

Legal Notice

Partial Bond Release and Comprehensive Bond Review for Golden Sunlight Mines, Inc. (Hard Rock Mining Operating Permit No. 00065)

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has received a request for bond release from Golden Sunlight Mines, Inc. (GSM). GSM is authorized to operate a gold mine and mill and tailings reprocessing facilities under the conditions of Operating Permit No. 00065. The site is on private and federally-managed land within all or portions of Sections 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, and 33 of Township 2 North, Range 3 West; Sections 4, 5, and 6 in Township 1 North, Range 3 West; and Sections 13, 24, 25, and 36 in Township 2 North, Range 4 West, Montana Meridian, approximately 5 miles northeast of Whitehall, MT in Jefferson County.

DEQ currently holds a reclamation bond in the amount of \$138,668,184. DEQ is proposing to release \$2,430,194 and retain \$136,237,990 after both releasing bond for completed reclamation tasks and increasing the bond as a result of a comprehensive bond review.

The partial bond release was requested by GSM for the completion of grading and soil placement activities across approximately 525 acres over the previous five years. Most of the areas have also been recently revegetated, but DEQ is retaining bond for seeding and weed control until vegetation has become fully established and stable. DEQ has determined the partial completion of reclamation would decrease the currently required bond by \$23,388,365, resulting in a required bond of \$115,279,819.

In addition to the request for bond release, DEQ is conducting a comprehensive bond review for Operating Permit No. 00065. DEQ has determined that the current bonding level does not represent the present costs of compliance with the Metal Mine Reclamation Act, administrative rules adopted thereunder, and the operating permit. DEQ is proposing to increase the bond by \$20,958,171. The bond increase is largely due to changes in fuel price, equipment rates, costs for removal of nonmobile site equipment and updated indirect costs such as mobilization, contingency, and administration.

DEQ has determined the net effect on the bond from the release request (\$23,388,365) and increase as a result of the five-year comprehensive review (\$20,958,171) is a bond release of \$2,430,194.

The procedure for adjusting bonds as a result of a comprehensive bond review is set forth in Section 82-4-338(3), MCA. Pursuant to Section 82-4-338(5), Montana Code Annotated (MCA), DEQ may not release or decrease a reclamation bond until the public has been provided an opportunity for a hearing and a hearing has been held if requested. The permittee and the public will have until June 22, 2026, to comment on these proposed changes to the bond amount. DEQ will issue a final bond determination after the comment period has expired. The permittee, or any person with an interest that may be adversely

affected by DEQ's final bond determination, may obtain a contested case hearing before the Board of Environmental Review. A written request for a hearing must be filed with DEQ within 30 days of the issuance of the final bond determination, stating the reason for the request.

Requests for copies of the bond calculation associated with the comprehensive bond review, accommodations for persons with disabilities who need an alternative accessible format of this notice, and any related questions should be directed to Millie Olsen, Hard Rock Mining Section Supervisor, Mining Bureau, Department of Environmental Quality, PO Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901, by telephone at 406-444-2461 or by e-mail at DEQHardRock@mt.gov. Requests for accommodation must be submitted no later than 5:00 P.M. on June 12, 2026.