2025

State of Montana
Department of Environmental Quality
Mineral Exploration License Supplemental Information

Please return this document via email to DEQSMESandExploration@mt.gov

SECTION A – APPLICATION INFORMATION

Application Type: ☐ New License ☐ Amendment to Existing License (#_____)

1. Licensee Name (Person or Company): _____
2. Date Submitted: _____
3. Contact Name: _____

Address:_____ City:_____ State:_____Zip:_____

Phone:_____Email:_____

NOTE: All official correspondence will be directed to the email provided above.

Authorized Agent:_____

Phone:_____ Email:_____

Additional Information: The exploration license does not convey a right to occupy land not owned by the licensee. A licensee is responsible for obtaining and maintaining a lease or other authorization from the landowner to occupy the land on which the licensee is to conduct exploration activity. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) does not confirm whether the licensee has obtained such authorization and does not resolve any disputes regarding access between a licensee and the landowner.

SECTION B – PROJECT LOCATION

1. Project Name:_____
2. County in which the proposed site is located:_____
3. Project Coordinates: *(Decimal Degree Only)* Latitude:_____ Longitude:_____
4. Landowner: ☐ Private ☐ BLM ☐ USFS ☐ DNRC/State ☐ Other

Contact Name: _____

Phone:_____ Email:_____

SECTION C – PROJECT TIMELINE

1. Proposed Start Date of Exploration:_____ Proposed End Date of Exploration:_____
2. Proposed Start Date of Reclamation:_____ Proposed End Date of Reclamation:_____

NOTE: Final reclamation of all surface disturbances would be required to be completed no later than 2 years following the conclusion of exploration unless otherwise incorporated into an Operating Permit.

3. Hours of Operation:

Shifts per Day:_____ Hours per Shift:_____ Total Hours per Day:_____

Total Days per Week:_____ Additional Information:_____

SECTION D – Maps

1. **Refer to Map Guideline for further information: https://deq.mt.gov/mining/assistance**
2. **General Location Map (Required) –** The intent of this map is to provide a map showing the location of the proposed operation sufficient to allow the public to locate the proposed site. The General Location Map may be displayed on an aerial or topographic background and must show the site's location in relation to the nearest town or city. Roads must be labeled from the nearest town to the site on the General Location Map.
3. **Project Map (Required) –** The intent of this map is to show the location of the proposed project with an aerial background. The map must be at a scale to adequately display the features of the project. The Project Map must display all project disturbances including but not limited to:
    a. New roads
    b. Overland travel routes
    c. Label all Trenches
    d. Label all Portals
    e. Label all Drill Pads
    f. Sump Locations (if outside of drill pad footprint)
    g. Buildings (existing, proposed and temporary)
    h. Camp Area
    i. Lay down/loadout area
    j. Fuel Storage Area
    k. Water Crossings
    l. Other features pertinent to the project

NOTE: Provide as many Project Maps as necessary to depict the proposed area(s) at a viewable/readable scale.

SECTION E – Exploration Methods and Description

1. Exploration Methods (check all that apply):

    ☐ Drilling ☐ Trenching ☐ Placer ☐ Underground

    ☐ Other (describe):_____
2. Volume of Material to be tested:_____
3. Description of Project:

SECTION F – PROJECT QUANTITIES AND DIMENSIONS

1. Exploration Drilling:

a. Drill Pads

i. Quantity:_____ Length (ft): _____ Width (ft): _____ Depth (ft): _____

b. Internal Drill Sumps

i. Quantity:_____ Length (ft): _____ Width (ft): _____ Depth (ft): _____

c. External Drill Sumps

i. Quantity:_____ Length (ft): _____ Width (ft): _____ Depth (ft): _____

d. Drill Holes

i. # Holes per Pad:_____ Total # Drill Holes : _____ Maximum Depth (ft): _____

ii. Total depth of all drill holes (ft): _____

iii. Please complete the attached Drill Pad & Drill Hole Inventory (Appendix A)

NOTE: The maximum drill hole depth will be used to in the assessment of environmental impacts of the proposed project. Exceedance of this depth would require a new amendment and MEPA review. It is recommended that operators overestimate the maximum depth drilled so as to avoid unnecessary impacts to drilling operations.

