DEQ
Montana Department of Environmental Quality

Air, Energy & Mining Division

RECEIVED
MAR 11 2026
Montana DEQ
Field Services & Technology Section

EXPLORATION LICENSE

Pursuant to § 82-4-331 *et seq.* Montana Code Annotated (MCA)

Return via mail: DEQ Mining Bureau
Field Services and Technology Section
2401 Colonial Drive
Helena, MT 59601

Return electronically: DEQSMESandExploration@mt.gov

1. **Exploration License** (*for DEQ use*) # _____

2. **New Exploration License Application Fee** (*Select One*):

Activities only ***on*** the surface of the land	Activities ***beneath*** the surface of the land (*includes drilling*)	***Both*** on surface and beneath the surface
$1000	$2000	$2000
Cash/Check ☐ Online ☐	Cash/Check ☐ Online ☐	Cash/Check ☐ Online ☑

Payment Online: If you are paying online, you must include a copy of your receipt with this Exploration License Application Package. **Please review the online payment instructions.**

Payment via Check: Make check payable to: **DEQ Financial Services Office**

3. **Applicant Information**

El Dorado Sapphire Mine LLC
Licensee (Company Name or Individual)

Don Johnson
Primary Contact Person

5380 Favorite Gulch
Address

Helena, MT 59602
City, State/Province, Zip/Postal Code

916-601-5364
Phone

Email: obsessedovergems@gmail.com

Signature (*Must be signed in front of Notary*)

Notary

Subscribed and sworn to me this 10 day of March, 20 26.

Notary Signature

Los Angeles, CA
Residency (City, State/Province)

Notary Public for the State/Province of: CA

My commission expires: Nov 20, 2029

KELLY SAY GEIST
Notary Public - California
Los Angeles County
Commission # 2539399
My Comm. Expires Nov 20, 2029

EXPLORATION LICENSE

Applicant Principal, Controlling Member, and Business Information

The Department of Environmental Quality requires an exploration license applicant to provide a list of its principals and their corresponding firm or business associations of which the applicant or principal is or was a principal or controlling member and that previously has been issued an Exploration License, Operating Permit, or Small Miner Exclusion Statement under the Metal Mine Reclamation Act. For individual applicants, the applicant may likely also be considered the principal.

- *If the applicant is **not** an individual*:
  - Please provide a list of the principals associated with the organization (See Section 1).
  - Please provide a list of any business associations related to mining and exploration in Montana and the principal/controlling member's roles in that business association (See Section 2).
- *If the applicant **is** an individual*:
  - Please identify the individual under the "Company Principals" table shown below (See Section 1).
  - Please provide a list of any of the individual's business associations related to mining and exploration in Montana and the individual's role in that business association.

(1) COMPANY PRINCIPALS (if applicant is not an individual)

Name	Role
Don Johnson	Operations

(2) COMPANY PRINCIPALS OR CONTROLLING MEMBERS BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS

Name	Business/Organization	Role (if any)

4. **License Information** (*for DEQ use*):

Date Received: _____ Fee Received: _____

License Issued by: _____ Date: _____
Mining Bureau; Air, Energy, and Mining Division

License is valid from _____ to _____

This license, when executed by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Licensee, shall authorize the Licensee to explore for minerals in the State of Montana, in accordance with and subject to the exploration plan of operations and exploration map submitted with the application for this Exploration License to the extent that the Licensee's exploration activities have been approved by DEQ and with any modifications or conditions agreed upon by DEQ and the Licensee. The Licensee certifies that they shall reclaim any surface area disturbed by mineral exploration activities in accordance with the Montana Metal Mine Reclamation Act (the Act) and Rules and Regulations pursuant to the Act. The Licensee certifies that they are not in default of any reclamation obligations under Title 82, Chapter 4, Part 3, Montana Code Annotated (MCA). **As of July 1, 2025, the fee for a New Exploration License is defined at 82-4-332(1)(a), MCA; fees for Major Amendments are defined at 82-4-342(4); fees for Minor Amendments and Revisions are defined at 82-4-342(2)(c); and fees for Annual Exploration License Renewals are defined at 82-4-331(1)(a), MCA and 82-4-342(2)(c), MCA.**

Excerpts from Title 82, Chapter 4, Part 3, MCA:
"Exploration" means all activities that are conducted on or beneath the surface of lands and that result in material disturbance of the surface for the purpose of determining the presence, location, extent, depth, grade, and economic viability of mineralization in those lands, if any, other than mining for production and economic exploitation; and all roads made for the purpose of facilitating exploration...

"Mineral" means any ore, rock, or substance (other than oil, gas, bentonite, clay, coal, sand, gravel, peat, soil materials, or uranium) that is taken from below the surface or from the surface of the earth...

