



May 20, 2025

Scott E. Holwick  
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**RE: Receipt of Timely Objection to a 112 Construction Materials Reclamation Permit Application; Cogburn Sand, Gravel, and Reservoir Project; File No. M-2025-016**

Dear Mr. Holwick,

On May 16, 2025, the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division) received your timely objection letter on the Cogburn Sand, Gravel, and Reservoir Project 112c reclamation permit application, File No. M-2025-016, which was filed with our office by Raptor Materials LLC (Applicant) on March 28, 2025. The public comment period for this application closed on May 17, 2025.

The Division acknowledges the issues you have raised on behalf of Last Chance Ditch Company regarding the proposed mining operation, and will require the Applicant to respond to any issues that are considered jurisdictional under the Colorado Land Reclamation Act for the Extraction of Construction Materials (Act) and the Mineral Rules and Regulations of the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board for the Extraction of Construction Materials (Rules). The Act and Rules are available on our website at <https://drms.colorado.gov/rules-and-regulations>.

The Division is currently reviewing the application for adequacy with respect to the Act and Rules. The recommendation date for the application is currently set for June 26, 2025. However, this date could be extended by the Applicant if more time is needed to address any adequacy items identified by the Division.

Please note, all application materials and correspondence regarding the application can be viewed through our electronic document system (Laserfiche) that is available on our website at <https://dnrweblink.state.co.us/drms/search.aspx>. In Laserfiche, type the file number into the "Permit No" field with no spaces or dashes like this "M2025016" and hit Enter or click Search. Tip: after all documents have loaded, you can organize them by date by clicking on the "Doc Date" column header.

The Division is enclosing two documents for your review which explain mining regulations in Colorado and the 112c reclamation permit application process, including your role and responsibilities in that process as a timely objector to the application.

You will receive a separate notice with details of the Pre-Hearing Conference and formal hearing to be held before the Mined Land Reclamation Board for the application (as described in the enclosed documents) once those hearings have been scheduled.



If you have any questions, please contact me by telephone at (720) 812-2002, or by email at [joel.renfro@state.co.us](mailto:joel.renfro@state.co.us).

Sincerely

Joel Renfro  
Environmental Protection Specialist

Encls: DRMS's Understanding Mining Regulations in Colorado: A Guide for the Public

DRMS's Guide to Public Participation in the 112 Reclamation Permit Application Process for Construction Materials and Hard Rock/Metal Mining Operations, last revised October 7, 2021

Cc: Amy Eschberger, DRMS



## MEMORANDUM

To: Whom it May Concern

From: Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, Minerals Program

Date: October 2, 2001; Revised on October 19, 2001, August 2, 2004, January 12, 2006, and October 7, 2021

Re: **Guide to Public Participation in the 112 Reclamation Permit Application Process for Construction Materials and Hard Rock/Metal Mining Operations**

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Thank you for taking the time to be involved in the State of Colorado's process of reviewing applications for new mining operations or amendments to existing permits. The purpose of this memorandum is to explain the 112 reclamation permit application process for construction materials and hard rock/metal mining operations, your rights as either a party or a non-party, and the jurisdiction of the Mined Land Reclamation Board (MLRB or the Board).

### Background

Colorado's general assembly codified Colorado's Mined Land Reclamation Act (§ 34-32-101, C.R.S., *et seq.*) and the Land Reclamation Act for the Extraction of Construction Materials (§ 34-32.5-101, C.R.S., *et seq.*; together "Acts") to regulate mining operations in the state. The corresponding Mineral Rules and Regulations of the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board for Hard Rock, Metal, and Designated Mining Operations ("Hard Rock/Metal Mining") and Extraction of Construction Materials ("Construction Materials") were subsequently promulgated by the Mined Land Reclamation Board (2 C.C.R. 407-1 and 2 C.C.R. 407-4; together "Rules"). The Acts and Rules are available at: <https://drms.colorado.gov/rules-and-regulations>.

The Minerals Program of the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division or DRMS) issues various types of mining permits, including for: 110 Limited Impact Operations, 110 Limited Impact Designated Mining Operations, 111 Special Operations, 112 Regular Operations, and 112 Regular Designated Mining Operations. All permit applications are available at: <https://drms.colorado.gov/forms/minerals-program-forms>. This document is focused solely on the application review process for 112 reclamation permit applications.

