

**From:** [Robert Schaller](#)  
**To:** [Cunningham, Michael](#); [Kimberly Sanchez](#); [Town Clerk Jamestown](#); [mayor@jamestownco.org](#); [commissioners@bouldercounty.org](#); [emwells@fs.fed.us](#)  
**Cc:** [Harry Hempy](#); [sallyhempy@fullsignal.net](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment on permit application P2012006, a NOI from Gold Hill Minerals, LLC  
**Date:** Monday, May 07, 2012 4:35:45 PM

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To: Division of Reclamation Mining and Safety

Re: Public Comment on permit application P2012006 - NOI from Gold Hill Minerals, LLC

I am a member of the greater Jamestown community, and am a signatory to a letter that fellow community member Harry Hempe has submitted to this comment process. I would like to add a bit to what he said there.

I am strongly, deeply, and vehemently opposed to mining in this area. It would transform the character of our mountains from a peaceful, quiet wildlife habitat into an industrial zone. There is an old abandoned mine about half a mile up James Creek from Fairday Meadow that was recently cleaned up. I know from visiting it in the years before the clean up that there were things dating from the early 1980s, so it was active fairly recently.

It was a heap of junk, with none of the nostalgic aesthetic value of remnants from the 1800's. There were two things that I particularly noticed in all the detritus: an enormous diesel generator and an abandoned fuel truck. There are many issues about mining and its effects, but one stands out for me: every minute that that mine was in operation, that generator was running. The entire James Canyon for miles in any direction would have been filled with the constant sound of an internal combustion engine.

I have ample personal experience with noisy internal combustion generators on a much smaller scale, because I live off the grid and need to use one sometimes when the sun isn't out (like today). I have learned to hate them, and know very well what they sound like. I also understand that if they aren't on the power grid -- and they're probably not going to be near any existing power lines -- and they aren't going to use solar power, then they're going to be making constant, never-ending noise. And I'm not sure that the law will help us much in this; the they'll probably be below legal noise limits. It won't be any louder than living next to a busy highway! Gee, that sure fits with why I moved up here!

Alternatively, they could run new power lines into a previously untouched area. That might be quieter in the short term, but the attendant impacts would be significant. It would change the concern, but not ameliorate it; mines use power, and getting that power in a remote area is a huge problem in itself.

And that's just one aspect of mining.

This is an extremely important issue. We cannot allow our forest to become an industrial wasteland. There are many issues that threaten the sanctity of the mountain landscape of Boulder County, but serious as other concerns may be, they are dwarfed by the problems that come with mining.

Please do everything you can to prevent mining in our mountains. Let whatever's down there stay down there. The value of what's on top is greater -- certainly to those who live here. Nor do I see any reason to think that any significant money -- if one wanted to think in those terms -- would end up here. It would be funded by investment from the outside, employ workers from the outside (at least for the good jobs -- they're the ones who know what they're doing), and the profits would go back to the investors -- outside. We who remain would enjoy a lasting legacy of industrial infrastructure, despoiled landscapes, insidious toxins, and a lack of responsibility from all parties, and nothing else to show for it. We've seen it before, and see it in many other places. It shouldn't happen here.

And that industrial wreckage won't have the quaint patina of mining relics for another hundred years.

Please don't allow mining here!

Thank you,

Robert Schaller  
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