



Board of County Commissioners
Marsha Porter-Norton, Chair
Matt Salka, Vice Chair
Clyde Church, Commissioner

ACCOUNTABILITY · INTEGRITY · RESPECT

1101 East 2nd Ave.
Durango, CO 81301
970.382.6210

DRMS Recd: September 26, 2023

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Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety
Attn: Dustin Czapla
1313 Sherman Street, Room 215
Denver, Colorado 80203

RE: Notice of Intent from Metallic Minerals P-2023-012

Dear Mr. Czapla,

La Plata County appreciates this opportunity to submit comments for the prospecting operation proposed by Metallic Minerals in the Notice of Intent (NOI) dated June 14, 2023. The proposed work includes prospecting operations on unpatented claims on US Forest Service lands within La Plata County. The proposed drilling is located off Bedrock Creek Trail and Madden Creek Access Trail, located north of CR124 in La Plata Canyon, on FS 793 BEDROCK CREEK OHV SPUR.

Metallic Minerals is proposing to drill three holes for mineral exploration. This project proposes to drill for copper and remove 7,000 feet of core of extracted material using fluid drilling. These activities would drill 984 feet in depth and 3.83 inches in diameter. Total disturbed area is 2,400 square feet or ½ acre.

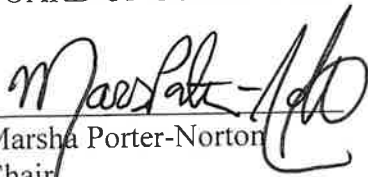
Metallic Minerals noticed La Plata County's former Community Development Director (CDD) instead of the Board of County Commissioners. Due to the error in the original notice, Metallic Minerals re-sent out the NOIS, to which the County is now providing comments on.

The La Plata County Land Use Code (LUC) was adopted for the purpose of preserving and improving the public health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens and businesses of the county (LUC 62-3). At this time, staff does not have sufficient information regarding the proposed exploratory drilling activity for appropriately assessing any requirements deemed necessary for adherence to the LUC. For that consideration, and per LUC 73-10 requiring a major land use permit for gravel, sand, topsoil and mineral extraction the Community Development Department is notifying the applicant, under separate letter, of the requirement to participate in LPC's feasibility process before beginning any activities related to the exploratory drilling efforts as described in the NOI. The feasibility and resulting pre-application meeting will provide the applicant and the County an opportunity to review the proposed activity as it relates to upholding the above-described tenets, intents, and purpose of the County's LUC.


La Plata County appreciates the opportunity to comment and advocate for responsible land management and environmental preservation and we have benefited from the additional information that DRMS staff have provided in response to our prior comments and questions. We acknowledge that DRMS has an important role in the technical aspect of the proposed activities, and we trust that DRMS will oversee the project to protect and preserve these valuable public resources for future generations. The County believes that we also have an essential role to thoroughly evaluate the potential impacts of such drilling activities through our land use process, including review of items not directly reviewed by DRMS such as impacts to roads and neighbors.

Sincerely,

LA PLATA COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


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