

August 26, 2024
Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety
1313 Sherman St., Rm. 215
Denver, CO 80203
Telephone: 303.866.3567

RE: Update of Belle Creole NOI

Mr. Hays:

Underground work in the Belle Creole Adit continues. I presented my eastern adit well design to the Division of Water Resources Board of Examiners. They reviewed the completion details and had some constructive feedback regarding the design. The attached well plans represents the recommendations from the Board as well as some of the well drillers present at the meeting. I will be building the design this fall. If the construction goes well, I plan to install a similar coffer wall on the western fork of the adit. I have met with members of the fire protection district onsite. They inspected the adit and are excited about the resource being available to their district.

The Belle Creole disturbance has been sloped, stabilized, and seeded. We have seen about 50% success from the seeding. A second round of broadcast seeding is expected to occur this fall just prior to snow. We are exploring the installation of an office and shop near the Belle Creole adit to support the exploration activity. If those plans develop we will follow up with an additional update. A small storage building is located just downhill from the Belle Creole Adit along with a composting toilet located in a skid mounted enclosure. Unreclaimed disturbance within the Belle Creole adit area total approximately 0.1 acres.

The success in the Belle Creole Adit has convinced me that work on the Miller-Esperance and Crazy Girl Tunnel is warranted. Both underground workings are located within the same claim block as the Belle Creole Adit, and likely have similar stable underground conditions. A map showing the claim block and adits has been included. The Miller-Esperance Tunnel is located just above the intersection of South Spring Gulch (CR110) and Lamartine Road (CR22). High quality surveys of the tunnel were available in the W.H. Wiley Collection of the Denver Public Library. I have attached some of those surveys. The Miller-Esperance Tunnel is roughly 1500 feet deep. The tunnel includes some minor stoped areas and a winze. A shaft from the surface of Ariadne claim is open but partially caved. Hopefully, that area can be assessed from the bottom of the shaft. The Miller-Esperance Tunnel is protected by a DRMS closure grate. Initial inspections and work will be undertaken by accessing through the culvert and grate, but if initial inspection indicates positive results the adit will be reopened. Based on the findings of the inspection, portal designs will be created and submitted to the DRMS. Anticipated distance within the Miller-Esperance Tunnel area is anticipated to be 0.1 acres. And is immediately accessed from the County Road.

The Crazy Girl Tunnel is located downhill from the Belle Creole and will require the construction of an access trail/road. Clear Creek County road designs require very mild slopes for driveways. We have designed the access road alignment to stay within the property and to adhere to the maximum 10% slope requirements. A plan of that road alignment has been attached. Disturbed area is anticipated to be 1500 feet in length and 20 feet in width. This results in a disturbed area 0.7 acres. The disturbance around the Crazy Girl Tunnel portal is anticipated to be 0.1 acres. The roadway to the portal will be left after exploration activities have been completed to provide access to the property for wildfire mitigation and future uses.

Total disturbed areas under the Belle Creole will remain under 1 acre, which is covered by the existing bond.

Regards,



Benjamin H. Miller, PhD
Principal Consultant/Partner

Attachments: Project Area Map
Submitted Electronically



