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**File Code:** 2810  
**Date:** April 25, 2025

Mr. Scott Petsel  
President  
Metallic Minerals USA Inc  
799 Tech Center Drive, Unit A2  
Durango, CO 81301  
[spetsel@metallic-minerals.com](mailto:spetsel@metallic-minerals.com)

Dear Mr. Petsel:

This letter is to document the status of the La Plata Project proposed by Metallic Minerals (Metallic), located in the La Plata Mountain range of La Plata and Montezuma counties, Colorado. The Forest Service and Metallic have engaged in multiple discussions regarding your proposal for what we consider “Phase II” of the La Plata Project in accordance with 36 CFR 228.

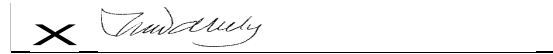
While the Forest Service has received several draft maps and various initial proposals, to date we have not received a Plan of Operations (PoO) from Metallic for Phase II. Upon receipt of a draft PoO, the Forest Service will, within 30 days, submit to you either a letter of approval or a list of deficiencies required to meet the regulations set forth by 36 CFR 228.4(c). The review process will proceed in an iterative fashion until the Authorized Officer has deemed the plan to be complete (36 CFR 228.5). Once the PoO is determined to meet the requirements of the 36 CFR Subpart A regulations, it will be included into the San Juan National Forest’s program of work to conduct the necessary environmental analysis. We recommend considering third-party contracting to accomplish this work.

As you are aware, Metallic currently has an approved “Phase I” operating plan to drill core holes at seven ground-accessed locations and four helicopter accessed location. Phase I was approved by the Forest Service on January 03, 2023. Metallic has yet to initiate activities for this project; however, the approval will remain in effect for one year following the beginning of ground-disturbing activities. Work on the Phase I project can begin once an adequate bond has been accepted by the Colorado Division of Reclamation Mining and Safety (CDRMS) with Forest Service concurrence. The approved Phase I PoO remains in effect and may be initiated at any time, weather and bond permitting, however; if it has not been initiated by the time the Phase II PoO has been approved, the Phase I plan will be considered moot and closed without further action. Following completion of the NEPA analysis, you may need to accept any stipulations the Forest Service deems necessary to minimize adverse impacts, in addition to posting an acceptable reclamation bond in accordance with 36 CFR 228.13.



Enclosed are copies of a Forest Service plan of operations template and pertinent Forest Service regulations. Please be aware that a CDRMS approval is needed in addition to approval from the Forest Service, and that you should contact them at your earliest convenience. Please contact our Geologist, James Blair [james.blair2@usda.gov](mailto:james.blair2@usda.gov) if you would like assistance in preparing your draft PoO.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Neely", is written over a horizontal line. To the left of the signature is a small, stylized "X" mark.

Signed by: DAVID NEELY

DAVID NEELY

Forest Supervisor

Enclosure - 36 CFR 228A Regs. FS Plan Template.

cc:

Logan Powell with Metallic  
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Emma Reinemann, Nick Mustoe, and James Blair - USDA