

June 5, 2026

Sentinel Metals
c/o Matt Herbert
6995 Nordin Road Unit #236
Sooke, BC V9Z 1L4
CANADA

Sent by e-mail to: matthew.herbert@sentinelmetals.com; krista.evans@sentinelmetals.com

RE: APPROVAL TO PROCEED with Exploration Activities - Exploration License No. 00816

Dear Matt Herbert,

On March 9, 2026, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) received a complete application for exploration license No. 00816, Amendment 2 (AMD2). The project, as proposed, would be located at Lewis and Clark County, Montana.

On June 5, 2026, DEQ issued a Final Environmental Assessment (EA), analyzing, in detail, the possible environmental impacts of two alternatives: the No Action Alternative and the Applicant's Proposed Action Alternative. The decisions contained in this decision document are based on the analysis set forth in the Final EA.

DEQ's Decisions

DEQ has applied the significance criteria set forth in the Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 17.4.608 in determining the significance of impacts on the human environment. Applying those criteria, DEQ has determined that the preparation of an EA is the appropriate level of review under the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA). DEQ's application of the significance criteria is set forth in the Final EA.

DEQ has selected the Applicant's Proposed Action Alternative as set forth in the Final EA and would approve Great Plains Mining, LLC's (GPM) application for an amendment to Exploration License No. 00816 (AMD2) if GPM posted the required reclamation bond for the project.

Pursuant to Section 82-4-332(3), Montana Code Annotated (MCA), GPM is required to file with DEQ a reclamation and revegetation bond in a form and amount as determined by DEQ in accordance with Section 82-4-338, MCA.

Appeal of DEQ's Decisions

Legal actions seeking review of DEQ's approval of GPM exploration license must be filed within 90 days after the date of this decision under Section 82-4-349(1), MCA. Any action or proceeding alleging a failure by DEQ to comply with MEPA, or inadequate compliance with a MEPA requirement, must be brought within 60 days after issuance of this decision pursuant to Section 75-1-201(5)(a)(ii), MCA.

Bond Requirement

DEQ calculated a total reclamation cost estimate for the proposed AMD2 exploration activities for the Columbia Gold project at **\$338,792**.

Approval to Proceed

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has approved the amendment to Exploration License No. 00816, submitted on March 9, 2026, by GPM for the Columbia Gold project located in Lewis and Clark County, Montana. GPM may proceed with the proposed activities as outlined in the submitted Plan of Operations, and as reviewed in the Environmental Assessment finalized on June 5, 2026.

Pursuant to Chapter 17.24.103 (4) of the Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM), in the absence of an emergency or suddenly threatened catastrophe, the licensee may not depart from an approved plan without previously obtaining verbal or written approval from DEQ of the proposed change. Please bear this in mind if you wish to deviate from the exploration activities as proposed and approved.

DEQ holds a cash bond totaling to **\$338,792**, all of which is obligated for the proposed exploration activities in AMD2. The applicant has complied with Section 82-4-332 (3) of the Montana Code Annotated (MCA), which requires an applicant to file with DEQ a reclamation and revegetation bond in a form and amount as determined by DEQ.

DEQ reminds you of the following broad conditions that apply to all exploration licenses:

- Exploration licenses must be renewed annually as long as a reclamation bond is being held by DEQ for any projects covered by the license. Annual renewal is accomplished by submitting an annual report and a \$400.00 filing fee to DEQ.
- Exploration disturbances, except where exempt, must be reclaimed within 2 years after completion of exploration or abandonment of the site.

- Each new project under an existing exploration license is considered an amendment to the license. Amendments must be submitted to DEQ with exploration and reclamation plans, and will be bonded separately from previous projects.
- State regulations, Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 17.24.153, require that all exploration operators be in compliance with all other applicable state and federal laws.

Please contact me with further questions about this Approval to Proceed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Odegard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mark" and last name "Odegard" clearly legible.

Mark Odegard, P.G.
Reclamation Specialist
Small Miner and Exploration Program
DEQSMEsandExploration@mt.gov