

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS,
SAN MIGUEL COUNTY, COLORADO,
APPROVING A MINING SPECIAL USE PERMIT FOR THOR MINING PLC FOR
MINERAL EXPLORATION ON BLM LAND IN THE WEST END (WE) ZONE
DISTRICT**

Resolution 2022-012

WHEREAS, Helen Thomas of Geosyntec, on behalf of Thor Mining PLC and Standard Minerals, Inc., 58 Galway Avenue, Marlestone, SA, 5035, Australia, ("Applicant"), has submitted an application seeking a Mining Special Use Permit for the exploration of Uranium on BLM land in the northwest part of San Miguel County, Colorado ("Property"), zoned West End (WE) located off CR U29 W just south of the Montrose County line;

WHEREAS, a West End Zone District Mining Special Use Permit (SUP) requires a Two-step Planning Commission and Board of County Commissioner Review, per Land Use Code (LUC) Section 5-320 F. XVII, pursuant to the standards contained in Sections 2-1 to 2-35 Land Use Policies; and to applicable standards in LUC Section 5-4, Areas and Activities of Local and State interest;"1041" Environmental Hazard Review, LUC Section 5-10, Special Uses; LUC Section 5-11, Conditional Uses on Federal Lands; and LUC Section 5-16, Mining;

WHEREAS, the application was referred to the County Administrator, County Attorney, County Road and Bridge, County Natural Resources and Special Projects, County Parks and Open Space, County Vegetation Control, County Sheriff, Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment, Egnar-Slickrock Fire Protection District, Colorado Department of Transportation, Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, US Bureau of Land Management, Montrose County, and Colorado State Parks & Wildlife for review and comment;

WHEREAS, at its regular meeting held on Thursday, February 10, 2022 the County Planning Commission (CPC) recommended approval to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) of a Mining Special Use Permit (SUP) to Thor Mining PLC for the exploration of uranium on BLM land in the northwest part of San Miguel County, Colorado ("Property"), zoned West End (WE) as presented, based on the finding that the proposed use complies with the following Land Use Policies in LUC Section 2-8, Natural and Man-Made Hazard and Resource Area; LUC Section 2-11, Erosion; LUC Section 2-34, Revegetation with Native Species; LUC Section 2-35, Mining and Mineral Processing Operations, and complies with the Land Use Code review standards in Section 5-407 Wildlife Habitat Areas; Section 5-10, Special Uses; Section 5-11, Conditional Uses on Federal Lands; and Section 5-16, Mining, subject to certain conditions, by a vote of 3-1;

WHEREAS, the CPC's recommendations are set forth in the minutes from the February 10, 2022 CPC meeting;

WHEREAS, the Applicant sent Notice of the application and the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) Public Hearing to be held on March 16, 2022, to all property owners within 1,500 feet of the subject parcel per LUC Section 5-1605. A sign was placed near the property at the intersection

of CR U29 W and SH 145 to provide notice concerning this application and the BOCC Public Hearing to be held on-line, Wednesday, March 16, 2022;

WHEREAS, a legal notice for the Wednesday, March 16, 2022 Board of County Commissioners Public Hearing was published in the Norwood Post and Telluride Daily Planet on February 23, 2022;

WHEREAS, a list of the items included in the Public Hearing Record is attached to this resolution as Exhibit "A";

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of San Miguel County, Colorado, considered this application, along with relevant evidence and testimony, at a public hearing held on-line on Wednesday, March 16, 2022.

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of San Miguel County, Colorado, continued the public hearing from Wednesday, March 16, 2022 to Wednesday, March 30, 2022.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of San Miguel County, Colorado, approves a Special Use Permit (SUP) for Standard Minerals Inc. c/o Thor Mining PLC for the proposed Mining Exploration on mining claims at Groundhog Mine and Section 23 on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) public lands off County Road U29 W in San Miguel County, Colorado, and adopt the Resolution, based on the finding that the application is consistent with the County Master Plan, and with the Land Use Policies in LUC Section 2-8, Natural and Man-Made Hazard and Resource Area; LUC Section 2-11, Erosion; LUC Section 2-34, Revegetation with Native Species; LUC Section 2-35, Mining and Mineral Processing Operations, and complies with the Land Use Code review standards in Section 5-407 Wildlife Habitat Areas; Section 5-10, Special Uses; Section 5-11, Conditional Uses on Federal Lands; and Section 5-16, Mining; and Section 5-320 K, Review Standards for WE Zone District Special Uses, subject to the following specific terms and conditions:

General Conditions:

1. The Special Use Permit is issued to the Applicant, Standard Minerals Inc. c/o Thor Mining PLC, and does not run with the Land.
2. No future mining activity at the project site by Standard Minerals Inc., its lessees, or the property owners or its lessees is authorized by this approval.
3. Contact the Planning Department, Road and Bridge Department, County Vegetation Management, and County Sheriff's Office prior to mobilization of and the start of drilling activities.
4. Provide a list of onsite contacts for Standard Minerals, Inc. and the drilling project contractor.
5. Provide for review of the construction schedule by the Colorado Parks and Wildlife for any of seasonal timing limitations that may be necessary for the protection of wildlife. Findings shall be reported to County Planning at least two (2) weeks prior to mobilization.
6. The revegetation and weed control along the county road right-of-way (ROW) shall be

