



COLORADO

State Land Board

January 19, 2022

Eric Scott
Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (DRMS)
1313 Sherman Street
Denver CO 80203

RE: Long Term Property Stewardship Benefits of Approval of Amendment to M-1976-007UG to State Land Board Property

Dear Mr Scott:

The Colorado State Board of Land Commissioners (Land Board) is the landowner of the property associated with the Golden Mine in Jefferson County (west half of the west half of Section 16, township 3 south range 70 west). The Land Board leases this property to Denver Brick for clay mining under lease number SM-102414 (aka. CY-1530). Denver Brick has applied to DRMS for an expansion of permit M-1976-007UG on this property. Land Board Staff support the approval of this permit expansion because it will improve the Land Board's long-term stewardship goals on the property – particularly the re-mining and eventual reclamation of pre-regulation mine workings.

The Land Board is a State of Colorado Agency which holds approximately 3 million surface acres and 4 million mineral acres in Trust for the benefit of the State of Colorado's public institutions, primarily the K-12 public school system. The Board has a dual mission to earn revenue for public schools and serve as intergenerational stewards of trust land and mineral estate. The Board leases these properties to private entities for many purposes, including mining, and is entrusted with the perpetual stewardship of real properties.

The State Land Board has records indicating that this property has been continuously mined for clay from at least 1941. Historic sources suggest that mining on this property goes as far back as the late 1800s. The historic mining activity left large openings and partially collapsed mine workings which present a safety hazard and limit future non-mining uses on this property.

Land Board Staff supports the expansion of mining on this property because Denver Brick's proposed plans include the re-mining and subsequent reclamation of many of these historic workings. The end result of this work would be a more stable, safer landscape similar to that of the reclaimed Flintlock Mine on the northern half of the same property. In the absence of a company like Denver Brick re-mining these areas, reclamation of these historic workings would likely be prohibitively expensive – leaving these pre-regulation mine workings both dangerous and unavailable for future productive uses.



Land Board Staff view these long-term reclamation goals as the primary reason for supporting this permit expansion. The Land Board would also receive revenue from the mining activity in the form of rent and royalties. However, Land Board Staff project that the revenue benefits would be relatively small compared to the improvements resulting from eventual reclamation of the historic mine workings.

The Land Board respectfully requests that DRMS and the Mine Lands Reclamation Board consider the long term property stewardship benefits of the re-mining and eventual reclamation of these historic workings when considering Denver Brick's proposed permit expansion.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Teschner

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'B. Teschner', written over a light gray rectangular background.

Solid Minerals Manager

Attachments: Approximate Locations of Current, Historic, and Reclaimed Mining Workings on State Land Board Property W2W2 Section 16, Township 3S 70W

CC: Christal Koranda: Minerals Director, Colorado State Board of Land Commissioners



Approximate Locations of Current, Historic, and Reclaimed Mining Workings on State Land Board Property W2W2 Section 16, Township 3S 70W

