

STATE OF
COLORADO

Ebert - DNR, Jared <jared.ebert@state.co.us>

Cat Creek Drilling Project, NOI File P-2024-009, Notice of Incomplete and Deficient NOI Application

Sandor AOL Account <ringhoffer@aol.com>

Wed, Sep 11, 2024 at 11:31 AM

To: "Ebert - DNR, Jared" <jared.ebert@state.co.us>

Cc: Chris Girardi - DNR <chris.girardi@state.co.us>, Sara Stevenson-Benn - DNR <sara.stevenson-benn@state.co.us>, tchristensen@solitariocorp.com, andrea.jones@usda.gov, Peter Christensen <Peter.Christensen@respec.com>

Good morning Jared...

Thank you and your staff for the preliminary review of the Cat Creek NOI. This email should address the deficiencies noted in your letter. See comments below:

In regard to **Item 1** of your letter (copied for reference below), I am confirming that Solitario submitted Form 2 (Public File) and Solitario understands that information contained in Form 2 is non-confidential.

In regard to **Item 2** (copied for reference below), last week I emailed the an electronic version of the Solitario signed NOI to Chris but am attaching it again here for backup.

In regard to **Item 3** of your letter (copied for reference below), I will be delivering in person this afternoon the two, signed and completed financial warranty forms (*the Affidavit of Authority – Exploration* and the *One Site Exploration Bond on BLM Land*) to the address of **1001 E 62nd Ave Denver, CO 80216**, c/o Sara Stevenson-Benn per an email from Sara this morning.

In regard to **Item 4** (copied for reference below), Andrea Jones is copied on this email and thus will be getting a copy of the attached, signed NOI. I believe this should satisfy Item 4 of your letter.

1.) The Division only received "Form 2 (Public File)" of the NOI. Please confirm that this is the

only form Solitario Resources Corp. wishes to provide. If so, all information submitted with the NOI application will be considered non-confidential. If not, please submit "Form 1 (DRMS Use and Confidential File)".

2.) In accordance with Rule 5.1.2(i), please submit an electronic copy of the NOI forms.

3.) The Division received a check for \$2,000.00 for the financial warranty, however the required financial warranty forms were not submitted with the NOI application. Please contact Sara Stevenson-Benn, the Division's Financial Assurance Specialist at sara.stevenson-benn@state.co.us should you have any questions about the financial warranty form.

4.) On September 4, 2024, the Division received an email from you that contained documents that the United States Forest Service ("USFS") is reviewing the Plan of Operations, but documentation that the NOI submitted to DRMS was sent specifically to the USFS was not provided. Please provide evidence that the NOI applications have been sent to the USFS.

Thanks for everyone's help with this process and please reach out if there is anything else that needs attention during further review of the Cat Creek Project NOI.

Best Regards,

Sandor Ringhoffer

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Public Filing from Notice of Intent to Conduct Prospecting 20240830_Solitario_Signed.pdf
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COLORADO

Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety

Department of Natural Resources

Form 2 (Public File) NOTICE OF INTENT TO CONDUCT PROSPECTING OPERATIONS FOR HARD ROCK/METAL MINES

CHECK ONE:

- ☐ **There is an NOI Number Already Assigned to this Operation** (Please reference the file number assigned to this operation) **NOI # P-** -
- ☐ **New NOI**
- ☐ **Modification** to an Existing NOI (Provide for Modifications to an existing NOI) **NOI# P-** -

GENERAL OPERATION INFORMATION

Type or print clearly, in the space provided, ALL information described below.

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. DATE NOI RECEIVED BY THE DIVISION:

(office use only)

2. PROJECT NAME: _____

3. PROSPECTOR:

PERSON MLRB SHOULD CONTACT:

Name

Name

Title

Title

Company Name

Company Name



_____ Street	_____ Street
_____ P.O. Box	_____ P.O. Box
_____ City, State, Zip ()	_____ City, State, Zip ()
_____ Telephone ()	_____ Telephone ()
_____ Fax	_____ Fax

4. APPLICATION FEE: \$86. (NOIs require an **\$86** fee which must accompany this notice or it cannot be processed by the Division).

