

State of Montana
Department of Environmental Quality
PO Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Butte Field Office
106 North Parkmont
Butte, MT 59701

July 2007

Dear Reader:

Enclosed for your review is the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for Pit Reclamation at the Golden Sunlight Mine (GSM).

To comply with the June 27, 2002, judgment of the Montana First Judicial District Court, the Montana Metal Mine Reclamation Act, and other applicable state and federal laws, rules, and regulations, the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) have prepared this SEIS to evaluate pit reclamation alternatives at GSM for DEQ Operating Permit No. 00065 and BLM Plan of Operations #MTM-82855. Under the Proposed Action (the Partial Pit Backfill With In-Pit Collection Alternative), GSM would partially backfill the open pit and install wells in the backfill material to collect groundwater. The Final SEIS analyzes the potential impacts of the Proposed Action (Partial Pit Backfill With In-Pit Collection) as well as the potential impacts of alternatives: 1) No Pit Pond (no action); 2) Partial Pit Backfill With Downgradient Collection; and 3) Underground Sump. The Final SEIS addresses issues and concerns raised during the public meetings conducted in Whitehall on January 31, 2005, Helena on March 14, 2005, and Butte on March 24, 2005, as well as the public comments received from December 16, 2004, until April 12, 2005. All new information and analysis supplied during the comment period and developed in response to comments received were used to prepare the Final SEIS. The operating permit is available for review at the DEQ office in Helena and at the BLM office in Butte.

DEQ and BLM have identified the Underground Sump Alternative as the preferred alternative. The final decision will be made in the Record of Decision that will be prepared no sooner than 30 days after the Notice of Availability of the Final SEIS is published in the Federal Register.

The Final SEIS contains public comments and responses and changes to the Draft SEIS.

The agencies appreciate the public's involvement in preparing the Final SEIS. Additional copies are available upon request from DEQ or on the DEQ web site at www.deq.mt.gov. A copy of the Record of Decision will be sent to everyone who receives the Final SEIS.



Richard H. Opper, Director
State of Montana
Department of Environmental Quality



Richard M. Hotaling, Field Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Butte Field Office