



April 15, 2016

Dear Interested Party:

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has completed the Final Environmental Impact Statement (Final EIS) for an amendment to Operating Permit No. 00122 proposed by CR Kendall Corporation (CR Kendall). An electronic copy of the Final EIS can be found on DEQ's website: <http://deq.mt.gov/public/eis>.

DEQ issued Operating Permit No. 00122 to CR Kendall on September 14, 1984, under the Montana Metal Mine Reclamation Act (Sections 82-4-301, *et seq.*, MCA). CR Kendall conducted mining operations at the CR Kendall Mine under Operating Permit No. 00122. The CR Kendall Mine was an open pit mine located on the eastern flanks of the North Moccasin Mountains in Fergus County, Montana. The CR Kendall Mine is currently in closure status.

On July 25, 2012, CR Kendall submitted to DEQ an application to amend Operating Permit No. 00122 (permit amendment application). The permit amendment application proposed 1) an amended closure plan for the final design of water management and treatment, 2) final capping and reseeding of the former process pads, and 3) long-term reclamation monitoring and maintenance. On March 9, 2015, pursuant to Section 82-4-337, MCA; DEQ determined that the CR Kendall's permit amendment application was complete and compliant and issued a draft permit amendment.

DEQ issued a Draft EIS on September 10, 2015, in regard to the proposed permit amendment. The Draft EIS analyzed the potential impacts of the No Action Alternative, the Proposed Action, the Process Pad Drainage Pretreatment Alternative, and the Process Pad Barrier Cover Alternative. Issues that were identified and analyzed during the scoping process include, but are not limited to:

1. The effects of mine closure on surface water and groundwater quantity and quality; and
2. The effects of mine closure on soils and reclamation.

The Final EIS addresses issues and concerns raised during the Draft EIS public meeting and during the public comment period. All new information and analysis supplied during the comment period and developed in response to comments received were used to prepare the Final EIS.

DEQ has identified the Process Pad Drainage Pretreatment Alternative as its preferred alternative in the Final EIS. DEQ will set forth its final decision and rationale in its Record of Decision (ROD). The ROD is a public notice identifying what the decision is, the reasons for the decision, and any special conditions surrounding the decision or its implementation. Pursuant to ARM 17.4.620, DEQ may issue its ROD no less than 15 days from the transmittal of the Final EIS to the public, the Environmental Quality Council, and the office of the Governor.

DEQ appreciates the public's participation in the CR Kendall EIS Project. For additional copies of the Final EIS please contact Jen Lane, at 406-444-4956 or jlane2@mt.gov, or on DEQ's website: <http://deq.mt.gov/public/eis>. A copy of the ROD will be sent to everyone who receives the Final EIS.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Livers".

Tom Livers
File Code: DIR-16101
Encl: Final EIS