



"Healthy environment, healthy people"

Steve Bullock, Governor
Tracy Stone-Manning, Director

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July 2, 2013

Interested Party List

RE: Final Checklist EA for Golden Rule Placer Mining, Inc., Application for an Operating Permit

Dear Reader:

Golden Rule Placer Mining, Inc., (Golden Rule) located at PO Box 20878, Billings, MT 59104 filed an application for an Operating Permit on September 11, 2012 from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Environmental Management Bureau in Helena. The application was later revised on 8/31/12, 2/19/13, 3/19/13 and 4/18/13.

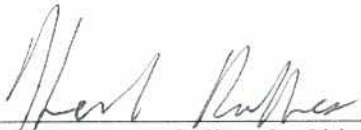
The operating permit would authorize Golden Rule to conduct placer mining operations on private land in Sections 22, 27 and 34 in Township 9 North, Range 11 West. The site is approximately five miles south of Gold Creek, MT and about nine miles west of Garrison, MT. The site has historically been mined and currently is mined under two Small Miner Exclusion Statements (SMES).

The operating permit would cover a total of 90 acres. About 48 acres would be disturbed over the next five years, which is the estimated life of the mine. Ground disturbance would range up to approximately 50 feet in depth. Golden Rule would use trucks and heavy equipment and a trommel.

The Draft CEA evaluated the potential impacts from this proposed permit application. The DEQ issued a Draft Checklist Environmental Analysis (CEA) on May 22, 2013 evaluating the potential impacts from the quarrying operation and asking for comments on the proposed operation. The Draft CEA addressed issues and concerns raised during public involvement and from agency scoping. No comments were received on the Draft CEA. The agency has decided to approve the permit application with no agency modifications.

The operating permit will be issued contingent on Golden Rule posting the required reclamation bond and signature by the Director of DEQ.

Information on the application can be obtained by writing DEQ, Environmental Management Bureau, PO Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620, c/o Herb Rolfes, or calling (406) 444-3841; or sending email addressed to hrolfes@mt.gov.

WDM

Warren D. McCullough, Chief
Environmental Management Bureau

7/2/13
Date

Cc: file, read file, mailing list
Dick Morrow, Herb Rolfes

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