

Legal Notice

Comprehensive Five-Year Bond Review for Garnet USA (Hard Rock Mining Operating Permit No. 00157)

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is conducting a comprehensive bond review for Operating Permit No. 00157 issued to Garnet USA. Garnet USA's processing facility, the Alder Gulch Mine Site, is located within Sections 4, 9, and 10, Township 6 South, Range 4 West in Alder, MT and the Red Wash Hard Rock mine site is located approximately three miles southeast of the Alder Gulch Mine Site, in Sections 22, 23, and 24, Township 6 South, and Range 4 West, near Alder, MT in Madison County.

DEQ has determined that the current bonding level does not represent the present costs of compliance with the Metal Mine Reclamation Act, administrative rules adopted thereunder, and the operating permit. DEQ is proposing a bond increase of \$400,911 (from \$762,048 to \$1,162,959). The bond increase is largely due to changes in fuel price, additional disturbance area, and indirect costs (mobilization, contingency, and administration).

The procedure for increasing bonds as a result of a comprehensive bond review is set forth in Section 82-4-338(3), MCA. The company and the public will have until October 19, 2020 to comment on the proposed bond increase. DEQ will issue a final bond determination after the comment period has expired. The company or any person with an interest that may be adversely affected by DEQ's final bond determination may obtain a contested case hearing before the Board of Environmental Review by filing a request to DEQ within 30 days of the issuance of the final bond determination a written request for hearing stating the reason for the request.

Requests for copies of the bond calculation associated with the comprehensive bond review, and any related questions should be directed to Herb Rolfes, Operating Permit Section Supervisor, Hard Rock Mining Bureau, Department of Environmental Quality, PO Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901, (406) 444-3841 or e-mail at hrolfes@mt.gov.