

James R Smits  
613 Harrison Ave  
Leadville, CO 80461

30 January 2026  
Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety  
Board of Reclamation, Mining and Safety  
1313 Sherman Street, Room 215  
Denver, Colorado 80203

Re: Comment iOpposing Permit Amendment – Leadville Mill, Lake County, Colorado  
(File No. M-1990-057)

Members of the Board,

I live in Leadville and am greatly opposed to the renewal of the permit for the Leadville Mill. I find that the proposal does not account for the long term storage of the processed tailings. The tailings will be stored in plastic lined pits in close to the Arkansas river and present a significant water contamination issue over the course of 10 years or more. Currently these tailings are within the area that has been carefully treated for the capture and treatment of runoff by the EPA. This project will remove the tailings from an area that has been under runoff mitigation and place them in close proximity to the river out of the area of mitigation.

In addition the project has no concern regarding the volume of water that will be required to process these tailings.

There is also a great concern regarding the tremendous volume of toxic dust that will be created during the moving of the tailings from their current stabilized location to the mill. Also the increase in heavy truck traffic within the Leadville community is of great concern.

Please consider our community and reject the onerous burden that this project will place on our water resources, air quality and Arkansas River water quality.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this matter.  
Respectfully submitted,  
James R. Smits MS Geology