5.

LOCATION INFORMATION:

County:

Principal Meridian (check one):

☐ 6th (Colorado)
 ☐ 10th (New Mexico)
 ☐ Ute

Section (write number) TOWNSHIP N S

RANGE E W

QUARTER SECTION (check one):

NE ☐ NW ☐ SE ☐ SW ☐

QUARTER/QUARTER SECTION (check one):

NE ☐ NW ☐ SE ☐ SW ☐

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: (the number of miles and direction to the nearest town and the approximate elevation):

NOTE: Supply longitude and latitude or UTM coordinates if lands have not been surveyed or as supplemental information to this NOI. GPS measurements will be acceptable for this purpose:

Lat: _____ X: _____

Long: _____ Y: _____

6. LAND OWNERSHIP:

☐ Private ☐ Public Domain (BLM) ☐ National Forest (USFS)

☐ State ☐ State Sovereign Lands ☐ Other (please describe)

If prospecting is located on BLM or USFS land the remaining section must be completed, otherwise go to section II Maps & Drawings

7. PROSPECTING ON BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM) LAND AND U.S. FOREST SERVICE (USFS) LAND

The Division and the BLM/USFS have entered into cooperative agreements that eliminate the need for a prospector to post a financial warranty with each agency and allow them to coordinate the review of the NOI in order to minimize administrative processing time and effort.

A. CLAIMANT:

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone () _____

Fax () _____

B. SITE/CLAIM INFORMATION:

List names, serial numbers and provide legal description to nearest quarter-quarter section of all sites or claims (attach additional page, if necessary).

NAME	SERIAL NUMBER	LEGAL DESCRIPTION

C. LOCATION MAP: Attach a USGS 7.5 minute quad, or similar map of adequate scale, which locates the prospecting site(s).

D. Are prospect sites (e.g., drill holes, trench locations, etc.) staked on the ground? Yes ☐ No ☐

E. Specify the Land Management Agency, Address and Telephone Number:
Agency

Address

City, State, Zip

Telephone ()

F. The prospector is required to document that the NOI has been sent to the BLM or the USFS. Processing of the NOI will not begin until the prospector has submitted evidence acceptable to the Division that the NOI was sent to the BLM or USFS. Check one:

☐ Evidence of notification is attached to this NOI for BLM Land

☐ Evidence of notification is attached to this NOI for USFS Land.

☐ Other proof of notice is attached to this NOI

II. MAPS & DRAWINGS

An accurate topographic base map showing the location of the proposed project must be submitted with this notice. The prospector may submit a U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute quadrangle, or similar map of adequate scale that:

1. Identifies the proposed prospecting site(s) or activity areas involving surface disturbance. Activity areas include all drill holes, mud pits, excavations, trenches, adits, shafts, tunnels, rock dumps, stockpiles, impoundments and prospecting roads, and
2. Includes sufficient detail to identify and locate known prospecting features and facilities that may be affected and those that are not anticipated to be affected. This includes the location of all drill holes, mud pits, excavations, trenches, adits, shafts, tunnels, rock dumps, stockpiles, impoundments and prospecting roads. Color photographs, adequately labeled (including date, orientation and location), of the prospecting site may be used to fulfill this requirement if included with the NOI submittal.

III. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. Mineral(s) and/or Resource(s) being Investigated: _____
2. Estimated dates of commencement and completion: Commencement: _____ / ____ / ____
Completion _____ / ____ / ____
3. Amount of material (specify units) to be extracted, moved or proposed to be moved: _____ Units _____

Identify the type or method of prospecting proposed and quantity (place an "X")

- | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cuts | <input type="checkbox"/> Pits | <input type="checkbox"/> Trenches |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shafts | <input type="checkbox"/> Tunnels | <input type="checkbox"/> Adits |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Declines | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Drilling | <input type="checkbox"/> Fluid Drilling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drilling and Blasting | | |

5. Describe proposed surface excavation or other land disturbance, including roads, pits, trenches, waste piles, drill pads and collar areas of underground workings, ponds, etc.

