



LYNN PADGETT

JAKE NIECE

BEN TISDEL

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

541 4th Street • P.O. Box C • Ouray, Colorado 81427 • 970-325-7320 • FAX: 970-325-0452

January 11, 2022

Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining & Safety

1313 Sherman Street, Rm 215

Denver, CO 80203

Submitted via online comment tool: https://dnrlaserfiche.state.co.us/Forms/DRMS_Comment

RE: Amendment No. 2 to DRMS 112(d) Mining Permit # M2012-032

Dear Responsible Officials,

The Ouray County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) is aware of Ouray Silver Mines (OSMI) application to amend its Regular (112d) Designated Mining Operation Permit. We understand the proposed Amendment No. 2 to DRMS 112(d) Mining Permit # M2012-032 would modify the existing Revenue-Virginus Mine permit to expand the boundary of the affected land at OSMI's vent raise and secondary escape way at the Monongahela Shaft (Hubb Reed) located in Governor Basin, Ouray County, CO. This refuge chamber and incorporates prior technical revisions approved by the Mined Land Reclamation Board and Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (DRMS) since the last permit amendment in 2015.

Amendment 2 will remedy a situation of a disturbance outside of the permit boundary caused when a prior operator constructed a secondary escape way. This amendment satisfies a requirement from a settlement between OSMI and DRMS. The net change in the affected lands area within the OSMI permit is 1.16 acres.

We understand that Amendment No. 2 (see Exhibit G-1B of the OSMI Amendment No. 2 Application) will not affect the planned Governor Basin Time Critical Removal Action Project in Governor Basin, which is scheduled for construction in 2022 just outside of the amended affected lands permit boundary. The Governor Basin Time Critical Removal Action Project has Ouray County's enthusiastic support. This project will reclaim legacy abandoned mine lands and acidic waste dumps and tailings related to the legacy Terrible and Virginus Mines, which are still mobilizing arsenic, cadmium, lead, and zinc into Governor Creek, a tributary of Sneffels Creek and Uncompahgre River, and which are unrelated to OSMI. This collaborative project will restore alpine, riparian, and aquatic habitat, and improve water quality in Governor, Sneffels and Canyon creeks, headwaters to the Uncompahgre River.

The BOCC appreciates OSMI's demonstrated commitment to proactive communication with public and private entities and the strong community partnerships forged by OSMI.

The Governor Basin Time Critical Removal Action Project is an example of the excellent environmental stewardship and partnership provided by OSMI collaboratively with our local stakeholders, Trout Unlimited (TU), Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership (UWP), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests (GMUG) and Ouray Ranger District. **The BOCC fully supports the request for approval of Amendment No. 2 to DRMS 112(d) Mining Permit # M2012-032.**

Sincerely,

Board of County Commissioners
Ouray, Colorado



Lynn M. Padgett, Chair



Jake Niece, Vice-Chair



Ben Tisdell, Commissioner

Cc: Poppy Staub, pstaub@ouraysilvermines.com;
Todd Jesse, tjesse@ouraysilvermines.com;
Buck Andrews, bandrews@ouraysilvermines.com;
Mike Lee, mlee@ouraysilvermines.com;
Tanner Banks, tanner.banks@tu.org;
Tanya Ishikawa, tanya@uncompahgrewatershed.org;
Chad Stewart, chad.stewart@usda.gov