A person may not engage in exploration in the state without first obtaining an exploration license from the department. A license must be issued for a period of 1 year from date of issue and is renewable from year to year on application. An application for renewal must be filed within 30 days preceding the expiration of the current license and be accompanied by payment of a fee as required for a new license. A license may not be renewed if the applicant for renewal is in violation of any provision of this part. A license is subject to suspension and revocation as provided by this part.

...a person or operator who violates a provision of this part, a rule or order adopted under this part, or a term or condition of a permit ...[or]...any director, officer, or agent of a corporation who willfully authorizes, orders, or carries out a violation of a provision of this part, a rule or order adopted under this part, or a term or condition of a permit [is subject to] a civil penalty of not less than $100 or more than $1,000 for each of the following violations, an additional civil penalty of not less than $100 or more than $1,000 for each day during which the violation continues, and an injunction from continuing the violation. If the violation created an imminent danger to the health or safety of the public or caused significant environmental harm, the maximum penalty is $5,000 for each day of violation. In addition, if any provisions of the Montana Water Quality Act, and/or rules and regulations adopted pursuant to the Act, are violated as a result of the exploration operation, the operator is subject to penalties of up to $25,000 for each day of violation.

Exploration Plan of Operations

To Whom It May Concern:

This operation plan is in support of the Exploration License attached and serves to notify the appropriate parties of proposed exploratory work to be conducted at the below-referenced location.

The operator proposes to excavate two (2) test holes within an existing alfalfa field for the purpose of determining the depth to bedrock and the thickness and characteristics of the gravel layer present at the site.

The proposed test hold locations are as follows:

Test Hole #1:

[46.738003 N, -111.866057 W]

Test Hole #2:

[46.735892 N, -111.858368 W]

A site map showing the precise locations of the proposed test holes is attached hereto.

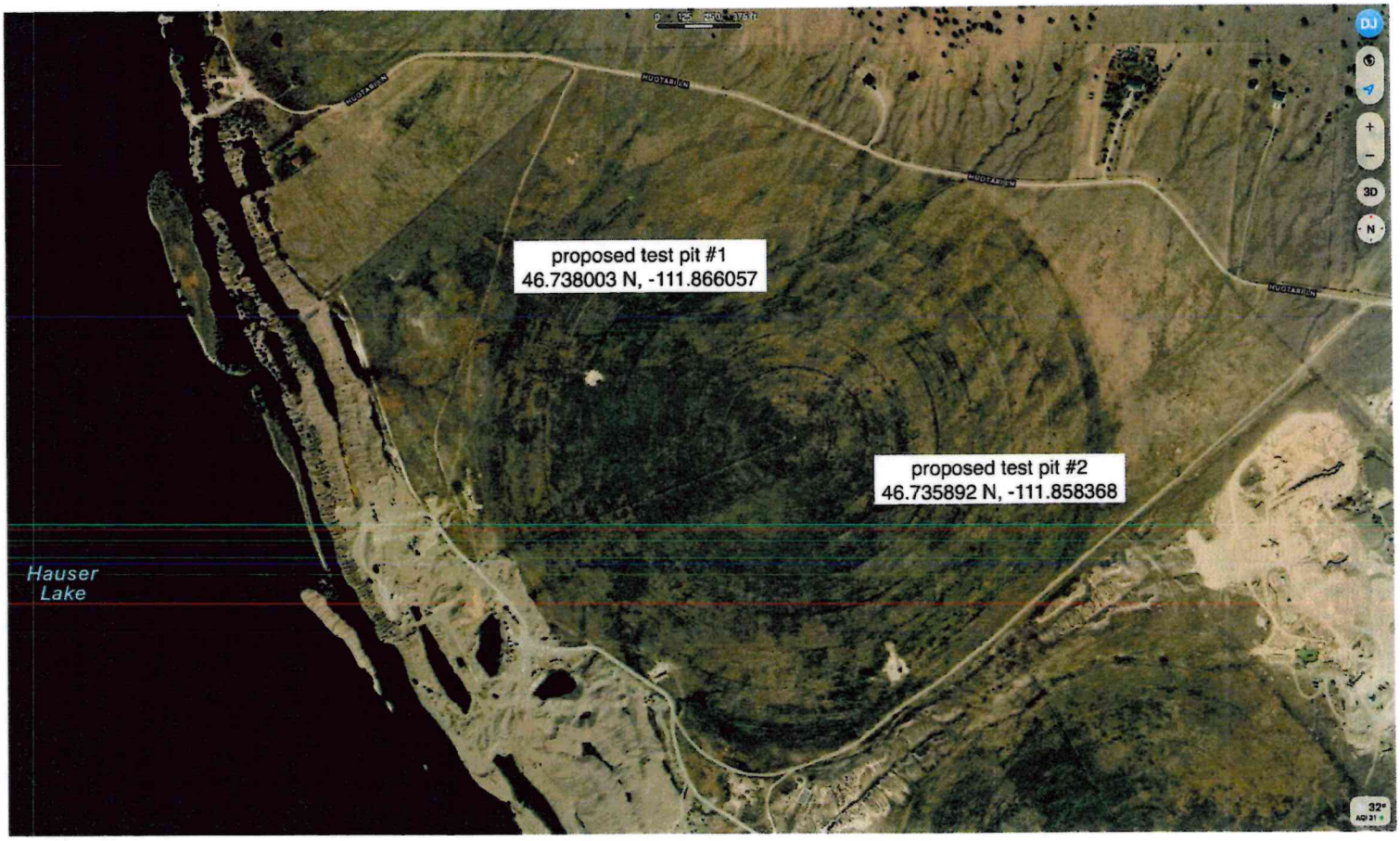
The area has been utilized as an alfalfa field in recent years. Excavation will be conducted using an excavator to reach bedrock. Soil and gravel samples will be collected during excavation for evaluation.