- reviewed by the County Vegetation Manager to assure reclamation of these areas.
7. The County Vegetation Manager shall be afforded the opportunity to provide education and orientation regarding identification of noxious weeds and methods of limiting spread to the operator prior to commencement of work.
 8. This Special Use Permit conditional approval is subject to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Colorado Division of Reclamation and Mining and Safety (CDRMS) approving this drilling program and issuing the required permits. Provide copies of these permits to County Planning.
 9. The project drilling program and reclamation plan shall be consistent with and comply with the applicable provisions as approved by the County, unless specifically modified in the BLM and CDRMS approval action.
 10. Comply with all terms and conditions of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Stormwater Discharge Permit, if required.
 11. Provide monthly progress reports to County Planning.
 12. The permit shall be valid for one (1) year, with review of the BLM and DRMS permits by staff prior to commencement, and with annual reviews by the CPC and BOCC if needed.
 13. Exploration activities shall be limited to May 15 to December 1 of 2022.
 14. The clearing of pinion-juniper and sagebrush shall be minimized to the greatest extent possible.
 15. Provide a grading and drainage plan that includes a higher quality of sediment fencing and control.
 16. The County shall be informed of any cultural resources discovered in the course of work. Pads and road disturbance should avoid any areas with cultural resources. All appropriate mitigation measures shall be taken to protect cultural resources.
 17. The revegetation plan shall include soil restoration and best practices. The CPW (when provided) recommendation shall be followed.
 18. Provide documentation regarding the water source(s) for the project.
 19. Identify any hazardous materials that will be used in the process, and describe how those materials will be stored and transported.
 20. All written representations of the applicant, in the original submittal and all supplements, are deemed to be conditions of approval except to the extent modified by this approval.
 21. A voluntary \$50,000 bond shall be accepted by the County for reclamation and restoration work if needed.

DONE AND APPROVED by the Board of County Commissioners of San Miguel County, Colorado, on March 30, 2022.

**SAN MIGUEL COUNTY, COLORADO
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

DocuSigned by:
By: Kris Holstrom
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Kris Holstrom, Chair

Vote:	Hilary Cooper	<u>Aye</u>	Nay	Abstain	Absent
	Kris Holstrom	<u>Aye</u>	Nay	Abstain	Absent
	Lance Waring	<u>Aye</u>	Nay	Abstain	Absent

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:
By: Carmen Warfield
BE2AF0C39C63408...
Carmen Warfield, Chief Deputy Clerk



EXHIBIT "A" Public Hearing Record
EXHIBIT "B" Site Plan

EXHIBIT "A"

Public Hearing Record

Board of County Commissioners

Application: Standard Minerals, Inc. c/o Thor Mining LLC – West End (WE) Zone District,
Conditional Uses on Federal Lands, Mining Special Use Permit

Date: March 30, 2022

1. San Miguel County Land Use Code (Adopted 11/30/90) with all amendments to date (By Reference Only).
2. San Miguel County Comprehensive Development Plan (Adopted 8/3/78) with all amendments to date (By Reference Only).
3. **Memorandum to the Board of County Commissioners from Troy Hangen, Senior Planner dated March 30, 2022**
4. Memorandum to the Board of County Commissioners from Troy Hangen, Senior Planner dated March 16, 2022.
5. Draft Board of County Commissioners Resolution #2022-012
6. Draft San Miguel County Planning Commission February 10, 2022 Meeting Minutes.
7. Memorandum to the San Miguel County Planning Commission from Troy Hangen, Senior Planner dated February 10, 2022.
8. Application submitted by Helen Thomas, Geosyntec Consultants, dated December 8, 2021.
9. Applicant's Certifications of Compliance with the public noticing requirements of the San Miguel County Land Use Code Section 3-9 dated February 22, 2022.
10. Public Hearing Notice Published in the Norwood Post and Telluride Daily Planet February 23, 2022.
11. **Dust Control Plan submitted from Helen Thomas, Geosyntec Consultants, March 24, 2022**

AGENCY COMMENTS

12. Email from Ryan Righetti, County Road Director to Troy Hangen, Senior Planner received January 13, 2022.

13. Email from Tony Bonacquista, Nucla District Manager for Colorado Parks and Wildlife to Troy Hangen, Senior Planner received January 27, 2022.
14. Email from Julie Kolb, SMC Vegetation Control Manager to Troy Hangen, Senior Planner received January 31, 2022.
15. **Letter from Connie Clementson, Field Manager from BLM to Steve Turner, State Historic Preservation Officer, dated June 6, 2021.**

PUBLIC COMMENTS

16. Email from Mason Osgood, Executive Director of the Sheep Mountain Alliance, and Jennifer Thurston, Executive Director of the Information Network for Responsible Mining, to Troy Hangen, Senior Planner dated February 1, 2022.
17. Letter from Mason Osgood, Executive Director of the Sheep Mountain Alliance, and Jennifer Thurston, Executive Director of the Information Network for Responsible Mining, to Troy Hangen, Senior Planner dated March 14, 2022
18. **Email from Douglas Tooley to Carmen Warfield, Chief Deputy Clerk – BOCC, dated March 16, 2022**

EXHIBIT "B" Site Plan

