



City of Golden

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October 27, 2021

Mr. Eric Scott
Environmental Protection Specialist
Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety
Department of Natural Resources
1313 Sherman Street, Room 215
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Golden Mine
Permit No. M1976-007-UG
Construction Materials Reclamation Permit Conversion Application

Dear Mr. Scott:

The City of Golden ("the City") is a home rule municipality located in Jefferson County with a population of 20,400. The Golden Mine is located immediately north of city limits and in close proximity to businesses and residents. The Golden Mine property abuts property owned by the City which will be further discussed below.

The City has reviewed the above referenced application and offers the following comments:

1. It was difficult to read the maps provided in the application. The City's comments assume that the mine expansion will follow the ridgeline south and non-mining disturbance will primarily occur east of the mined area.
2. The application states that, despite the increase in permitted area from 9.15 acres to 85.51 acres, production at the site will continue at its current rate of approximately 20,000 tons/year produced during a short duration campaign. Although the City is concerned about increased impacts from noise, traffic and dust to nearby residents and businesses as mine operations move south, we are particularly concerned about these impacts in the event of increased production. Is the operator bound by these production limits in the application? The City requests that the permit either limit production to the 20,000 tons/year in the application or that the operator voluntarily agree to a public notice and input period prior to any production increases beyond 20,000 tons/year.
3. The City's property includes the North Golden Tract of the Morrison-Golden Fossil Area which was designated a National Natural Landmark in 2011 (see attached documentation). The City is concerned that activities at the Golden Mine could impact the historically significant fossils identified in the North Golden Tract. Of particular concern is the impact of blasting. The City

requests that the operator demonstrate that their operations would not impact the North Golden Tract.

4. The property east of the North Golden Tract has been acquired as Right-of-way (ROW) for the relocation of Highway 93 (see attached maps). This new alignment has been adopted in State transportation planning efforts. Although funding for construction has not been identified, the City is optimistic that funding for design will be available in 2022. The City would ask that any evaluation of blasting impacts would also demonstrate that blasting activities at the operation will not prohibit or limit the City's ability to relocate Hwy 93 to this alignment.
5. The City has an underground water main in the existing Hwy 93 ROW. The operator should verify that the main is outside the affected area or demonstrate that these utilities will not be impacted by operations.
6. The City is pleased no new roads are planned with this expansion. The City would oppose any access to or from the project onto Pine Ridge Road.
7. The Golden Mine should perform weed control on all disturbed and newly reclaimed areas to protect adjacent property owners.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. Please contact Rick Muriby at rmuriby@cityofgolden.net or 303-384-8098 should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Slowinski", with a large, stylized flourish extending to the left.

Jason Slowinski
City Manager

Cc: City Council
Rick Muriby, Interim Director/Planning Manager Community & Economic Development
Rod Tarullo, Parks and Recreation Director
Anne Beierle, Deputy Director Public Works