



March 11, 2019

RE: Notice of release and public comment period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Tintina Montana's Black Butte Copper Mine Project

Dear Interested Party:

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has released a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Black Butte Copper Mine Project proposed by Tintina Montana Inc. (Tintina). The proposed underground mine would be located approximately 15 miles north of White Sulphur Springs in Meagher County in west-central Montana.

Tintina applied to DEQ for an operating permit under the Metal Mine Reclamation Act, a Montana Air Quality Permit, a Montana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System and a construction storm water permit under the Montana Water Quality Act. Electronic copies of the applications may be viewed by visiting the website (<http://deq.mt.gov/Land/hardrock/tintinamines>).

The Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA), Section 75-1-201, *et seq.*, MCA, requires the preparation of an environmental impact statement for state actions that may significantly affect the quality of the human environment. The EIS must include a detailed statement on the environmental impact of the proposed action, alternatives to the proposed action, and a no action alternative. DEQ analyzed a No Action Alternative, a Proposed Action based on Tintina's applications submitted to DEQ and an Agency Modified Alternative.

DEQ has identified the Agency Modified Alternative as the agency's preferred alternative. The Agency Modified Alternative revises the proposed action by requiring the Proponent to completely backfill the Upper and Lower Sulfide Zones with cemented paste tailings. Complete backfill would return hydraulic parameters within these bedrock zones to conditions similar to the pre-mining state, eliminating the potential for development of new groundwater flow paths through these areas. The Agency Modified Alternative minimizes exposed reactive surfaces and potential water quality impacts within the mine workings at closure. The preferred alternative could change in response to public comment on the Draft EIS, new information, or new analysis that might be needed in preparing the Final EIS.

The Draft EIS is available for public comment from March 11, 2019 – May 10, 2019. All comments become part of the public record for this project and are available for public review, along with the name(s) of the commenter(s). The Draft EIS has been posted on DEQ's website at (<http://deq.mt.gov/Public/eis>). An electronic version is available at the following public libraries during their normal business hours:

- Broadwater Community Library, 201 N. Spruce St, Townsend, MT
- Great Falls Public Library, 301 2nd Ave N., Great Falls, MT
- Harlowton Library, 13 Central Ave S., Harlowton, MT
- Lewis & Clark Library, 120 S. Last Chance Gulch, Helena, MT
- Livingston-Park County Public Library, 228 W. Callender St. Livingston, MT
- Meagher County City Library, 15 1st Ave SE, White Sulphur Springs, MT

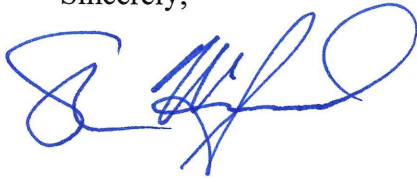
Digital copies of the Draft EIS may be requested by contacting Craig Jones at (406) 444-0514.

Public meetings will be held to allow for stakeholders to submit oral comments on the Draft EIS. Locations and times for public meetings will be announced later in the local media and on DEQ's website. Written comments may be submitted at the public meetings, via electronic mail at TintinaDraftEIS@mt.gov, or postal mail at:

Craig Jones
Department of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 200901
Helena, MT 59601

Comments on the Draft EIS must be received by Friday, May 10, 2019.

Sincerely,



Shaun McGrath
Director
Department of Environmental Quality