

To the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety (DRMS):

We are respectfully submitting our comments and recommendations concerning the Gold Hill Mill Conversion project, and thank you for giving us this opportunity to do so.

In talking with neighbors and residents, and based on the emails received in response to soliciting comments and recommendations, we would say the overall consensus is that residents are not in favor of the project. What follows is a list of concerns, followed by recommendations from Canyon residents.

1) We want a vigorous, dependable and accurate monitoring system to gauge the volume of water diverted from Left Hand Creek to the mill. Residents want a monitoring system that will ensure that the mill operators are not siphoning off more than the allotted 20 shares of water per year.

2) In order to ensure that water quality in Left Hand Creek is not impacted by any aspect of the mill's operation, residents want the water quality to be tested once/month at three locations: at the east side of the bridge at the bottom of Lick Skillet, the Glendale bridge, and 100' west of the Left Hand/Jamestown bridge before the confluence of Left Hand and James Creeks. Regular testing will ensure Creek water has not been contaminated in a non-visual manner. We want test results emailed to each of us as soon as results are in so we may test our wells for contamination.

3) If a resident observes obvious contamination, i.e. unnatural coloration of the Creek water or a fish die off, or if we witness a major drop in water level in either the Creek or our wells, we want a list of agencies and individuals we can immediately contact.

4) Low water levels in the creek may result in decreased pools for fish populations and adversely affect flora and fauna we treasure. Also, in the event of a fire in the Canyon, fire trucks draw water from the Creek and/or from three dry hydrants situated in the Creek for combatting fires. A low-flowing Creek could create a dangerous situation for fire mitigation. Another concern is that changes in the water table could impact local wells.

5) We do not want flow returned to the Creek. However, if it is, it must be tested, treated and neutralized, with results of those tests sent via em to residents.

6) A major concern is the 20 year time period given uncertainty in the impacts of climate change on the Left Hand creek water flow/volume.

Recommendations:

1. Ensure an automatically-imposed operation shutdown in the event of a problem, and for the DRMS to communicate to residents how they are ensuring compliance.
2. Residents need to be informed about how they will be communicated with by the DRMS.
3. Installation of an automatic water meter on the pump at the bottom of Lick Skillet or in the pump house, to monitor the amount of water diverted from the Creek. If not a water meter, then some type of automatic system to keep track of the volume of water being diverted.
4. As Dr. Joe Ryan pointed out at the Watershed Center's board meeting of Feb 21, there are no monitored wells between the tailings pond and Gold Hill wells. We recommend that for the protection of Gold Hill residents, their wells be tested as often as requested or on a regular schedule, e.g. monthly.
5. Provide creek level modeling to determine Creek water level and how diversion may affect the water table in the Canyon.
6. If the permit is approved, residents will be given a tour of the mill operation, perhaps in conjunction with a site tour by Boulder County Land Use and Boulder County Health Department and other public agencies.
7. An annual meeting with DRMS, the Watershed board and residents, with the purpose of sharing data on creek levels and water quality, and for residents to give feedback to the DRMS.
8. The old white PVC pipe from 18 years ago should be disposed of before new pipe is installed, and the pump and pipe must be installed to be resilient to future flooding.

The next page contains a list of Left Hand Canyon residents who contributed to these comments and who endorse this letter.

Sincerely,

Pam Leland
8350 Left Hand Canyon
Jamestown, CO 80455

Sue Schauffler
7943 Left Hand Canyon
Jamestown, CO 80455

The Following Residents of Left Hand Canyon, Jamestown, CO 80455
support this letter of comment and recommendation
for the Gold Hill Mill Conversion

Virginia and Thomas Carr
10797 Left Hand Canyon

Pam Leland
8350 Left Hand Canyon

Kristin Centanni and Rae Norwood
7817 Left Hand Canyon

Rich Lopez and Jeannie DeMarinis
8034 Left Hand Canyon

John Daspit
8600 Left Hand Canyon

Becky Martinek
8973 Left Hand Canyon

Betty Dowe
6232 Left Hand Canyon

Stacie and Josh McCally
8493 Left Hand Canyon

Nikki Dugas and Matthew Arnold
7791 Left Hand Canyon

Robert Peoples and Hyung Joo Kim-Peoples
8567 Left Hand Canyon

Derek Pine
9757 Left Hand Canyon

Bob and Betty Young
7871 Left Hand Canyon

Jim Fields
7933 Left Hand Canyon

Eric and Linda Schemmerling
8121 Left Hand Canyon

Amy Fortunado and Kort McCumber
4891 Lick Skillet Road

Jane and Chuck Vielehr
9783 Left Hand Canyon

Nick Guild and Rebecca Baldini
7736 Left Hand Canyon

Sara Willot
8617 Left Hand Canyon

Russell Heffley and Tanya Shimer
8621 Left Hand Canyon

Sue Schaffler and Kay Krewson
7943 Left Hand Canyon

James Hull
Boulder county parcel #146105000037 in Left Hand Canyon

Bill Johnson and Renee Labourdette
8104 Left Hand Canyon