

# STATE OF COLORADO

DIVISION OF RECLAMATION, MINING AND SAFETY  
Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman St., Room 215  
Denver, Colorado 80203  
Phone: (303) 866-3567  
FAX: (303) 832-8106



September 6, 2012

John McGrath  
Aspen Mineral Resources, Inc.  
P.O. Box 273  
Gunnison, CO  
81230

John W. Hickenlooper  
Governor

Mike King  
Executive Director

Loretta Piñeda  
Director

***RE: Sooner Lucky Strike Mine Ltd, File No. M-1982-020 , Technical Revision (TR1) Request, Second Adequacy Review***

Dear Mr. McGrath:

On August 31, 2012, the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division) received your response to the Division's first adequacy review letter. Your response sufficiently addressed items 1 and 2 of the letter. Item 3 of the first adequacy letter noted area discrepancies between the original mine plan maps and maps included with the original TR1 submittal. Your August 31 submittal included updated site maps which show mine claims and features related to the operation. Please note that the permitted area still remains unclear to the Division at this time. This site is permitted for an eight acre affected area. Due to the uncertainty of the exact layout of the original permitted area, the Division feels that it is necessary at this time to redefine an eight acre affected area that includes the entire current and proposed disturbance related to this operation. Please submit this information on maps that conform to the following criteria, as required by Rule 6.3.5 of the *Rules and Regulations for Hard Rock, Metal, and Designated Mining Operations*:

## **6.3.5 EXHIBIT E – Map**

(1) In addition to the requirements of 6.2.1(2), the Operator/Applicant must provide a map that clearly describes the features associated with the mining plan and the components of the Reclamation Plan. Include one map for the mine plan and one map for the Reclamation Plan. The map(s) must be drawn to a scale no smaller than appropriate to clearly show all elements that are required to be delineated by the Act and these Rules; show a north arrow, note any section corners adjacent to the proposed operation, and indicate the date illustrated. At a minimum, maps must include the following information:

### **(2) Mining Plan Map**

(a) outline and label the permit boundaries, described in Exhibit A - Legal Description; for all 110 and Non In Situ Leach Mining 110d Limited Impact Operations, the Office considers the area bounded by the permit boundary to be analogous to the affected area;

(b) label the names of owner(s) of record of the surface of the affected area and of the land within two hundred (200) feet of the affected area, identify the owner of the substance to be mined, and the type of structure and owners of record of any permanent or man-made structures within 200 feet of the affected area;

(c) outline and label all major surface features to be used in connection with the proposed operation such as: existing and stockpiles, product stockpiles, waste rock

fills, stream channels, buildings, processing plant, underground openings such as adits or ventilation facilities, ponds, impoundments, dewatering pumps, diversions, tail or waste disposal areas;

(d) indicate the direction that mineral extraction will proceed;

(e) note the location of any significant, valuable, and permanent man made structures within two hundred (200) feet of the affected area. A narrative description must be provided in Exhibit B – Site Description; and

(f) outline and label existing disturbance within and/or adjacent to the permit boundary (e.g., previously mined areas, roads or excavations resulting from utility construction). Re-disturbance of previously disturbed areas, by the proposed mining operation, must be included in the permit area and addressed in Exhibit D - Reclamation Plan.

(3) Reclamation Plan Map

(a) show the gradient of all reclaimed slopes (horizontal: vertical) sufficient to describe the post mine topography;

(b) indicate where vegetation will not be established and the general area(s) for shrub or tree planting;

(c) if ponds are a part of the Reclamation Plan, outline the final shore configuration of the ponds and shallow areas if the future land use is for wildlife;

(d) state the average thickness of replaced overburden by reclamation area or phase; and

(e) state the average thickness of replaced topsoil by reclamation area or phase.

Please submit this information at your earliest convenience. The decision date for TR1 will be extended as necessary to allow time for addressing the above items.

If you require additional information or have questions or concerns, please contact me at the DRMS Grand Junction Field Office.

Sincerely,



**Dustin Czapla**  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety  
101 South 3<sup>rd</sup>, Suite 301  
Grand Junction, CO 81501  
Phone: (970) 243-6299  
Fax: (970) 241-1516