

Golden Sunlight Mines, Inc.

June 15, 2021

AMENDMENT 17 TO PERMIT 00065: AFFECTING THE GOLDEN SUNLIGHT MINE

Environmental Impact Statement

PUBLIC COMMENT MEETING

Welcome to the public comment meeting for the Golden Sunlight Mine Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Barrick Golden Sunlight Mines, Inc. (GSM) has applied to the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for an amendment to its Hard Rock Mine Operating Permit No. 00065 for the Golden Sunlight Mine, located in Jefferson County, five miles northeast of Whitehall, Montana.

The proposed amendment application would allow GSM to excavate and reprocess tailings from the previously reclaimed Tailings Storage Facility –1 (TSF-1), construct a new repulping plant, reprocess the tailings to separate sulfur and gold, and dispose the remaining tailings by partially backfilling Mineral Hill Pit.

The permit amendment application is available for the public to view at DEQ's main office in Helena (1520 East 6th Avenue) or on DEQ's website (<http://deq.mt.gov/Land/hardrock>).

DEQ issued a press release for the publication of the Draft EIS and public comment meeting under the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) on June 15, 2021. The purpose of the public comment meeting is to solicit input from federal, tribal, state and local governments, interested persons, and groups to help identify possible issues and alternatives to be considered in the Final EIS. The Final EIS will evaluate the potential direct, secondary, and cumulative impacts of the proposed amendment.

The map below shows the proposed amendment areas and the existing Golden Sunlight Mine. In the Draft EIS, DEQ will evaluate alternatives including the No Action, Proposed Action, and other alternative(s). From the alternatives presented, DEQ will identify a Preferred Alternative. The purpose, need, and proposed action are described in more detail below.

PURPOSE AND NEED

DEQ's purpose and need in conducting the environmental review is to act upon GSM's proposal for Amendment #17 to the existing Operating Permit. GSM's purpose and need for the project is to continue mining operations and reprocess tailings for the sale of sulfur and gold.

PROPOSED ACTION

The Proposed Action would allow GSM to excavate and reprocess the previously reclaimed tailings in TSF-1, in order to recover a fine gold and sulfide concentrate. The Proposed Action is intended to remove the tailings facility and return the TSF-1 area to post-closure land uses for grazing, recreation, and wildlife habitat. The reprocessing of the tailings may also reduce the need for long-term water treatment on site by eliminating discharge from TSF-1 and by reducing the amount of water pumped from the Mineral Hill Pit. A map of the Proposed Action is included in this handout. Additional details about reprocessing methods are below.

Tailings would be recovered from TSF-1 using conventional excavation and haulage, and it is expected to take 12 years to remove the 26 million tons of material. The tailings would be excavated from northeast to southwest, and reclamation of the area underlying TSF-1 would be completed concurrently with the excavation. The footprint of the TSF-1 site would be reclaimed by covering the area with approximately 1.2 million cubic yards of material (two feet of capping material, two to three feet of growth media) and seeding to establish vegetation.

The excavated tailings would be transported to a re-pulping plant. The re-pulping plant would mix the tailings with water to create a slurry that can be pumped uphill to the flotation plant within the mill. Water from the existing freshwater supply would be used in the flotation plant to recover gold and sulfide minerals. Residual flotation tailings would be pumped to a thickener plant to increase the pH (or alkalinity) of the solids and create a slurry of 65 percent solids. The slurry would be pumped to the Mineral Hill

Pit for final disposal. Water accumulating on top of the tailings mass, as well as groundwater captured at the bottom of the pit, would be pumped back to the mill for re-use in the process or piped to TSF-2.

The disposal of the tailings in the Mineral Hill Pit would result in a final surface level of 5,173 feet above mean sea level, which is approximately 650 feet above the pit bottom. The partial filling of the Mineral Hill Pit would reduce highwall instability as well as reduce water acidity that accumulates at the base of the pit. After the placement of flotation tailings is complete, the consolidated Mineral Hill Pit tailings would be covered with two feet of capping material, two feet of growth media, and revegetated. Pit groundwater would continue to be pumped and treated similar to current water management operations.

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

DEQ has identified the Micro-Topography of TSF-1 Alternative, the Suitability of TSF-1 Capping Material Alternative, and the developed permit stipulations as the agency's preferred alternative. Under this alternative, TSF-1 reclamation would have more specific grading details to confirm appropriate topography and test capping material for reclamation suitability.