6. Proposed Disturbance (approximate) Describe the proposed drilling to be conducted, including anticipated number of holes, diameter, depth, location, etc. Submit additional pages if necessary:

A. Drill Pads:

Quantity	Average Width (ft)	Average Length (ft)
_____	_____	_____

B. Drill Holes:

Quantity	Depth (ft)	Diameter (in)
_____	_____	_____

C. Mud Pits

Quantity	Average Width (ft)	Average Length (ft)	Average Depth (ft)
_____	_____	_____	_____

- D. Described proposed underground work, including reopening of old workings, advancement of adits or shafts, trenches, pits, cuts, rock dumps, or other types of disturbance, describe type, quantity and general dimensions:

E. Other Disturbances (please describe)

F. Indicate Chemicals and Fuels used or stored on site. List type, quantity and method to store.

G. New Roads:

	Length (ft):	_____	Width (ft):	_____
Significantly Upgraded Roads	Length (ft):	_____	Width (ft):	_____

Are culverts or other crossings proposed? If so, please describe:

H. Total project area to be disturbed (acres) _____

I. Describe the equipment to be used for the prospecting operations:

J. Describe and locate any structures to be constructed (i.e. stockpiles, ponds, impoundments):

K. Describe anticipated relationship to surface water and groundwater (proximity to streams, penetration of ground water aquifers):

IV. OPERATION AND RECLAMATION MEASURES:

1. The Board suggests that a photographic record of the pre-prospecting and post-prospecting conditions be kept by the prospector. These photos should be taken from the same location and by the same method to clearly show the pre-prospecting condition of the land and the reclamation efforts. Upon completion of reclamation and request for bond or surety release, the Board may consider the photos as evidence of adequate reclamation, and thus, be able to act more quickly on the request for release.
2. Provide a description of the native vegetation of the area to be disturbed, including tree, shrub, and grass communities of the area. Color photographs, sufficient to adequately represent the ecology of the site and adequately labeled (including date, orientation and location), may be used in lieu of a written description. Based on the quality of the photographs, the Division may require additional detail.

3. Describe the estimated topsoil depth and how topsoil will be salvaged, stockpiled and redistributed for the re-establishment of vegetation. Specify approximate topsoil redistribution depth:

4. Describe how drill holes will be plugged (refer to Rule 5.4 of the Rules for required abandonment procedures):

5. Describe how portals, adits, shafts, ponds, excavations, or other disturbances will be reclaimed (refer to Rule 3 and Rule 5 for specific reclamation performance standards). You may wish to contact the Division for closure specifications.

6. Describe how roads will be reclaimed or returned to their pre-prospecting (or better) condition:

7. List the seed mixture to be used in the re-establishment of vegetation. See the attached seed mixture calculation to obtain PLS/acre. For assistance with formulating seed mixtures and rates, contact the local NRCS if on private land, BLM/USFS if on public land or State Land Board if on state land.

A. Plant name and seeding rate:

Plant Name

Seeding Rate (PLS/Acre)

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- B. Describe the method for seed bed preparation, and application method for grass/forb seeding:

V. TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR PROSPECTING OPERATIONS:

1. Reclamation measures shall be fulfilled in a timely manner and completed within five (5) years of completion of prospecting activities.
2. The prospecting operations described in this Notice will be conducted in such a manner as to minimize surface disturbances. In addition to the measures required in Rule 5, precautions to be taken include:
 - A. Confinement of operations to areas near existing roads or trails, where practicable. Existing roads which are to remain as permanent roads after prospecting activities are completed shall be left in a condition equal to or better than the pre-prospecting condition;
 - B. Drilling shall be conducted in such a way as to prevent cuttings and fluids from directly entering any dry or flowing stream channel. Drill cuttings must be spread to a depth no greater than one-half (1/2) inch or buried in an approved disposal pit;
 - C. Proper and timely abandonment of drill holes upon completion of drilling;
 - D. Reclamation of affected lands upon completion of operations or phases of an operation;;
 - E. Backfilling and revegetating any pits to blend in with the surrounding land surface;

