

## Legal Notice

### Comprehensive Bond Review and Proposed Partial Bond Release for Montana Resources, LLC (MR) (Hard Rock Mining Operating Permit No. 00030)

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is conducting a comprehensive bond review for Operating Permit No. 00030 issued to MR. DEQ has also received a request for partial bond release from MR as part of the bond review. MR's facility and associated disturbances are located in Silver Bow County, approximately 1 mile east of Butte. The permit area is located within all or portions of Sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, and 22 of Township 3 North, Range 7 West; all or portions of Sections 30, 31, 32, and 33, Township 4 North, Range 7 West; and all or portions of Section 13, Township 3 North, Range 8 West.

DEQ currently holds a reclamation bond in the amount of \$116,903,653. DEQ is proposing to release \$544,603 due to partial completion of reclamation performed by the operator, which includes placing a 20-inch soil cover on 21.7 acres of the West Embankment of the Tailings Storage Facility. As part of the simultaneous comprehensive bond review, 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. Inclusive of the partial bond release amount above, DEQ is proposing a total bond decrease of \$6,759,272 (from \$116,903,653 to \$110,144,381). The reasons for the bond decrease are due to revised acreage accounting to reflect activities in the next five years, and updates to the site Reclamation Plan, equipment rates, labor rates, and indirect costs since the previous comprehensive bond review in 2020.

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 April 29, 2026, to submit comments 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 and proposed partial release, and any related questions, comments, or hearing requests 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).