## **The Role of the Mined Land Reclamation Board**

Pursuant to the Acts, the Board has exclusive jurisdiction over the reclamation of a mining operation's affected lands. A reclamation permit establishes a post-mining land use for the affected lands. The post-mining land use may be for forest, rangeland, cropland, general agriculture, residential, recreational, industrial/commercial, developed water resources, or other "uses". Although the Board does not have jurisdiction over local land use decisions (e.g., visual impacts, economic impacts, noise, traffic), a permit Applicant must obtain all required permits, licenses, and approvals prior to conducting any mining operations. Local governmental entities have jurisdiction over their land use, zoning, and permitting processes. A reclamation permit Applicant may not be required to have all necessary approvals or permits from other agencies in place, including city and county zoning and land use permits, before a reclamation permit is issued.

The Board is a multi-interest citizen board which establishes the regulations, standards, and policies that guide the Division. Colorado's governor appoints five Board members from nominations submitted by each of the various constituencies represented, resulting in two members with substantial experience in the mining industry, two with substantial experience in conservation and environmental resources, and one with substantial experience in agriculture. A sixth Board member is the Executive Director of the Department of Natural Resources, or his/her appointee, and the seventh is a member of the State Soil Conservation Board. (§ 34-32-105, C.R.S.). The Board typically meets for one to two days every month. Some of the Board's responsibilities include: promulgating Rules that implement the Acts; issuing violations, civil penalties, and cease and desist orders; determining corrective actions for operators found in violation of the Acts and Rules; and conducting hearings regarding reclamation permit applications.

## **The Role of the Division**

Division staff specialize in numerous areas including geology, biology, wildlife management, range and soil science, engineering, hydrology, and chemistry. During the reclamation permit application process, the Division is responsible for ensuring that the contents of the application adequately address the requirements of the Acts and Rules. To monitor compliance with permit requirements, the Division conducts periodic inspections of all permitted mining, exploration, and prospecting operations in Colorado. If an operator fails to timely correct any compliance issues identified during an inspection, the Division may present the possible violations to the Board. The Division calculates the reclamation bond required for a proposed mining operation based on the operator's proposed reclamation plan. The bond is reassessed periodically throughout the life of mine to ensure it is sufficient for reclaiming the site in accordance with the approved plan. Where there is a written objection to a permit application or a request for reconsideration of a Board decision, the Division serves as staff to the Board. For 112 applications that receive no timely objections, or for which, all objecting parties withdraw prior to the scheduled Board Hearing, the Division is authorized to approve or deny the application without a hearing before the Board.

## **The Role of the Applicant**

During the reclamation permit application process, the Applicant has the burden of proving the application submitted to the Division meets all requirements of the Acts and Rules, including providing sufficient evidence that all required notices have been posted or delivered within the required timeframes.

Applicants for 112 Reclamation Permits or Amendments must place a copy of the application at the County Clerk or Recorder's office in the county containing the land to be affected by mining. The Applicant must notify the local Board of County Commissioners, the Board of Supervisors of the local Soil Conservation District, all surface and mineral rights owners of the affected lands, and all surface owners within 200 feet of the affected lands. The Applicant must also post signs at the proposed mine site and publish a public notice in a local newspaper of general circulation once a week for four consecutive weeks.

## **The Role of the Public Participant**

A person may participate in the Board Hearing process regarding a contested reclamation permit application as a party or a non-party. Pursuant to the Acts and Rules, a person may participate as a "party" if they:

- (1) Submit a written comment or objection to the Division not more than 20 calendar days after the last date for the newspaper publication of notice of the application. The comment or objection letter must include the person's: name, mailing address, telephone number, and an explanation of how they are directly and adversely affected or aggrieved by the proposed mining operation [see "party" definition in Construction Materials Rule 1.1(38) and Hard Rock/Metal Mining Rule 1.1(50)]. To ensure timely receipt, any comments or objections on an application should be submitted via our website at: [https://dnrlaserfiche.state.co.us/Forms/DRMS\\_Comment](https://dnrlaserfiche.state.co.us/Forms/DRMS_Comment); and
- (2) Attend the Pre-hearing Conference *or* provide a proxy authorization form (see attached Authorization to Appear on Behalf of a Party) to the Board's Pre-hearing Conference Officer on or before the date of the Pre-hearing Conference and the Party's authorized representative is present at the conference [pursuant to Rule 2.7.3(4)]. Any party may be represented by an attorney; and
- (3) Attend the Board Hearing.

A party may present evidence, call witnesses, and cross-examine witnesses during the Board Hearing on the application. A party also has the right to sue or be sued in district court on matters regarding the Board's decision on the application. For additional information regarding a party's rights and responsibilities, please refer to Rules 1.7, 2.6, 2.7, 2.8, and 2.9.

