrel-tail, and needle and thread.

If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Carter at 719-269-8551.

Sincerely,

KEITH BERGER Date: 2020.08.20 13:39:16 -06'00'

Keith E. Berger Field Manager Royal Gorge Field Office

cc: Tim Cazier, CDRMS



Cazier - DNR, Tim <tim.cazier@state.co.us>

**Trench Reclamation Letter** 

1 message

Carter, Stephanie S <sscarter@blm.gov> Thu, Aug 20, 2020 at 1:47 PM To: Angela Bellantoni <angela@envalternatives.com>, David Felderhof <david@zephyrminerals.com>, Will Felderhof <will@votixcorp.com>, Loren Komperdo <l.komperdo@shaw.ca> Cc: "tim.cazier" <tim.cazier@state.co.us>

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding this letter. I am just trying to better quantify a timeframe for reclamation of the Windy Point trenches. Thanks!

Please reply that you received this letter.

Thanks,

Stephanie Carter, P.G.

Geologist

## Field Office Program Lead, Mining Law & Mineral Materials

U.S. Dep't of the Interior Region 7 - Upper Colorado Basin

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