



STATE OF
COLORADO

Gagnon - DNR, Nikie <nikie.gagnon@state.co.us>

Hukill Gulch M2009076 Temporary Cessation and Compliance Notice

1 message

Gagnon - DNR, Nikie <nikie.gagnon@state.co.us>

Thu, Apr 24, 2025 at 3:05 PM

To: PATRICK MAHER <mptmaher@msn.com>, Mason Drake <mason.drake@venturegoldusa.com>

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

Hello.

Please see the attached letter notifying you of the outstanding compliance issues at the Hukill Gulch Millsite.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Best Regards,

Nikie Gagnon
Environmental Protection Specialist



COLORADO
Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety
Department of Natural Resources

Cell: 720.527.1640

Physical: 1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, CO 80203

Address for FedEx, UPS, or hand delivery:

DRMS Room 215, 1001 E 62nd Ave, Denver, CO 80216

nikie.gagnon@state.co.us | <https://www.drms.colorado.gov>



M2009076_Hukill Gulch_TC Application_Compliance Issues Notice.pdf
250K



April 24, 2025

Patrick Maher
Venture Resources, Inc.
25044 County Road 25
La Junta, CO 81050

**Re: Hukill Gulch Millsite, Permit No. M-2009-076, Temporary Cessation Notice and Board Hearing,
Compliance Requirements Notice**

Dear Mr. Maher,

On November 18, 2024, the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety received a Temporary Cessation Notice from Venture Resources for the Hukill Gulch Millsite, permit no. M-2009-076. As discussed in previous communications, Temporary Cessation (TC) can only be granted for a total of 10 years. Per Rule 1.13.5, the initial period shall be the first five (5) years of TC beginning with the one hundred and eighty (180) day period of production cessation. As addressed in the December 11, 2024, Notice of Incompleteness, the last sustained work activity at the mill site was late October 2019. Therefore, the first period of cessation ended on November 1, 2024. The current Temporary Cessation Notice is for a second period of cessation, beginning on November 1, 2024.

Prior to setting a hearing before the Board, the operator must show that the site is compliance with the performance standards of Rule 3.1 and the approved Mine Plan. According to the October 18, 2024, inspection report, the Division identified six compliance topics that needed to be addressed. The permittee submitted evidence of relocating a pile of lime to the ore shed for storage and protection from the weather, and the reinstallation of a silt fence around the mill area. However, the operator must also submit evidence of boundary markers in place in the lower portion of the permit area and general maintenance of the site (clean up piping, trash and abandoned equipment). Prior to initiating operations and in accordance with Rule 7.3.2, the permittee must also repair and recertify the geo composite liner system in the tailings impoundment. If the facility cannot be recertified, the Operator will need to file a Technical Revision to update the Environmental Protection Plan to repair and/or modify the Environmental Protection Facility in accordance with Rule 6.4.21(7) and 7.3.

Additionally, on April 2, 2024, the Division received an email communication from CDPHE stating the permittee is out of compliance with the discharge permit for failure to file monitoring report forms for the facility.

Rule 1.13.5 states that prior to setting a Board Hearing to consider the request for a second five-year period of Temporary Cessation, the Office shall :

- (a) conduct an inspection of the site to verify compliance with the Act and Mineral Rules and Regulations, and any required permit conditions;



- (b) review the permit file for complaints against the operation and the status of resolution of those complaints;
- (c) review environmental protection requirements for compliance as necessary;
- (d) report to the Board at the Hearing comments by any owner of affected land or local government comments.

At this time, the operation is not in compliance with the Act and Mineral Rules and Regulations and required permit conditions. Please submit evidence that the inspection topics have been addressed, and the site is in compliance with the CDPHE discharge reporting requirements no later than **June 1, 2025**. Once the evidence is received, the Division will schedule an inspection of the site, and if all the items have been addressed, schedule the TC Notice for a Board Hearing. If the items are not addressed prior to June 1, 2025, the Division may pursue enforcement action for non-compliance.

If you have any questions on the requirements above, please contact me at Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, 1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, CO 80203, by telephone at 720-527-1640, or by email at nikie.gagnon@state.co.us.

Sincerely,



Nikie Gagnon
Environmental Protection Specialist

Ec: Mason Drake, Venture Gold
Jared Ebert, Senior EPS, DRMS