

## Partial Bond Release and Comprehensive Bond Review for Green Diamond Resource Company (Hard Rock Mining Operating Permit No. 00203)

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has received a request for bond release from Green Diamond Resource Company (GDRC). GDRC is authorized to mine rock products by picking surface stone and excavating subsurface stone on the LTR Rock site under Operating Permit No. 00203. The site is located on land owned by Green Diamond Montana Timberlands LLC in Sections 3, 10 and 11 of Township 22 North, Range 26 West, approximately 17 miles North from Plains, MT in Sanders County.

DEQ currently holds a reclamation bond in the amount of \$65,687. DEQ is proposing to release \$4,728 and retain \$60,959 after releasing bond for completed reclamation tasks.

The bond release was requested by GDRC for 3.6 acres of disturbance on the LTR Rock site. The reclamation tasks completed all required grading and contouring on the site. Bond would be retained for revegetation and weed control costs. DEQ has determined the partial completion of reclamation would decrease the currently required bond by \$4,728, resulting in a required bond of \$60,959.

In addition to the request for bond release, DEQ is conducting a comprehensive bond review for Operating Permit No. 00203. 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 \$104,969. The bond increase is largely due to changes in fuel price, equipment rates, 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 (\$4,728) and increase as a result of the five-year comprehensive review (\$104,969) is a bond increase of \$100,241.

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 July 16, 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](mailto:DEQHardRock@mt.gov). Requests for accommodation must be submitted no later than 5:00 P.M. on July 6, 2026.