

October 30, 2024

Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety Attention: Minerals Program 1313 Sherman St., Room 21 Denver, CO 80203-2273

RE: 2024 Annual Report for Bulldog Mine Operation, Permit No. M-1977-215

Dear Minerals Program,

RGS conducted underground activities in June through September 2022 which was the first year of a planned multi-year rehabilitation, exploration, and pre-development program to determine if the project is economically viable before moving forward with the construction and operation of a water treatment plant for dewatering the Bulldog Mine Lower Mine Pool, additional waste rock and tailings storage facilities and mining and milling operations.

The following work was completed by the mining contractor Harrison Western:

- Inspection of the 9400L Decline and utilities.
- Dewatered the 9360L Upper Mine Pool. This involved pumping the water from the 9360L to the surface to keep the level dry for rehabilitation work and trucking it to the lined evaporation pond TP-2 for storage and evaporation.
  - TR-24 Dewatering Operations was approved on May 9, 2022 accounting for the trucking and dewatering operations.
- Completed 1,000 feet of rehabilitation of the 9360L tunnel (See Figure 1).

Rehabilitation work ended in September 2022 to design a water management system that will keep the 9360L dry. The pumps were shut off and the 9360L refilled with water.

RGS contracted Water Tectonics in early 2023 to design a water treatment process that will allow dewatering of the 9360L by treating and discharging the water into Windy Gulch. RGS received the design in May 2023. The planned water management system will involve treating the meteoric water in the 9360L Upper Mine Pool and discharge it into Windy Gulch. RGS submitted a Discharge Application to the Colorado Water Quality Control Division on August 1, 2023. RGS anticipates having the Draft Application out for public comment in the Fall of 2024 and have the completed Discharge Permit in the Spring of 2025. During this time, RGS will keep electrical and ventilation operational in the 9400L allowing underground access.

RGS submitted TR-25, Dewater 9360 Level with Water Treatment – Surface Discharge to Windy Gulch to DRMS on September 14, 2023 and received conditional approval pending receiving the Discharge Permit.

Refer to TR-25 for all details related to dewatering of the 9360 Level.

## TR-25 includes:

- Proposed Action
- ATTACHMENT 1-Bulldog Site Map
- ATTACHMENT 2-Bulldog Mine Discharge Pipeline Plans
- ATTACHMENT 2A-Bulldog Mine Discharge Pipeline Specifications
- ATTACHMENT 3-Water Tectonics Treatment Summary

Final Effluent Water Quality Site Specific Standards

- ATTACHMENT 4-Bulldog Upper Mine Pool (UMP) Location Map UMP Water Quality Data
- ATTACHMENT 5-Bulldog Discharge Application
- ATTACHMENT 6-Forest Service Receipt of TR-25

## **Disturbance**

There was no new surface disturbance from October 31, 2023, through October 30, 2024.

## Reclamation

Monitoring of re-seeded areas throughout the Bulldog Project area is ongoing and no re-seeding was conducted from October 31, 2023, through October 30, 2024. RGS will continue to monitor these areas.

No weed spraying was conducted in 2024. Two very small patches of Canada thistle were removed by hand in September in the 9400 Portal Area, see Figure 2. No Canada thistle was noted in the TP-2 area, Figure 3, or in the 9700 Portal area, Figure 4. Monitoring in these areas will continue in 2025.

## Other Items

Monitoring well water levels in BD-MW and HW-3 were recorded on September 27, 2024. HW-4 water level was recorded on August 29, 2024. See Figure 7. Monitoring Well locations are shown in Figure 8.

Annual water quality results for Windy Gulch surface and groundwater samplings are included in this annual report in Figure 5. Sample locations are shown on Map G-3

The Bulldog Mine Operation permit boundary map is included. See Figure 9.

Please call or email if you have any questions.

Randy McClure

Randy McClure
Site & Safety manager
PO Box 610, 625 USFS Road 504.1A
Creede, CO 81130
cell: 970.317.5355
rmcclure@hecla.com