Upon completion of the exploratory work, the excavated material will be returned to the test holes and the area restored to its original condition. Any disturbed surface areas will be reseeded with alfalfa to reestablish the existing agricultural use.

This exploratory work is intended solely to evaluate subsurface conditions and will involve minimal disturbance to the surrounding area.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Johnson
El Dorado Sapphire Mine, LLC


proposed test pit #1
46.738003 N, -111.866057
proposed test pit #2
46.735892 N, -111.858368
Hauser
Lake
HUOTARIEN
HUOTARIEN
HUOTARIEN
HUOTARIEN
3D
N

Churchill, Jacob

From: Churchill, Jacob
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2026 9:49 AM
To: Johnson, Shannon
Cc: Olsen, Millie
Subject: RE: Check deposit OP#00168 Apex Garnet HRM260043 $1000.00, OP#00897 El Dorado Sapphire Mine $2000

Thank you, Millie,

Shannon, coding for the $2000 payment is **Explo 00901 503508-02504-535330 New Application**

Let me know if you need anything else!

Thank you,

JACOB CHURCHILL | *Program Support Specialist*
Mining Bureau
Montana Department of Environmental Quality
DESK: 406-444-3920 | jacob.churchill@mt.gov
2401 Colonial Drive, Helena, MT 59601
Website | Facebook | X | YouTube
How did we do? Let us know here: Feedback Survey

From: Olsen, Millie <Millie.Olsen@mt.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2026 9:45 AM
To: Johnson, Shannon <Shannon.Johnson@mt.gov>
Cc: Churchill, Jacob <Jacob.Churchill@mt.gov>
Subject: RE: Check deposit OP#00168 Apex Garnet HRM260043 $1000.00, OP#00897 El Dorado Sapphire Mine $2000

Hi Shannon,

The coding for the payment with invoice #HRM260043 is OP 00168 **AR2026** Fee 503507-02504-535330.

The second charge is for a new Exploration License. Jacob, can you provide the coding for that one?

Thanks,

MILLIE OLSEN (she/her) | *Section Supervisor*
Hard Rock Mining Section | Mining Bureau
Montana Department of Environmental Quality
DESK: 406-444-2461
How did we do? Let us know here: Feedback Survey

From: Johnson, Shannon <Shannon.Johnson@mt.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2026 9:17 AM

To: Olsen, Millie <Millie.Olsen@mt.gov>
Subject: Check deposit OP#00168 Apex Garnet HRM260043 $1000.00, OP#00897 El Dorado Sapphire Mine $2000

Hello,

Can you provide me coding for the following deposits? Thank you!

$1,000.00	Invoice #:HRM260043 | Retype Invoice #:HRM260043 | Customer Number:00168 | Business / Customer Name:Apex
$2,000.00	Invoice #:2026 - Hard Rock Mining Exploration License New Application Fee | Retype Invoice #:2026 - Hard Rock Minir LLC

Shannon Johnson | *Accounting Technician*
Financial Services Bureau
Montana Department of Environmental Quality
DESK: 406-444-5339
Physical Address: 2401 Colonial Drive, Helena, MT 59601
Website | Facebook | Twitter | YouTube
How did we do? Let us know here: Feedback Survey

Montana Department of Environmental Quality

Logo

Receipt

03/11/26 12:26 PM MST

Transaction Id : 11809810347

Payment Type : ACH (eCheck)

Description	Price	Quantity	Amount
Number Invoice Starts With is Not Listed	$2,000.00	1	$2,000.00
Invoice # : 2026 - Hard Rock Mining Exploration License New Application Fee **Customer Number** : Explo-00897			
Business / Customer Name : El Dorado Sapphire Mine LLC			
TOTAL			**$2,000.00**

Billing Information

Robert A Procop
9536 Wilshire Blvd
Suite 520
Beverly Hills, CA 90212
(310) 276 6041
Kelly@robertprocop.com

Thank you for your payment. PLEASE DO NOT SUBMIT YOUR PAYMENT MULTIPLE TIMES. If you have questions or problems, notify DEQ Fiscal staff by sending your question to the email below or calling the number below.