

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 23, 2009

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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DEQ Seeks Public Comment on Dewatering at Drumlummon Mine

Helena – The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is seeking public comments on an application by RX Exploration, Inc. to dewater the Drumlummon Mine located near Marysville, Montana. The department has prepared a Draft Checklist Environmental Assessment (CEA) for the proposal.

RX is currently engaged in core drilling at the mine, which is located on private land in Lewis and Clark County. The mine is flooded at the 400 foot level. The company needs to dewater the mine to allow exploration drilling in the lower levels of the mine. RX proposes to treat the water pumped from the mine and to dispose of it to groundwater through a 2,000 foot long perforated pipe. The pipe would be buried to a depth of approximately 24 inches, located along an abandoned Northern Pacific Railroad roadbed.

The pumped water would be treated to remove arsenic in a treatment plant located underground. The Draft CEA lists proposed stipulations for monitoring locations, frequency and effluent limits as conditions of approval. RX has proposed surface water monitoring points along Silver Creek, both above the mine and below the proposed infiltration line. These sites would be monitored monthly during infiltration. Water leaving the treatment plant would be monitored weekly for arsenic and other parameters during infiltration. Upon closure of the operation, the discharge pipe would be removed and the disturbed ground seeded.

This discharge authorization would only be valid for the exploration phase of the Drumlummon project. If ore recovery is to occur, RX would be required to obtain a water discharge permit in order to continue discharge from the mine dewatering system.

For information on the project, copies of the Draft CEA, and to submit comments on the proposal, contact: Robert Cronholm, DEQ Environmental Management Bureau, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620, or by calling (406) 444-4330; or sending an email addressed to rcronholm@mt.gov. The Draft CEA will also be posted on the DEQ web page: www.deq.mt.gov. Public comments will be accepted until February 2, 2009.

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