



August 9, 2023
Reference Number P2023-012

Mr. Dustin Czapla
Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety
1313 Sherman St., Rm. 215
Denver, CO 80203

Subject: Information Request for NOI P2023-012

Dear Mr. Czapla:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide additional information for the Notice of Intent (NOI) submitted by Gault Group, LLC (GGL), on behalf of Metallic Minerals dated June, 6, 2023. The following information addresses questions raised by your office in the letter dated August 8, 2023. Questions are included here in *italics*. GGL's responses are presented in standard font.

1. Please provide latitude/longitude coordinates for each of the drill locations.

CUH-01	-108.0738255	37.40099497
CUH-02	-108.0731264	37.3996757
CUH-03	-108.0747716	37.39955552

2. Please provide the approximate direction that each of the boreholes will be drilled.

	Azimuth	Dip
CUH-01a	345	-60
-01b	105	-60
-01c	225	-60
CUH-02a	345	-60
-02b	225	-60
-02c	105	-60
CUH-03a	345	-60

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3. Please see the attached letter of objection from Thomas Miller. Mr. Miller's well, DWR Permit #269788, is approximately located at 37.396970, -108.067714. Please inform the Division of protective measures to be taken by the Prospector in order to ensure disturbances to the prevailing hydrologic balance of the affected land and of the surrounding area and to the quantity or quality of water in surface and groundwater systems will be minimized pursuant to Rule 3.1.6.

Traditional aquifers typically require porous rock to host groundwater. Sedimentary rocks, like sandstones and limestones that are common in the Southwestern United States, are common hosts to groundwater. The rocks to be intersected by the proposed drilling in the La Plata Mountains are not sedimentary but are intrusive rocks (diorites and syenites) that are typically dense or "tight", with interlocking mineral grains that have no porosity. In areas, like around Copper Hill, where intrusive rocks are the dominant rock type, groundwater is typically fracture-controlled. Open fractures that could potentially contain water on the property are typically narrow and widely spaced and under existing drought conditions are not currently being fed by active runoff. However, if an unanticipated small fracture hosting water is encountered, the saturated zone will be sealed with a concrete plug, and the "plug" drilled through with a smaller diameter bit. When completed, any encountered zones will have been contained through cementing of the interval by approved and mandated hole plugging methods.

Thank you again for the opportunity to respond. Please feel free to contact me with any comments or further questions regarding the information provided.

Regards,

GAULT GROUP, LLC

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stephen E. Glass".

Stephen E. Glass, President