



December 12, 2023

Scott Pottorff
Highbury Resources,
28151 DD Road
P.O. Box 700
Nucla, CO

Re: Slick Rock, File No. P-2023-018, Notice of Deficiency

The Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division) is in the process of reviewing the above referenced application in order to ensure that it adequately satisfies the requirements of the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Act (Act) and the associated Mineral Rules and Regulations of the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board for Hard Rock, Metal, and Designated Mining Operations (Rules). During review of the material submitted, the Division determined that the following issue(s) of concern shall be adequately addressed before a decision can be rendered.

Section 3: Project Description

1. Item 5 identifies 27 possible drill locations, with only 20 of those being drilled to maintain operational flexibility. The application however does not specify if all 27 pads will be constructed and only 20 drilled. Please clarify how many drill pads will be constructed, taking the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Notice Acceptance Conditions into consideration, and would thus require reclamation pursuant to Hard Rock and Metals Mining Rule 5.1.2(d). Additionally, please clarify if all 20 holes will be drilled prior to plugging and abandonment (P&A) or if each hole will be plugged prior to drilling of the next.
2. Item 6 accounts for 20 pads, at approximately 1,000 sq. ft. each totaling .46 acres of disturbance. However, reclamation measures detailed in Section 4 of the application include reclamation of the off-road travel areas. If the off-road travel areas require reclamation, they are to be considered disturbed areas and must be included in Section 3. Please provide an updated total project area to be disturbed including the offroad travel areas.
3. Please provide a general drill pad layout drawing that identifies the features discussed in Section 3, item 5.
4. Item 6, k states that drill holes are expected to penetrate into a single unconfined aquifer. Please provide more information, supported by hydrologic documentation, as to which holes are expected to encounter the unconfined aquifer, at what depth and what measures will be taken to prevent impacts to the prevailing hydrologic balance pursuant to Rule 3.1.6(1).
5. Item 6, e states that three or four of the exploration holes will be converted into Groundwater Monitoring Wells. Please identify which holes are to be converted to Groundwater Monitoring Wells. Also, in accordance with Rule 5.4.4, the necessary permits from the State Engineers Office (Division of Water Resources) must be obtained. Please provide documentation of



permitting through the Division of Water Resources, as well as all construction information required under Rule 5.4.4.

Section 4: Operation and Reclamation Measures

6. Item 4 of Section 4 details multiple P&A methods based on various groundwater conditions. For all holes to be drilled, including those that will be converted to monitoring wells, provide supporting hydrologic documentation to clarify which P&A method is to be utilized at which hole to minimize impacts to the prevailing hydrologic balance pursuant to Rule 3.1.6(1). If the hydrologic information, including depth to Groundwater is unknown or unavailable, the Division will be required to default to cement plugging to depth for each hole.
7. Item 5 of Section 4 calls for the use of excavated spoils and drill cuttings to achieve reclamation grade, however drill cuttings may contain ore body materials and should be handled accordingly. Please commit to on site disposal of all cuttings with a minimum of 36" of total cover over the disposal location at each pad.
8. As stated in item 2 of this review, item 5 specifies reclamation measures to be conducted on pads and off-road travel areas, including contouring, ripping and seeding. Please provide more details regarding the reclamation of the off-road travel areas. The details should include but are not limited to:
 - a. Approximate volume of material, in Cubic Yards, to be moved during contouring,
 - b. Approximate area, in acres, to be ripped for decompaction,
 - c. Approximate area, in acres, to be seeded with the proposed seed mix.

Please submit your response(s) to the above listed issue(s) by Friday, December 15, 2023 in order to allow the Division sufficient time for review. Please note that the Decision Date for your application is Tuesday, December 26, 2023. If you require additional time to respond to this review, please submit a Decision Date Extension Request to the Division no later than Thursday December 21, 2023. If neither your responses to this review or a Decision Date Extension Request is received by the Decision Date, your application may be denied.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to contact me at the Division's Grand Junction Field Office, by phone at 303-866-3567 Extension 8187 or by email at lucas.west@state.co.us.

Sincerely,



Lucas J. West
Environmental Protection Specialist

Scott Pottorff
Highbury Resources, Inc.
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Cc: Travis Marshall, Senior Environmental Protection Specialist

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