COMMENTS

The public comment period for the Barrick Golden Sunlight Mines, Inc., Amendment Application Draft EIS began on Tuesday, June 15 and will end on Thursday, July 15, 2021.

If you would like to submit a written comment, you may use the form provided. Written comments may also be submitted electronically by email to:

mepa@mt.gov

or by mail to:

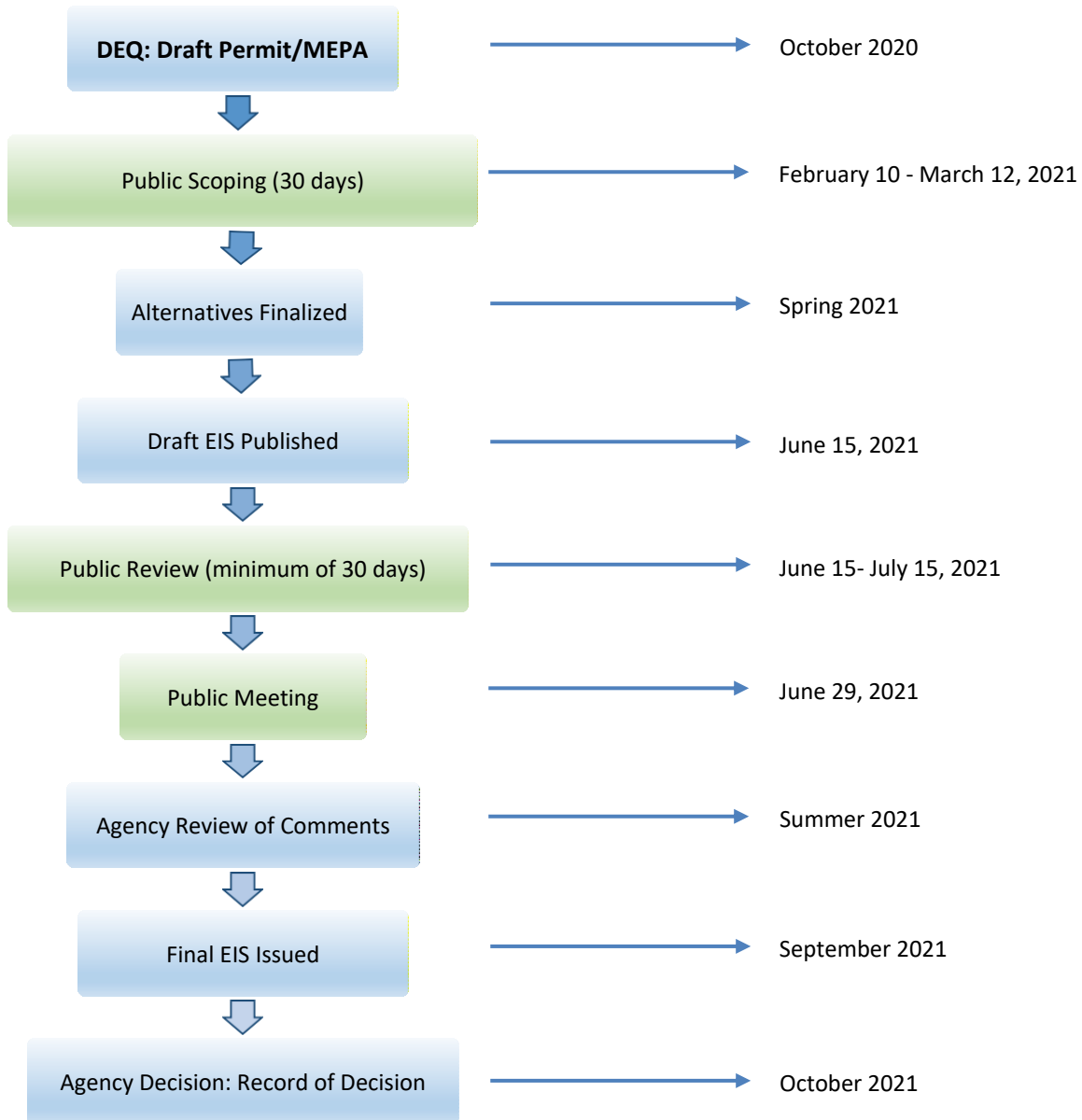
Craig Jones
Department of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 200901
Helena, MT 59601

Please provide sufficient detail so that we can accurately address your comment.