2. Other Surface Disturbances:

a. Trenches/Test Pits

i. Quantity:_____ Length (ft): _____ Width (ft): _____ Depth (ft): _____

b. Waste Rock Stockpiles

i. Quantity:_____ Length (ft): _____ Width (ft): _____ Volume (yd^3): _____

c. Laydown Area

i. Quantity:_____ Length (ft): _____ Width (ft): _____ Depth (ft): _____

d. New Roads

i. Length (ft): _____ Width (ft): _____ Depth (ft): _____

e. Overland Travel

i. Length (ft): _____ Width (ft): _____ Depth (ft): _____

f. Culverts

i. Quantity:_____ Length (ft): _____ Diameter (in): _____

g. Slash Piles

i. Quantity:_____ Length (ft): _____ Width (ft): _____ Height (ft): _____

h. Heli-Pads

i. Quantity:_____ Length (ft): _____ Width (ft): _____ Depth (ft): _____

i. Camping Area

i. Length (ft): _____ Width (ft): _____

ii. Arrival Date: _____ Departure Date:_____

iii. List all vehicles, tents, etc. located in the camping area:_____

_____

j. Other (please describe)

Quantity:_____ Length (ft): _____ Width (ft): _____ Depth (ft): _____

_____

SECTION G – PROJECT OPERATIONAL ELEMENTS

1. Equipment and Vehicles- What equipment will be on site during exploration and reclamation?

a. Drill Rig(s) Quantity:_____ Make: _____ Model: _____
b. Water Trucks Quantity:_____ Make: _____ Model: _____
c. Fuel Trucks Quantity:_____ Make: _____ Model: _____
d. Excavators Quantity:_____ Make: _____ Model: _____
e. Bulldozers Quantity:_____ Make: _____ Model: _____
f. Backhoes Quantity:_____ Make: _____ Model: _____
g. Haul/Dump Trucks Quantity:_____ Make: _____ Model: _____
h. Skid Steers Quantity:_____ Make: _____ Model: _____
i. ATV/UTVs Quantity:_____ Make: _____ Model: _____
j. Generators Quantity:_____ Make: _____ Model: _____
k. Wash Plants Quantity:_____ Make: _____ Model: _____
l. Conveyors Quantity:_____ Make: _____ Model: _____
m. Personal Vehicles Quantity:_____ Make: _____ Model: _____
n. Other Quantity:_____ Make: _____ Model: _____

2. Structures- Identify any temporary structures that would be on site during exploration and reclamation.

o. Core Sheds Quantity:_____ Size: _____ Description: _____
p. Connex/Containers Quantity:_____ Size: _____ Description: _____
q. Campers/Trailers Quantity:_____ Size: _____ Description: _____
r. Tents Quantity:_____ Size: _____ Description: _____
s. Saw Shacks Quantity:_____ Size: _____ Description: _____
t. Warehouses Quantity:_____ Size: _____ Description: _____
u. Portable Toilets Quantity:_____ Size: _____ Description: _____
v. Water Pumps Quantity:_____ Make: _____ Model: _____

3. Fluid Storage/Transport- Identify any fluid storage containers or transport lines that would be on site during exploration and reclamation.

w. Large Fuel Tanks Quantity:_____ Capacity (gal): _____
x. Small Fuel Containers Quantity:_____ Capacity (gal): _____
y. Water Tanks Quantity:_____ Capacity (gal): _____
z. Water Lines Length (ft): _____ Diameter (in): _____

4. Onsite Personnel- Identify the person(s) associated with the project and their position/duties.

a. Position:_____ Quantity: _____
b. Position:_____ Quantity: _____
c. Position:_____ Quantity: _____
d. Position:_____ Quantity: _____
e. Position:_____ Quantity: _____
f. Position:_____ Quantity: _____
g. Position:_____ Quantity: _____

h. Position:_____ Quantity: _____

i. Position:_____ Quantity: _____

5. Water- Would water be used in the operation? Provide source and daily consumption details.

a. Natural Spring

i. Latitude: _____Longitude: _____ Section/Twp/Rge: _____

b. Stream/Pond/Lake Take-Point

i. Latitude: _____Longitude: _____ Section/Twp/Rge: _____

c. Domestic Water Well

i. Ground Water Information Center ID#: _____

ii. Completion Date: _____

iii. Total Depth (ft): _____

iv. Static Water Level (ft): _____

v. Yield (gpm): _____

d. Daily Water Useage (gallons/day): _____

6. Supplemental Lighting- would supplemental lighting be required during exploration or reclamation operations?

a. Type of lighting to be used (describe): _____

i. Hours of Operation: _____

b. Light pollution controls to be used:

