Clear Creek Ranger District

101 Highway 103 P.O. Box 3307 Idaho Springs, CO 80452 303-567-3000 Fax: 303-567-3021

 File Code:
 2810

 Date:
 January 12, 2021

Jeff Carter SSG Mining, Inc. 15954 Jackson Ck Pkwy B281 Monument, CO 80132

Dear Mr. Carter:

This letter is to acknowledge receipt of your Lombard #3 Mine Plan of Operations (POO) in accordance with the Forest Service (FS) mining regulations at 36 CFR 228.5(a). The POO is dated December 11, 2020 and was received on January 5, 2021 by the Clear Creek Ranger District, Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests (ARNF). The Lombard #3 Mine POO outlines your intent to conduct exploration work on the Lombard #3 claim located in the Alice-Yankee Hill Mining District, T. 3 S., R. 74 W. Section 1, 6th P.M. The POO described activities including:

- Use of existing roads (Cumberland Gulch Road, FSR 271.1)
- Excavation to open adit
- Installation of new gate at adit opening
- Underground operations include removal of material for testing and sampling

Based on my initial review of your POO, additional information will be required in accordance with 36 CFR 228.4(c) in addition to requiring an environmental analysis. I am requesting the following additional information. Please note that the Section and Initial Letter below correlate to the appropriate section on the POO form FS-2800-05 that you submitted.

Section I:

B: Please confirm that you are only at the Exploration stage at this time.

D: It will not be feasible to start this spring. A site visit with staff will be required, with subsequent environmental and cultural reviews. Please select a reasonable date.

Section IV:

B: Please provide better map(s) showing all features and proposed operations (i.e. location of new adit, if there are trees to be cut, where proposing to locate waste rock to open adit, equipment staging, location of new gate, etc.). Please note the GPS coordinate provided in the DRMS application does not correspond with map mine location. Need updated coordinate of adit opening.

C: Where will sampling and testing of materials take place, on or off site?

E: Please provide a design of gate closure, how will it mitigate for wildlife, how will it be secured to provide for public safety?

Section V:

B: Do you know if there is water in the adit? How will you ensure inadvertent water drainage from adit will not reach the stream or riparian area?



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- C: How much waste rock and tailings are expected to open the adit?
- H: How do you propose to close the adits?
- H: Stabilization of waste rock piles?

As part of the FS's continued review, we will assess your proposed activities to ensure they are authorized by law, reasonable and follow logical progression, and are designed to minimize adverse environmental impacts. Nicole Malandri, Lands and Mineral Staff, will be in contact with you to set up a field visit this spring to discuss your POO in detail. This review will assist in my determination of whether changes to the POO, or additional information is needed.

Once the POO is determined to meet the requirements of the 36 CFR Subpart A regulations, it will be included into the Forest's program of work. An interdisciplinary (ID) team will be assigned to analyze and disclose the environmental impacts from the proposed activity, as required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Following completion of the NEPA analysis, you will be required to accept any stipulations the Forest deems necessary to minimize adverse impacts, in addition to posting an acceptable reclamation bond in accordance with 36 CFR 228.13.

If you have any questions or need clarification regarding the above information, please contact Nicole Malandri, Lands and Mineral Staff, by phone at 303-567-3011, and/or by email at <u>nicole.malandri@usda.gov</u>.

Sincerely,

SCOTT E. HAAS District Ranger

cc: Peter Hays, Colorado DRMS; Cyndie Ruschmyer, Clear Creek County