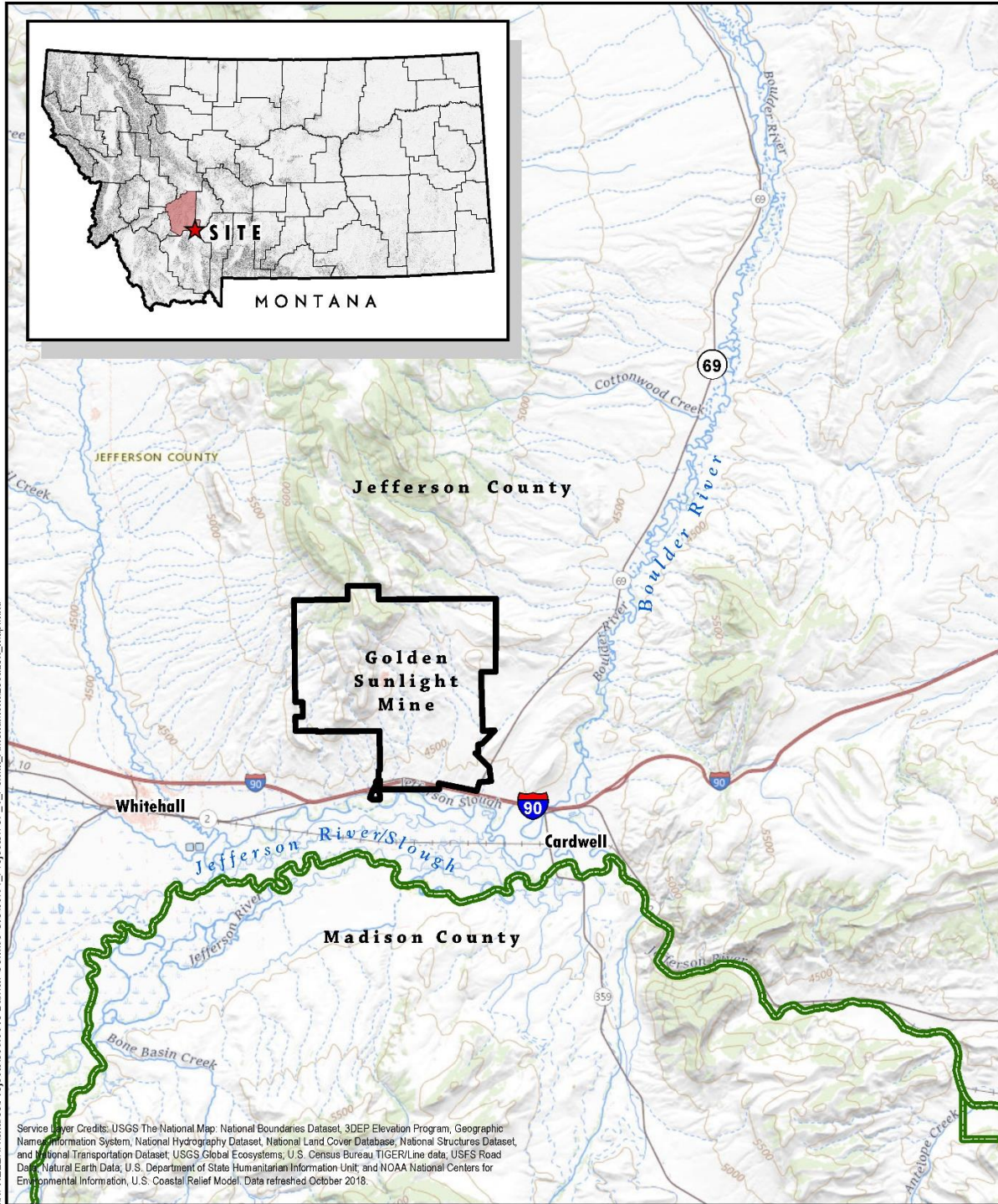
**All comments must be received by
Thursday, July 15, 2021.**