☐ Downward Facing Lights ☐ Light Shrouds/Shields ☐ Directional Lighting

☐ Motion Sensors ☐ Automatic Timers ☐ Other

7. Air Quality- Identify measures proposed to minimize impacts on air quality.

Proposed Best Management Practices (BMPs):

☐ Application of water to roads ☐ Factory Emissions Controls ☐ Controlled slash burning

☐ Reduce speed while traveling ☐ Reduced traffic volume ☐ Other: _____

8. Erosion Control- Identify measures proposed to control erosion and sediment transport.

Proposed Best Management Practices (BMPs):

☐ Vegetated Buffers ☐ Temporary Seeding ☐ Mulch Cover

☐ Earthen Berms ☐ Water Diversions ☐ Surface Roughening

☐ Plastic Liners ☐ Secondary Containment ☐ Straw Wattles

☐ Silt Fence ☐ Spill Prevention/Response ☐ Sediment Traps

9. Solid Waste- Describe plan to store and control solid waste.

a. Trash Cans/Dumpsters: Quantity: _____ Capacity (yd^3): _____

b. Disposal Facility: Name: _____ City: _____

10. Historic and Archaeological Resources- Describe any measures that would be taken to reduce the impact to any historic and archeological resources that may be encountered. _____

_____

_____

11. Hazardous Substances- Identify the type, volume, and storage of all hazardous materials and toxic substances which would be on site during exploration and reclamation operations;

a. Petroleum Products

i. Diesel Fuel: Quantity:_____ Capacity (gal): _____

ii. Gasoline: Quantity:_____ Capacity (gal): _____

iii. Lubricants: Quantity:_____ Capacity (gal): _____

iv. Other: Quantity:_____ Capacity (gal): _____

Note: BMPs proposed to prevent the release of petroleum products to the environment:

☐ Spill Kits ☐ Regular Equipment Maintenance ☐ Secondary Containment

b. Solvents

i. Brake Cleaner: Quantity:_____ Capacity (gal): _____

ii. Carb Cleaner: Quantity:_____ Capacity (gal): _____

iii. Degreaser: Quantity:_____ Capacity (gal): _____

iv. Other: Quantity:_____ Capacity (gal): _____

Note: BMPs proposed to prevent the release of solvents to the environment:

☐ Spill Kits ☐ Proper and Secured Storage ☐ Secondary Containment

c. Cyanide: _____

d. Millings: _____

e. Process and laboratory reagents: _____

f. Explosives: _____

g. Other: _____

SECTION H – RECLAMATION

12. Weed Control Plan

a. Describe how noxious weeds would be controlled during exploration operations: _____

_____

b. Describe how noxious weeds would be controlled after reclamation: _____

_____

13. Reclamation Plan

a. Describe ongoing reclamation that may occur during exploration operations: _____

_____

b. If proposed work spans multiple operating seasons, describe "end-of-season" reclamation: _____

_____

c. Describe final reclamation of the site: _____

_____

d. Describe any surface disturbance or structures that would remain unreclaimed at the request of the landowner: _____

_____

DRILL PAD AND DRILL HOLE INVENTORY (APPENDIX A)				
DRILL PAD I.D.	DRILL PAD COORDINATES (Decimal Degree Lat/Long)	DRILL HOLE I.D.	DRILL HOLE COORDINATES (Decimal Degree Lat/Long)	MAXIMUM DRILL DEPTH (FEET)

NOTE: All Drill Holes must be plugged in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Rules of Montana

(ARM) 17.24.106, detailed as follows;

17.24.106 EXPLORATION DRILL HOLE PLUGGING

(1) Except as provided in (3) of this rule, all exploration drill holes must be plugged at the surface five to ten feet with cement.

