



Air, Energy & Mining Division

**Application for Permit Revision
Hard Rock Mining Operating Permit No.**

Submittal Date:

Operating Permit No.:

Permittee Name:

Permittee Address:

Revision Location (legal description or latitude/longitude):

During the term of an operating permit issued under the Metal Mine Reclamation Act (MMRA), an operator may apply for a permit revision as described in subsections 82-4-342(5)(g) through (j), Montana Code Annotated (MCA). Section 82-4-342(5), MCA states:

“The department is not required to prepare an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement for the following categories of action and permit revisions:

- (g) changes in a permit boundary that increase disturbed acres that are insignificant in impact relative to the entire operation, provided that the increase is less than 25 acres or 10% of the permitted area, whichever is less;
- (h) changes to an approved reclamation plan if the changes are consistent with this part and rules adopted pursuant to this part;
- (i) changes in an approved operating plan for an activity that was previously permitted if the changes will be insignificant relative to the entire operation and the changes are consistent with subsection (5)(g);
- (j) changes in a permit for the purpose of retention of mine-related facilities that are valuable for postmining use;”

Form Directions: The permittee must include sufficient information within the permit revision application to demonstrate that the proposed activities or changes fit the criteria provided by Section 82-4-342(5), MCA. The permit revision application must also include all information required by the Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 17.24.120, as outlined within the format of the following pages. **Please provide detailed answers on the following pages and submit any reports, maps or figures, or other supplemental information that may be needed to explain and support the proposed permit revision. Please use attachments if responses exceed the length of the form fields.**

DEQ has provided a separate file that shows an example revision application for a hypothetical scenario. In the actual permit revision application, the permittee should provide a similar level of site-specific details to adequately address the scope of proposed changes and potential significance of impacts

A. General summary explaining the revision- ARM 17.24.120(1)(a)

Response (explain the proposed modification; summarize disturbance and permit areas; summarize relevant plans for operation, reclamation, and/or monitoring; identify any attachments):

B. Applicant's rationale for asserting non-significance pursuant to 82-4-337(5), MCA (provided above)- ARM 17.24.120(1)(b)

1. Surface Disturbance

Does the revision include modifications to the permit area or disturbance area?

No

Yes, see the following:

Current permit area (acres):

Current disturbance area (acres):

Modification to permit area (acres):

Modification to disturbance area (acres):

Response to explain the selection:

2. Water Quantity and Quality

Does the revision include modifications, disturbance, or activities that may influence stormwater runoff flow paths, runoff or sediment management features, and/or outfalls?

Yes

No

Response to explain the selection (details about stormwater conveyance; current and proposed management and monitoring systems; address any updates required for other water quality permits):

Does the revision include modifications, disturbance, or activities that may influence surface water features, groundwater, onsite water uses, storage or conveyance methods, water treatment, and/or discharge?

Yes

No

Response to explain the selection (details about nearby surface water and groundwater; current water uses, management, and/or monitoring systems; address any updates required for other water quality or use permits):

3. Air Quality

Does the revision include modifications, disturbance, or activities that may influence air quality from potential sources of fugitive dust, equipment, facilities, and/or other emission sources?

Yes

No

Response to explain the selection (details about dust control on disturbed areas and emission sources; management and monitoring systems; address any updates required for other air quality permits):

4. Historical and Cultural Resources

Does the revision include modifications, disturbance, or activities that may influence historical or cultural resources?

Yes

No

Response to explain the selection (details about potential historical or cultural resources; summary of any previous investigations or consultation with State Historic Preservation Office; plans for avoidance, mitigations, or contingencies):

C. Identify previous environmental analyses relevant to the revision- ARM 17.24.120(1)(c)

Response (reference the Environmental Assessment(s) or Impact Statement(s) completed for the initial permit application and/or subsequent permit amendments; summarize how these analyses apply to the areas or plans associated with the revision):

D. Reference prior commitments to topsoil salvage, sediment control, reclamation, and other previously approved plans or standards- ARM 17.24.120(1)(d)

Response (summarize prior commitments and plans; describe how the proposed revision is consistent with these standards or explain any proposed changes):

E. Document the adequacy of existing bonding- ARM 17.24.120(1)(e)

Current Obligated Bond Amount:

Current Unobligated Bond Amount:

Is the existing bond adequate to address the reclamation costs resulting from the proposed revision?

Yes

No

Cost Estimate Attached, Total Amount:

If unobligated bond is available, would you like to apply this amount to the bond increase resulting from this revision?