MEPA PROCESS OUTLINE

EIS POTENTIAL SCHEDULE



GOLDEN SUNLIGHT MINE GENERAL LOCATION MAP



W:\HELENA\shares\Projects\350,0018 Barrick GSM05 GIS\05_01_Permit_Amendment\Location_Map.mxd

Service Layer Credits: USGS The National Map, National Boundaries Dataset, 3DEP Elevation Program, Geographic Name Information System, National Hydrography Dataset, National Land Cover Database, National Structures Dataset, and National Transportation Dataset, USGS Global Ecosystems, U.S. Census Bureau TIGER/Line data, USFS Road Data, Natural Earth Data, U.S. Department of State Humanitarian Information Unit, and NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information, U.S. Coastal Relief Model. Data refreshed October 2018.

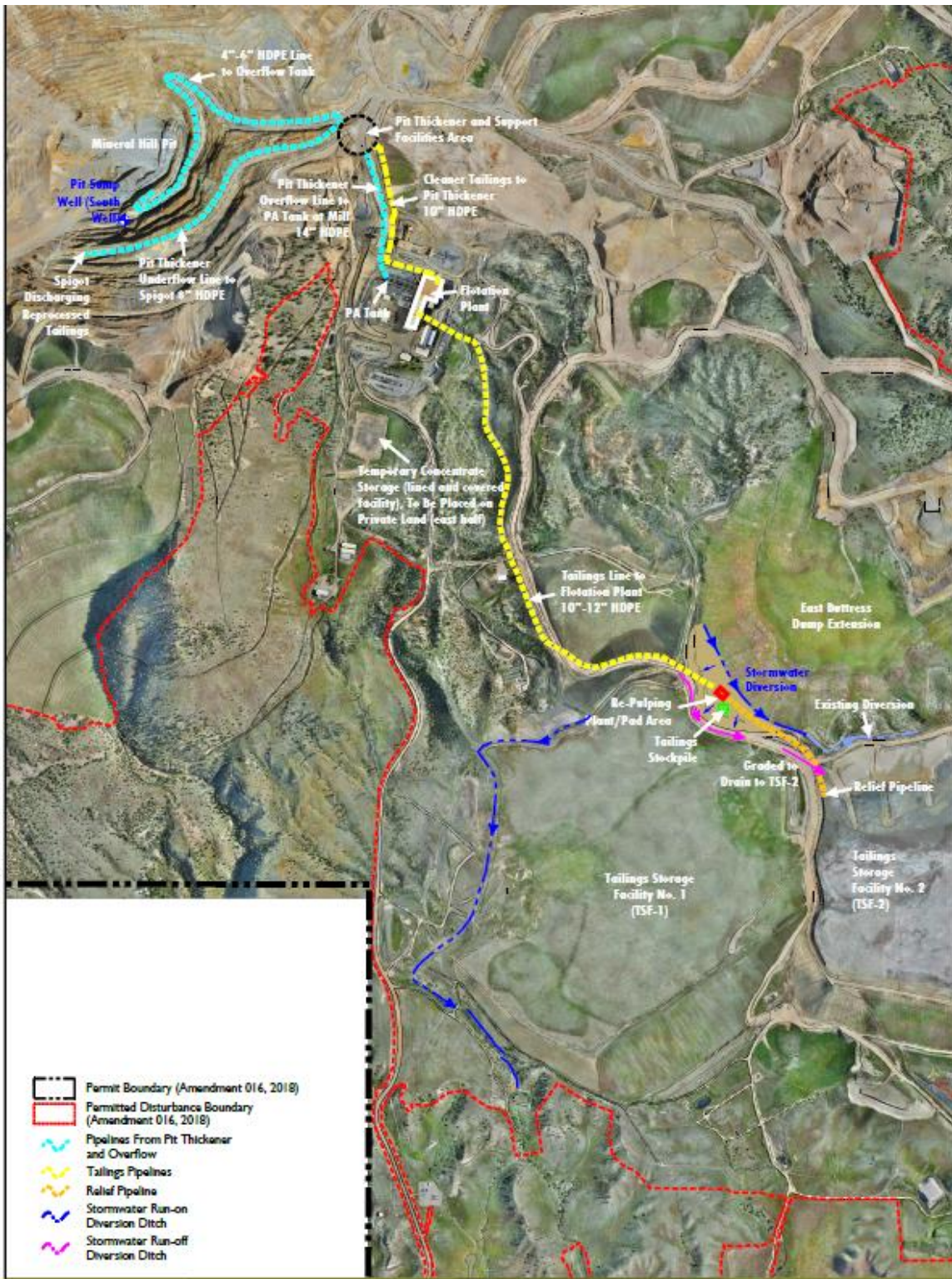


Permit Boundary
 (Amendment 016, 2018)