(2) Except as provided in (3) of this rule, exploration drill holes must be plugged with bentonite or a similar compound from the bottom of the hole to within five to ten feet of the surface, and with cement from the top of the bentonite to the surface if one or more of the following conditions apply:

(a) two aquifers are intercepted;

(b) one aquifer is intercepted and an existing or potential beneficial use (domestic, agricultural or fish/ wildlife water supply) exists;

(c) one or more artesian aquifers are intercepted causing either surface flow or significant water rise in the hole; or

(d) the potential exists for downward water loss from an aquifer (cascade effect) as determined by the department.

(3) Exceptions to (1) and (2) of this rule may be granted by the department if:

(a) shallow placer holes are drilled using a churn or percussion drill or similar equipment in alluvium in which the holes will be obliterated as the drill stem is withdrawn, leaving no evidence of the hole;

(b) the drill hole contained no water, is not geologically likely to contain water or the hole is to be destroyed during mining or mining related disturbances;

(c) the drill hole is developed into a water well, monitoring well, or piezometer with the written agreement of the landowner and to the specifications of the appropriate state agency; or

(d) other site-specific hydrogeological and topographic situations necessitate exceptions.

(4) All drill holes must be plugged prior to removing the drill rig from a hole unless removing the drill rig is necessary to the hole plugging operation or unless otherwise approved by the department.

(5) If the flow of an artesian drill hole is not completely stopped, after exhaustion of all methods, the operator must:

(a) obtain a discharge permit from the Department of Environmental Quality; or

(b) develop a water well in compliance with the requirements of other applicable local, state and federal statutes, including water rights. In addition, the landowner must concur, the amount and use of flow must be compatible with the approved postmining land use, and the water quality must meet standards set under the Title 75, chapter 5, MCA.

(6) In areas and geological formations of known artesian well potential, bonding for drill sites must be adequate to ensure artesian hole plugging.

Authorizing statute(s): 82-4-321, MCA

Implementing statute(s): 82-4-302, 82-4-332, 82-4-355, MCA

History: NEW, 1994 MAR p. 2952, Eff. 11/11/94; TRANS, from DSL, 1996 MAR p. 2852; AMD, 2002 MAR p. 3590, Eff. 12/27/02; AMD, 2022 MAR p. 1830, Eff. 9/24/22

SECTION I – OTHER PERMITS

The Applicant May Need Additional Authorizations From The Following State or Federal Agencies & Programs

State of Montana Authorizations

310 Permit –For work proposed in streams, wetlands, floodplains, and other water bodies. One joint application form is available to apply for several different Local/State/Federal permits.
See: http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/cardd/conservation-districts/the-310-law

Montana Water Rights: http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/water/water-rights

Montana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MPDES) Permit – for projects that have a surface water discharge.
See: https://deq.mt.gov/water/assistance

Montana Ground Water Pollution Control System (MGWPCS) Permit – for projects that have a groundwater discharge.
See: https://deq.mt.gov/water/assistance

Stormwater Permit – for projects that have the potential to contribute sediment or pollution to surface waters from surface disturbances as a result of a storm event.
See: https://deq.mt.gov/water/assistance

Suction Dredge Permit – for projects that utilize a suction dredge. See:
http://deq.mt.gov/Water/WPB/mpdes/suctiondredge

Sage Grouse – In response to Senate Bill 261 and Executive Orders 10-2014 and 12-2015, many DEQ permits and approvals in sage grouse core, general, or connectivity habitat, received on or after January 1, 2016, must include a letter of comment from the Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation Program.
See: https://sagegrouse.mt.gov/

Federal Authorizations

USFS – Contact local USFS office. See: https://www.fs.usda.gov/r1/

BLM – Contact local BLM office. See: https://www.blm.gov/montana-dakotas

811 – Before You Dig: https://call811.com/

US Army Corp of Engineers 404 Permit – may be required for any work in streams or wetlands See:
http://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Regulatory-Program-and-Permits/Obtain-a-Permit/