



June 4, 2019

Mark Thompson
Manager of Environmental Affairs
Montana Resources, LLC
600 Shields Avenue
Butte, MT 59701

Sent via e-mail to: MThompson@montanaresources.com

RE: Response to Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Comments on the Amendment to Expand the Yankee Doodle Tailings Impoundment

Dear Mr. Thompson:

On May 2, 2019, the public comment period ended for the Montana Resources, LLC (MR) EIS. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and its third-party contractor, HydroSolutions Inc., have reviewed the comments received on the Draft EIS for the amendment to expand the Yankee Doodle Tailings Impoundment at MR. Some of the comments submitted to DEQ are directly related to the Design Document that was developed by MR in coordination with the Engineer of Record (EOR) and conclusively approved by the Independent Review Panel (IRP) in accordance with 82-4-376, Montana Code Annotated (MCA) and 82-4-377, MCA. As such, DEQ is limited in its authority to address the comments as a reevaluation of the technical review conducted by the EOR and IRP.

Specifically, the comments provided by Atlantic Richfield Co. and Dr. Colleen Elliott relate to the Design Document. The Atlantic Richfield Co. and Dr. Colleen Elliott comments were primarily focused on the data collection and monitoring at the tailings storage facility, the methods used to estimate the maximum credible earthquake, the evaluation of geotechnical stability and integrity of the facility, and the inundation risk associated with a breach of the facility and potential impact mitigations. The comment letters were previously sent to you on May 23, 2019, as part of the package of all comment letters received by DEQ.

DEQ requests that MR forward the Atlantic Richfield Co. and Dr. Colleen Elliott comments to the EOR and to the IRP. DEQ further asks that MR seek written responses from the EOR and IRP on those comments. Should the comments/responses warrant any changes to the Design Document, then DEQ requests that the necessary corresponding IRP approval also be submitted.

Any resulting document modifications or recommendations from the EOR and/or IRP should be presented to DEQ for consideration. For ease of correspondence between parties, DEQ also requests that you or another MR representative act as the communication liaison, collecting responses from the EOR and IRP and providing those responses to DEQ's Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) coordinator for the project. The opportunity for responding to comments on the draft EIS is specified in the Administrative Rule of Montana 17.4.620(3). In the interest of maintaining its schedule for completing the associated EIS, DEQ is seeking a response from the EOR/IRP by June 20, 2019. If additional time is needed, please let me know.

If you have any questions, please call.

Sincerely,



Dan Walsh
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