Location Map
 Golden Sunlight Mine

Source: Golden Sunlight Mines Amendment Application

GOLDEN SUNLIGHT MINE MAP OF PROPOSED ACTION



Source: Golden Sunlight Mines Amendment Application

**GOLDEN SUNLIGHT MINES, INC. AMENDMENT APPLICATION DRAFT
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT COMMENT FORM**

Barrick Golden Sunlight Mines, Inc. has applied to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for amendment #17 to its Hard Rock Mine Operating Permit No. 00065 for the Golden Sunlight Mine. The amendment area is in Jefferson County, 5 miles northeast of Whitehall, Montana. If you would like to submit a written comment, you may use this form. Please provide enough detail so that we can accurately address your comment.

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Representing (Agency/Business/Organization/Self): _____

If you would like to receive a copy of the Final EIS when it is released please check one option:

____ electronic copy via e-mail (PDF) or _____ postcard of availability of EIS online.

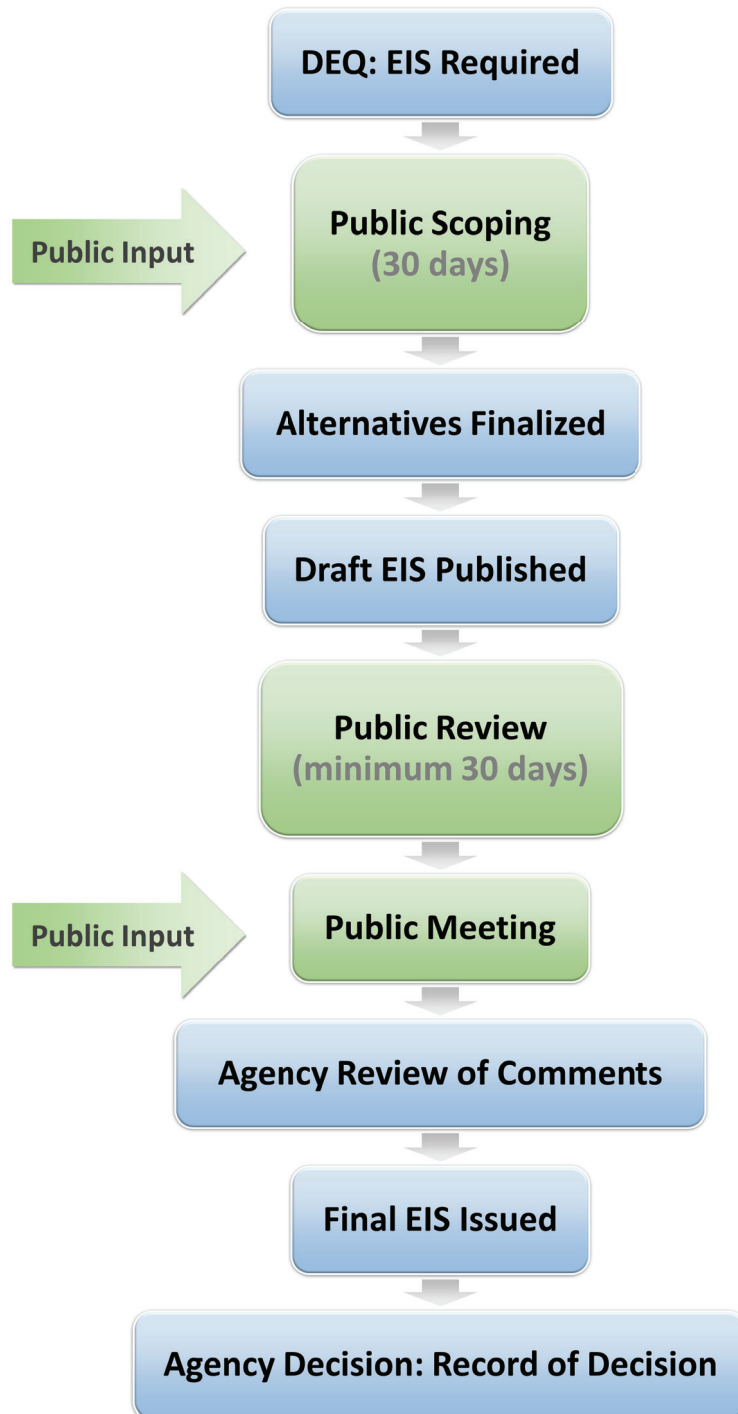
Comments:

Written comments and questions may also be submitted to Craig Jones, DEQ – Director’s Office, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901 or electronically by email at: mepa@mt.gov

Comments must be received by July 15, 2021.



MEPA PROCESS





How to Submit Comments to DEQ

Oral Comments at the Public Meeting

Via Email

mepa@mt.gov

Postal Mail

Craig Jones

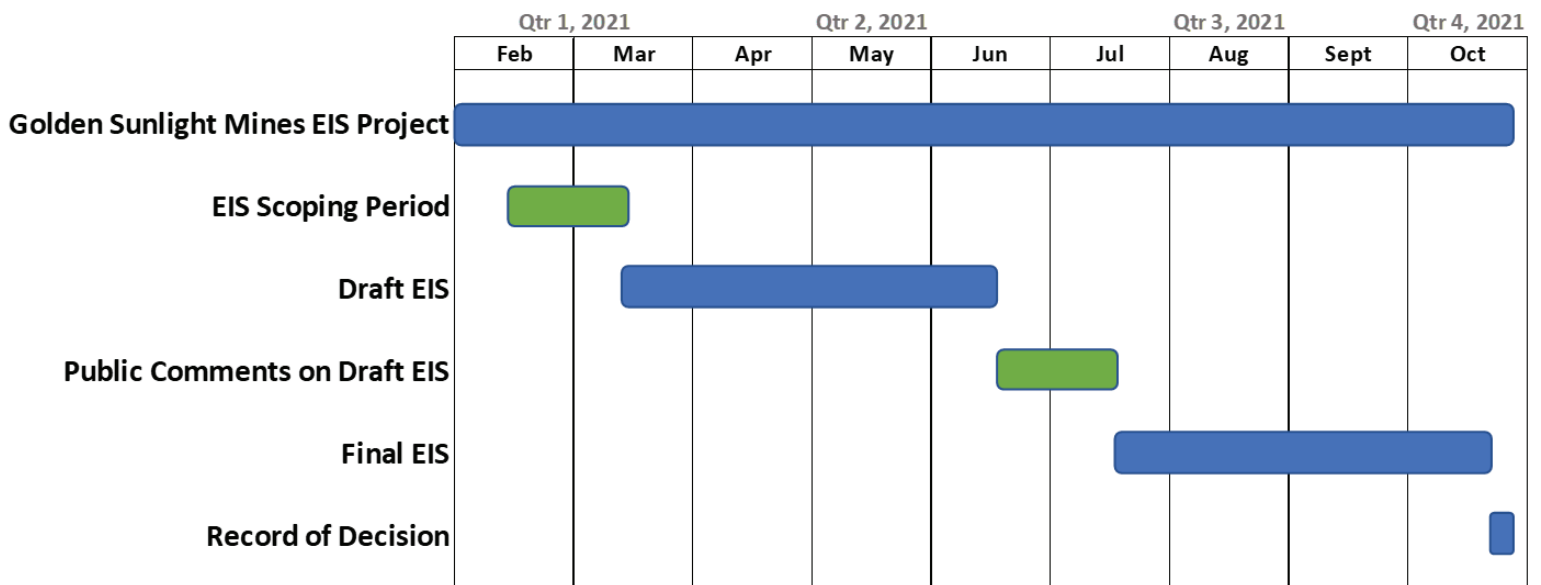
Department of Environmental Quality

P.O. Box 200901

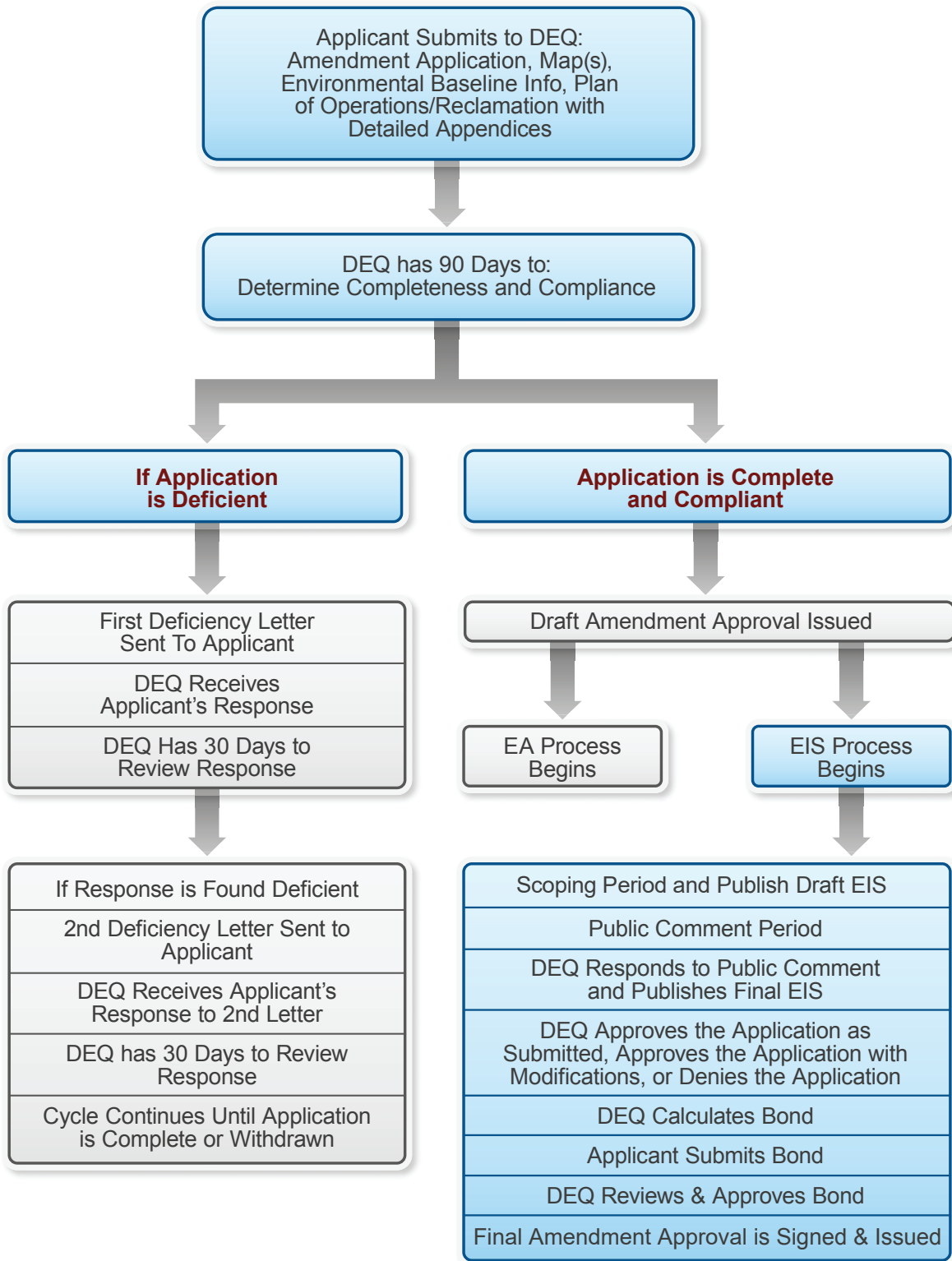
Helena, MT 59620-0901

Comment Deadline is July 15, 2021.

Potential EIS Schedule



MMRA & MEPA Process



Purpose

The purpose of the proposed mine operating permit amendment is to excavate and reprocess mine tailings, dispose of remaining tailings in an open pit, and revise the reclamation plan for associated features. This proposed amendment would allow continued operation of the Golden Sunlight Mine.

Proposed Changes to Golden Sunlight Mine Permit

- Excavate all tailings within the previously reclaimed Tailings Storage Facility 1 (TSF-1) using conventional methods and haul equipment
- New repulping plant near TSF-1 and pipeline to convey tailings slurry to the mill
- Flotation plant within existing mill building would be used to separate sulfur and gold
- Partial backfill of Mineral Hill Pit with tailings that remain after sulfur and gold removal