- F. Safeguarding mine entries, trenches and excavations from unauthorized entry at all times;
 - G. Disposal of any trash, scrap metal, wood, machinery, and buildings;
 - H. Control of noxious weeds within the area affected by the prospector
- 3. The prospecting operations shall be conducted in such a manner as to comply with all applicable local, state and federal laws and regulations including applicable state and federal air and water quality laws and regulations.
 - 4. The prospecting operations shall be conducted so as to minimize adverse effects upon wildlife to include covering of open drill holes until properly plugged.
 - 5. During the prospecting operations, the operator will perform the necessary stabilization and reclamation work to ensure those areas affected by prospecting activities are erosionally and geotechnically stable.
 - 6. All prospecting operations shall be in compliance with the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Act, as amended (34-32-101 et seq. C.R.S.), and all rules and regulations currently in effect or promulgated pursuant thereto. See 2 CCR 407-1, Mined Land Reclamation Board Hardrock /Metal Mining Rules.

VI. ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR PROSPECTING ON BLM/USFS LANDS

- 1. The prospector will supply a copy of this NOI to the appropriate BLM and/or USFS office.
- 2. The prospector authorizes the MLRB to discuss the information in this Notice of Intent with the BLM and/or USFS.
- 3. If on BLM land, the prospector will complete reclamation to the standards described in 43 CFR 3809.1-3 (d) and implement reasonable measures to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of lands during operations.

VII. FINANCIAL WARRANTY

A financial warranty must be provided for the cost of reclamation of the disturbance described in this Notice. The prospector can either file a "One Site Prospecting Financial Warranty" or a "Statewide Financial Warranty." **The financial warranty must be submitted and approved by the Division prior to entry upon lands for the purpose of prospecting.**

A One-Site Prospecting Financial Warranty is usually filed by individuals or companies where prospecting activities are limited to a single area. It must be filed in the amount of \$2,000 per acre for land to be disturbed, or such other amount as determined by the Division, based on the projected costs of reclamation. A Statewide Financial Warranty is usually filed by companies with multiple prospecting sites. It must be filed in an amount equal to the estimated cost of reclamation per acre of affected land for all anticipated sites statewide. (You may increase the statewide bond at any time in order to cover additional or expanded prospecting activities.)

VIII. SIGNATURE REQUIREMENT

Please place your initials on the line provided:

SR I hereby verify that the foregoing information is true and accurate and commit to the reclamation of the aforementioned prospecting site as required by the Colorado Mined Reclamation Act and the rules as specified in the Hard Rock/Metal Mining Rules and Regulations and this NOI form.

SR I have enclosed the required permit fee.

SR I authorize the Division to contact and copy the BLM and/or USFS on any correspondence related to the prospecting operation, if the prospecting operation is located on federal public land.

SR I have also enclosed the appropriate reclamation surety amount or will post an amount as determined by the office, based on the projected costs of reclamation.

SR I understand that I am not authorized to create any surface disturbance until the surety amount is posted and approved in writing from the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety.

SR I accept and agree to comply with the foregoing terms and conditions and with all of the provisions of Rules 3 and 5, and C.R.S. 34-32-101.

SR I hereby certify that concurrent with submittal of this NOI to the Division, I have sent notice to the Boards of County Commissioners in the counties where the proposed activities will occur. This notice also indicated that non-confidential information regarding the proposed activities will be available for review at the Division's website.

This form has been approved by the Mined Land Reclamation Board pursuant to section 34-32-113, C.R.S., of the Mined Land Reclamation Act. Any alteration or modification of this form shall result in voiding any NOI issued on the altered or modified form and subject the operator to cease and desist orders and civil penalties for operating without a NOI pursuant to section 34-32-123, C.R.S.

I, the undersigned, being the NOI holder or the person authorized to sign on behalf of the NOI holder, declare that the information given in this NOI form is true and correct.

SIGNATURES MUST BE IN BLUE INK

Signed and dated this 4th day of September, 2024
(date) (month) (year)

Signature of NOI holder or person authorized to sign: Sándor Ringhoffer

Name (typed or printed):

Title/Position:

Sándor Ringhoffer
Geologist, Project Manager

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30 Aug 2017