Per Rule 2.7.3(3), any person who is a party to a matter before the Board, and who wishes to withdraw as a party, must do so in writing prior to the commencement of, or on the record during, the Formal Board Hearing on the matter (see attached Party Status Withdrawal Form).

If you choose not to be a party, or to withdraw your party status, as a non-party, you may still address the Board on matters of concern during the public comment portion of the Board meeting. However, in this case, you will not preserve or be entitled to the rights of a party. In the event that all objecting parties withdraw prior to the Board Hearing, the Division is authorized to approve or deny the application without consideration by the Board. Thus, in this instance, there would be no opportunity for a non-party to provide public comment at a Board Hearing.

### **The Role of Other Governmental Agencies**

Once a reclamation permit application is received by the Division and considered “filed” (or “complete”), the Division sends a notice of the application to various local, state, and federal agencies. These governmental agencies may include: county commissioners, county planning and zoning departments, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Colorado Division of Water Resources/Office of the State Engineer, local Conservation District(s), Colorado State Land Board, State Historic Preservation Office, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (for sites that overlap oil and gas facilities or are surrounded by oil and gas activity), Urban Drainage (for sites located within the 100 year floodplain in Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Denver, Douglas, or Jefferson County), U.S. Bureau of Land Management and/or U.S. Forest Service (for sites located on federal lands), and any municipalities located within 2 miles of the proposed affected lands. The Division’s review of the application may be coordinated with these and/or other governmental agencies as appropriate.

### **The 112 Reclamation Permit Application Process**

Completeness Review: Upon receipt of an application, the Division first determines whether it contains sufficient information for it to be considered “filed” (or “complete”), as defined by Construction Materials Rule 1.1(23) and Hard Rock/Metal Mining Rule 1.1(27).

Adequacy Review: Once a 112 reclamation permit application is considered filed, the Division has 90 days to complete its adequacy review of the application and to make its decision to approve, approve with conditions, or deny the application. During the adequacy review process, the Division evaluates each exhibit in the application to verify that it meets all applicable requirements of the Acts and Rules (exhibit requirements are outlined in Rule 6). If the Division determines an exhibit is inadequate, it will send an adequacy review letter to the Applicant identifying the deficiencies. The Applicant must address all deficiencies in the application to the satisfaction of the Division in order for the application to be approved. The 90-day application review period may be extended at the request of the Applicant, not to exceed 365 days from the date the application was filed, in order to provide the necessary information to meet the adequacy requirements. The 90-day application review period may also be extended by the Division in accordance with Rule 1.4.1(7) in the case of “complex” applications, serious unforeseen circumstances, or significant snow cover on the affected land that

prevents a necessary on-site inspection, or Rule 1.4.1(13) where the Applicant failed to publish the public notice pursuant to Rule 1.6.2(1)(d). If the Division's review period is extended, the decision date on the application is reset.

If no timely objections are received on a 112 reclamation permit application, the Division will make the decision to approve, approve with conditions, or deny an application on or before the decision date.

If timely objections are received on a 112 reclamation permit application, the Division will schedule the matter for a formal Board Hearing, during which, the Board will make the final decision on the application. In this case, on or before the application decision date, the Division will make a recommendation to the Board on whether to approve or deny the application. Such recommendation shall identify the issues raised by the Division or by timely objectors. The Division's recommendation and rationale for approval or denial shall be sent to all parties at least 3 working days prior to the Pre-hearing Conference.

While a reclamation permit application may be *approved* by the Division or the Board, the permit is not issued until the required performance and financial warranties are received.

Pre-hearing Conference: A Pre-hearing Conference is held after the Division has issued its recommendation and rationale on the application, and at least 10 calendar days prior to the Board Hearing. Persons seeking to participate in the hearing process are encouraged to review Rules 2.6, 2.7, and 2.8 prior to the Pre-hearing Conference. The purpose of the Pre-hearing Conference, which is held by a Pre-hearing Conference Officer ("PHCO") delegated by the Board, is to explain the Division's application review and Board Hearing processes, identify issues raised that are within and outside of the Board's jurisdiction, and recognize the parties. Following the Pre-hearing Conference, the PHCO drafts a proposed Pre-hearing Order for the Board to consider at the hearing. The PHCO's proposed Order recommends a list of parties, identifies issues within the Board's jurisdiction to be considered at the Board Hearing, and proposes a hearing schedule with time allotments (the Board may adopt this Order as drafted or amend it). *Please note that parties are required to present their list of all potential witnesses and exhibits at the Pre-hearing Conference in accordance with Rule 2.6(2).*

Board Hearing: The Division shall provide all parties to an application at least 30 days written notice of the Board Hearing date. During the hearing, the Board will consider all of the evidence presented, deliberate on the issues, and vote on whether to approve the reclamation permit application. Subsequently, the Board's written decision, in the form of a Board Order, will be sent to all parties that participated in the hearing. Any decision by the Board is considered final agency action for purposes of appeal.