Yes

No

N/A

Response to explain the selection (consider all aspects of reclamation methods and costs that would result from the proposed revision, including: disturbance acreage; material balance for backfill, grading, and/or soil placement; decommission and remove equipment, facilities, and infrastructure; revegetation and weed control; current rates for equipment and personnel, etc.):

F. Replacement pages and maps for the approved Operating and Reclamation Plans- ARM 17.24.120(1)(f)

The proposed revision results in modifications to the following document(s):

Operating Plan

Pages Attached Maps/Figures Attached

Reclamation Plan

Pages Attached Maps/Figures Attached

Response to explain the selection (summarize the replacement pages and figures that are needed to reflect the details of the proposed revision):

G. Construction, Operating, Reclamation, Monitoring, and Contingency Plans- *ARM 17.24.120(1)*

The proposed revision results in modifications or updates to the following document(s):

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Construction Plan | <input type="checkbox"/> Attached |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Operating Plan | <input type="checkbox"/> Attached |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reclamation Plan | <input type="checkbox"/> Attached |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring Plan | <input type="checkbox"/> Attached |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contingency Plan | <input type="checkbox"/> Attached |

Response to explain the selection(s) (based on other details provided for this revision, identify any documents and/or figures that need to be updated; explain if attachments are included with the application or provide a deadline for submittal to DEQ):

H. Updated or comprehensive facilities map(s) clearly indicating the proposed revision features and all areas subject to pre-July 1, 1974, bonding levels- *ARM 17.24.120(1)(h)*

- Updated map(s) attached
 - Pre-July 1, 1974, disturbance is shown
 - Pre-July 1, 1974, disturbance does not occur at the site

Response to explain the selection(s):

Revision Application, Attachment Responses:

B.Applicant's rationale for asserting non-significance pursuant to 82-4-337(5), MCA (providedabove)- ARM 17.24.120(1)(b)

1.Surface Disturbance:

This revision would increase the permit area by 12.5 acres (total of 662.5 acres), but the actual disturbance within this area would be 4.0 acres (total of 619 acres). This is below the 25-acre threshold in the MMRA. The footprint of the access road, processing building, and related infrastructure are shown in Figure 1 (attached). Site preparation would include clearing vegetation, salvaging the available soil (average 6-inch depth) and stockpiling the material in existing pile #2 (approx. 87,000 cubic feet; see Figure 1). Designs and pre-construction drawings for the facilities and infrastructure are attached to this application.

2.Water Quantity and Quality:

The additional permit area and disturbance area would increase the amount of potential runoff within the mine site. Stormwater and runoff would be managed through BMPs and control features that would be installed in the new disturbance area, consistent with the conditions in the existing MPDES Permit #1001234. See more in attachment responses. The additional runoff would be within the capacity of the existing control and retention systems, so no changes would occur at the outfalls. Updates will be made to the SWPPP accordingly.

The relocation of the ore processing building would change the route and total length of the pipelines that convey tailings and water between the buildings and the tailings storage facility. There would be no changes to production or the flow rates conveyed by the pipelines. The pipelines occur on the ground surface and they would be shifted/installed in the new location. There would be no changes to the sitewide water balance or the approved methods of water treatment and discharge. The current systems and plans for water management and hydrologic monitoring would continue to be implemented. There would be no anticipated changes to surface water (0.75 mile from the site), nor to groundwater which occurs approximately 200 feet below the surface.

3. Air Quality:

The relocation of the ore processing building would not significantly affect air quality. The additional disturbance area (4.0 acres) would be primarily covered with facilities, but any exposed ground would be managed with dust control methods that are applied elsewhere at the site (spray water and/or magnesium chloride). The equipment, facilities, and mitigation methods associated with ore processing are included in the current Air Quality Permit (MAQP#1234). The relocated facility would operate in the same manner as the current facility, but DEQ Air Quality will be consulted prior to construction about any permit changes that may be needed.

D.Reference prior commitments to topsoil salvage, sediment control, reclamation, and other previously approved plans or standards- ARM 17.24.120(1)(d)

The plans for topsoil salvage and stockpiles, sediment control methods, and reclamation are detailed in the initial permit application (2004), major amendment (2010), and updated Operating and Reclamation Plans (2019). The original ore processing facility will be demolished and the debris will

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be moved from the site, in accordance with the approved Reclamation Plan. The new ore processing building will operate in the same manner as the previously approved facility and similar infrastructure (tailings and water pipelines, natural gas line, overhead powerlines) would need to be constructed at the new location. Designs and pre-construction drawings for the facilities and infrastructure are attached to this application.

This revision would involve the expansion of the permit boundary by 12.5 acres, but actual ground disturbance would increase by only 4.0 acres from access road construction, site preparation, construction, and operation of the facility. Site preparation would include clearing vegetation, salvaging the available soil (average 6-inch depth) and stockpiling the material in existing pile #2 (approx. 87,000 cubic feet; see Figure 1). The stockpile will be planted with a temporary seed mix to reduce erosion of the pile prior to being used for reclamation. These methods are consistent with previously approved plans and the disturbance areas and stockpile volumes will be updated in the Annual Progress Report. The same Reclamation Plan requirements for facility demolition and removal, followed by grading, soil placement, and revegetation of the footprint, would apply to the new facility.

List of Attachments/Figures:

- SHPO Correspondence
- Reclamation Bond Cost Estimate
- Construction Plan
- Operating Plan
- Reclamation Plan
- Updated site map