



File Code: 2800
Date: June 7, 2021

Tyler Miller
Sales Executive
331 S. Rio Grande Street
Suite #201
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

CERTIFIED MAIL RECEIPT REQUESTED: 7013 1090 0001 8247 9567

Dear Mr. Miller

This letter is to acknowledge receipt of your Midwest Plan of Operations (POO) and additional information which was requested in accordance with the Forest Service (FS) mining regulations at 36 CFR 228.5(c). The POO and was received on April 8th, 2021 and the additional information was received on May 24, 2021. In accordance with Forest Service Mineral Regulations, located at 36 CFR 228.5;

The authorized officer shall, within thirty (30) days of such receipt, analyze the proposal, considering the economics of the operation along with the other factors in determining the reasonableness of the requirements for surface resource protection, and;

(4) Notify the operator that the plan is being reviewed, but that more time, not to exceed an additional sixty (60) days, is necessary to complete such review, setting forth the reasons why additional time is needed: Provided, however, That days during which the area of operations is inaccessible for inspection shall not be included when computing the sixty (60) day period; or

(5) Notify the operator that the plan cannot be approved until a final environmental statement has been prepared and filed with the Council on Environmental Quality as provided in §228.4(f).

The POO outlines your intent to conduct exploratory activities on the Divide Ranger District near Creede which were described in the Forest's letter from March 30th, 2021.

Based on my review of your POO and additional project information I now have everything required for the Forest to begin its environmental analysis process. At this time the Forest is also notifying you that additional time to complete this review is required.

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. After the Forest has completed the environmental review of your POO, it will be signed completed or I will provide you in writing a list of additional items necessary for you to submit to consider your plan complete.

Following completion of the NEPA analysis and prior to POO approval, you will either need to



accept any mitigation measures the Forest deems necessary to minimize adverse impacts, in addition to posting an acceptable reclamation bond in accordance with 36 CFR 228.13, or you will have an opportunity to appeal the decision in accordance with 36 CFR 214. If you have any questions or need clarification regarding the above information, please contact Patrick Moran, by phone at 719-852-6286, and/or by email at Patrick.J.Moran@usda.gov

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'MA Williamson', with a stylized, cursive script.

MARTHA A. WILLIAMSON
District Ranger

cc: Lucas West