**Helpful Weblinks:**

Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety homepage: <https://drms.colorado.gov>

The Acts and Rules for Construction Materials and Hard Rock/Metal Mining operations are available at: <https://drms.colorado.gov/rules-and-regulations>.

A list of permitting actions currently under review is available at:  
<https://drms.colorado.gov/information/permitting-actions-currently-under-review>.

Comments or objections on an application under review can be submitted at:  
[https://dnrlaserfiche.state.co.us/Forms/DRMS\\_Comment](https://dnrlaserfiche.state.co.us/Forms/DRMS_Comment).

All (non-confidential) permit files are available for public review through our online imaged document system (called Laserfiche) at: <https://dnrweblink.state.co.us/drms/search.aspx>. A Laserfiche User Guide is available at: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1l8OUdf\\_Mpjo3kxIHkP5hMH-w7MeBtxX7/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1l8OUdf_Mpjo3kxIHkP5hMH-w7MeBtxX7/view).

This guidance document as well as the attached Proxy Authorization and Party Status Withdrawal forms are available on our website (under the section labeled “Information”) at:  
<https://drms.colorado.gov/forms/minerals-program-forms>.



# AUTHORIZATION TO APPEAR ON BEHALF OF A PARTY

(Please Type or Print the Requested Information)

SIGNATURES MUST BE IN BLUE INK

I \_\_\_\_\_,  
(person's name) (title, if applicable)

of \_\_\_\_\_ (name of company, association, organization,  
etc., if applicable)

hereby delegate to \_\_\_\_\_,  
(person or entity's name)

the right to appear on behalf of \_\_\_\_\_  
(person, company, association, organization, etc.)  
at the Pre-hearing Conference.

SIGNED AND DATED THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ If corporate attest (seal)  
Authorized Signature (must be signed in blue ink)

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

State of \_\_\_\_\_ )  
 )  
County of \_\_\_\_\_ )

The forgoing instrument was acknowledged before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_ as \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public  
My commission expires: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURES MUST BE IN BLUE INK

# PARTY STATUS WITHDRAWAL FORM

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Signature \_\_\_\_\_



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

## **Understanding Mining Regulations in Colorado: A Guide for the Public**



### **Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety**

Main Office: 1313 Sherman St., Room 215, Denver, CO 80203  
Field Office Location: 101 S. 3rd St., Suite 301, Grand Junction, CO 81501  
Mailing: DRMS Room 215, 1001 E 62nd Ave, Denver, CO 80216  
Main Phone: 303-866-3567

**<https://drms.colorado.gov/>**

## **Understanding Mining Regulations in Colorado: A Guide for the Public**

This document provides a general overview of how mining is regulated in Colorado, focusing on the extraction of construction materials like sand, gravel, and rock. It explains the roles of the state's Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (DRMS) and the Mined Land Reclamation Board (MLRB), as well as how the public can be involved. For a more thorough understanding of the regulation of mining and authority of DRMS, please refer to the Rules and Regulations for the Extraction of Construction Materials.

### **What is the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (DRMS)?**

The DRMS is the state agency responsible for overseeing mining operations and ensuring that land affected by mining is properly reclaimed, meaning it's restored to a beneficial use after mining is finished. In permitting matters, the DRMS acts as staff to the Mined Land Reclamation Board (MLRB). DRMS staff reviews and makes recommendations regarding the technical side of mining operations, and considers off-site damage that might occur, if any. DRMS operates under the **Colorado Land Reclamation Act for Extraction of Construction Materials, CRS 34-32.5 101, et al.**

### **The Mining Permit Process Explained Simply:**

Anyone wanting to operate a construction materials mine in Colorado needs to obtain a permit from DRMS. The application process involves providing detailed plans, including:

- **Location and Size:** Where the mine will be and how big it will be.
- **Mining Plan:** How the mining will be done.
- **Reclamation Plan:** How the land will be reclaimed after mining, including what the final use will be (like rangeland, agriculture, recreation, or housing).
- **Environmental Information:** Details about water, wildlife, soil, and vegetation.
- **Financial Guarantee (Bonding):** Money set aside to ensure the land can be reclaimed even if the mining company doesn't do it.

