

## Legal Notice

The Department of Environmental Quality and the USFS, Yellowstone Ranger District, Custer Gallatin National Forest, have completed a comprehensive bond review for the Stillwater Mine Company-East Boulder, (SMC-EB). SMC-EB operates the East Boulder mine under Operating Permit No. 00149. The mine is located in all or portions of Sections 11, 19, 20, 20, 26-29, and 33-35 in Township 4 South, Range 13 East and Sections 9, 10, 16, 17, 19, 20, and 21 in Township 3South, Range 13 East in Sweet Grass 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 \$2,454,897 (from \$18,000,000 to \$20,454,896). An unobligated bond in the amount of \$273,655 currently exists. The bond increase is due to changes in the operating and reclamation plan, 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 August 27, 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 with 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 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](mailto:hrolfes@mt.gov). The proposed bond calculation may also be viewed at DEQ offices located at 1520 E. 6th Ave., in Helena, MT.

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