



FOUR MILE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

February 24th 2023

Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (DRMS).

To whom it may concern,

The Four Mile Fire Protection District (FMFPD). Has some comments and concerns regarding the Steen mine and mill operations. But first a general description of FMFPD. We are a community based fire department situated South of Gold Hill and our community runs thru out the drainages of both Four Mile creek and Gold Run creek. Both drainages flow into Boulder Creek. Both serve as water sources for the residents here but also in the Pine Brook Water District.

Mining legacy runs deep up here. From the mining claims being now residents. Many steep and poorly laid out roads for access. Arsenic and other heavy metals from both mining and milling are still a concern today. The 2013 flood unearthed a few hazmat sites that had to be mitigated. This fell largely on the FMFPD and its Watershed office. While these legacies are both good and bad. We are weary of new activity above us and at to some degree our head waters.

Just a few years back when Mr. Steen had new investors. I was asked by the Gold Hill Fire Chief to visit the mill and meet the new folks. The hope was to develop a working relationship and determine the real nature of activity being proposed. Mr. Steen has a checkered past when it comes to this operation. I was hopeful that the investors were sincere in the concerns I raised. They promised to work with us (the two fire departments). I was quickly disappointed when the road leading into Gold Hill was collapsing. The cause was Mr. Steen installing a water line for pumping from Lefthand to the mill. The response to inquiry's went unanswered. It became necessary to involve the county road dept. to get any action from the mill owner. This is but one of many instances of Mr. Steen doing as he wishes with no regard for those who live in the effected area.

The prior attempt to reprocesses the old mine tailings failed. Why? Because there are not enough precious metals to pay for the milling. Let alone the hauling and reclamation of the tailing areas. So, the residents were left with the closed mill and broken promises. To be financially viable the mill would need to bring in higher paying material. Any hauling would require heavy trucks on largely residential roads. Unpaved at that. Muddy ruts in the wet season, Dust in the dry season. Stuck trucks blocking the road in the winter season. Is this really the best or even good location for a heavy metals mill?

The FMFPD is first and foremost concerned with the contamination of our water and soil. The Cash mine is deep and has many levels. Any mill caused contamination will find its way into the mines, fissures, and ground water.

Sincerely,

Bret Gibson

Four Mile Fire Chief