### **Key Steps in the Application Process:**

1. **Application Submission:** The mining company submits a detailed application to DRMS.
2. **Public Notice:** The company must notify nearby landowners directly, local governments (like county commissioners and soil conservation districts), and the general public through newspaper notices and signs at the proposed mine site. They also file copies of the application with the County Clerk and Recorder.

3. **Agency Review:** DRMS sends notice of the application to various state and federal agencies for their input, including those dealing with historical preservation, water rights, air and water quality, and federal land management (if applicable).
4. **DRMS Decision:** DRMS reviews the application to ensure it meets all statutory and regulatory requirements. DRMS typically has 90 days (which can be extended) to make a decision. DRMS will send a Decision Rationale, notice of a Pre-hearing Conference, and Board hearing notice to all commentors.
5. **Mined Land Reclamation Board (MLRB) Involvement:** If the permit application receives timely comment or objection, the matter is set for consideration before the MLRB, and DRMS will issue a Recommendation and Decision Rationale. The MLRB will hold a hearing to review the issues and make a final decision.

### **What Issues Does the Mined Land Reclamation Board (MLRB) Review?**

The MLRB is the expert board that creates the rules and standards for mining and reclamation in Colorado. The Board consist of seven members, appointed by the Governor, from agriculture (1), conservation (2), mining (2), soil conservation (1) and the Executive Director's office (1). They have the authority to decide on mining permit applications when there are objections. They also handle enforcement actions related to mining regulations.

### **Important to Know About DRMS and County Authority:**

- **DRMS Reviews and approves How Reclamation Happens:** DRMS sets the standards for how mined land must be reclaimed. They are the only state agency that can require financial guarantees (bonding) for reclamation.
- **Counties Decide Where Mining Can Occur:** Local County governments have the authority to permit all aspects of land use for mining, including deciding if a mine is allowed in a specific location.
- **DRMS Does NOT Control Everything:** DRMS does not have jurisdiction over issues like noise, dust, traffic, hours of operation, property values, visual impacts, or aesthetics. While very important, these issues are typically handled by local county or city government level.

### **Public Involvement in the Mining Permit Process:**

The public plays an important role in the mining permit process.

- **Comments and Objections:** Anyone potentially impacted or aggrieved by a proposed mining operation can submit comments or objections during the comment period on

mining permit applications, amendments, and bond releases. Comment periods are set by law and cannot be changed by DRMS.

- **DRMS Focus:** DRMS will consider these comments and objections, but DRMS review is limited to issues within its legal authority (related to reclamation standards and the mining plan).
- **Mined Land Reclamation Board Hearings:** If there are formal objections, the MLRB will hold a public hearing where interested parties can present their objections. All parties will receive a notice of the date and time of the hearing from DRMS

#### **Understanding the MLRB Hearing and Party Process:**

- **Party Status:** Individuals or groups who can demonstrate they are directly and negatively affected by a proposed mine and whose interests are legally protected can become a "Party" in the hearing. Parties have specific rights, such as presenting evidence, questioning witnesses, and appealing the MLRB's decision. To become a Party, you typically need to file a timely written objection to the permit.
- **Non-Party Status:** Anyone who doesn't meet the criteria for Party status can still participate as a "Non-Party" and may be allowed to speak to the MLRB during the public comment part of the hearing (often with a limited time and at the end of the day's agenda).
- **Pre-Hearing Conference:** Before the formal hearing, there is a pre-hearing conference (PHC) to discuss the issues, identify the parties, and try to resolve any issues, if possible. The DRMS Decision Rationale must be issued at least three days prior to the PHC. The PHC in turn must be held at least 10 days before the board hearing. To be a party at the formal MLRB hearing, you must be prepared and attend the PHC.
- **Formal Hearing:** At the formal hearing, evidence is presented, and the MLRB will make a decision based on the law and the information provided.

#### **Process Overview::**

Colorado has a system to ensure that companies that extract construction materials restore the land after they are finished mining to a beneficial use. The state's MLRB sets the rules for mining and reclamation performance standards, while local counties decide where mining can take place. The public has the right to be informed and to voice their concerns throughout the permitting process. If there are significant concerns, the Mined Land Reclamation Board will hold a hearing to make a final decision on the mining permit.

In addition to the information provided here, attached is the **Citizen's Participation Guide** that goes into more detail regarding the Pre-Hearing Conference and MLRB procedures. It is very important that you understand your rights and responsibilities as a party.

Please feel free to contact the Environmental Protection Specialist reviewing the application via email or phone. Also, please visit the DRMS website: <https://drms.colorado.gov/> or call our main phone number: 303-866-3567 for further assistance.

Final Draft April 16, 2025

\*This document was created with the use of AI technology.