DEQ
Montana Department of Environmental Quality

Air, Energy & Mining Division

EXPLORATION LICENSE

Pursuant to § 82-4-331 *et seq.* Montana Code Annotated (MCA)

Return via mail: DEQ Mining Bureau
Field Services and Technology Section
2401 Colonial Drive
Helena, MT 59601

Return electronically: DEQSMESandExploration@mt.gov

1. **Exploration License** (*for DEQ use*) # _____

2. **New Exploration License Application Fee** (*Select One*):

Activities only ***on*** the surface of the land	Activities ***beneath*** the surface of the land (*includes drilling*)	***Both*** on surface and beneath the surface
$1000	$2000	$2000
Cash/Check ○ Online ○	Cash/Check ○ Online ○	Cash/Check ○ Online ○

Payment Online: If you are paying online, you must include a copy of your receipt with this Exploration License Application Package. **Please review the online payment instructions.**

Payment via Check: Make check payable to: **DEQ Financial Services Office**

3. **Applicant Information**

US Critical Materials Corp.
Licensee (Company Name or Individual)

Scott Osterman
Primary Contact Person

206 S. Main, Unit B
Address

Darby, Montana 59829
City, State/Province, Zip/Postal Code

406-821-6821 Phone

scott.osterman@uscriticalmaterials.com Email

Scott
Signature (*Must be signed in front of Notary*)

Notary

Subscribed and sworn to me this 3 day of October, 2026.

Brenda Mejak
Notary Signature

Missoula MT
Residency (City, State/Province)

Notary Public for the State/Province of: MT

My commission expires: June 26 2030

BRENDA MEJAK NOTARIAL SEAL STATE OF MONTANA
BRENDA MEJAK
NOTARY PUBLIC for the State of Montana
Residing at Potomac, MT
My Commission Expires June 26, 2030

4. **License Information** (*for DEQ use*):

Date Received: _____ Fee Received: _____

License Issued by: _____ Date: _____
Mining Bureau; Air, Energy, and Mining Division

License is valid from _____ to _____

This license, when executed by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Licensee, shall authorize the Licensee to explore for minerals in the State of Montana, in accordance with and subject to the exploration plan of operations and exploration map submitted with the application for this Exploration License to the extent that the Licensee's exploration activities have been approved by DEQ and with any modifications or conditions agreed upon by DEQ and the Licensee. The Licensee certifies that they shall reclaim any surface area disturbed by mineral exploration activities in accordance with the Montana Metal Mine Reclamation Act (the Act) and Rules and Regulations pursuant to the Act. The Licensee certifies that they are not in default of any reclamation obligations under Title 82, Chapter 4, Part 3, Montana Code Annotated (MCA). **As of July 1, 2025, the fee for a New Exploration License is defined at 82-4-332(1)(a), MCA; fees for Major Amendments are defined at 82-4-342(4); fees for Minor Amendments and Revisions are defined at 82-4-342(2)(c); and fees for Annual Exploration License Renewals are defined at 82-4-331(1)(a), MCA and 82-4-342(2)(c), MCA.**

Excerpts from Title 82, Chapter 4, Part 3, MCA:
"Exploration" means all activities that are conducted on or beneath the surface of lands and that result in material disturbance of the surface for the purpose of determining the presence, location, extent, depth, grade, and economic viability of mineralization in those lands, if any, other than mining for production and economic exploitation; and all roads made for the purpose of facilitating exploration...

"Mineral" means any ore, rock, or substance (other than oil, gas, bentonite, clay, coal, sand, gravel, peat, soil materials, or uranium) that is taken from below the surface or from the surface of the earth...

A person may not engage in exploration in the state without first obtaining an exploration license from the department. A license must be issued for a period of 1 year from date of issue and is renewable from year to year on application. An application for renewal must be filed within 30 days preceding the expiration of the current license and be accompanied by payment of a fee as required for a new license. A license may not be renewed if the applicant for renewal is in violation of any provision of this part. A license is subject to suspension and revocation as provided by this part.

...a person or operator who violates a provision of this part, a rule or order adopted under this part, or a term or condition of a permit ...[or]...any director, officer, or agent of a corporation who willfully authorizes, orders, or carries out a violation of a provision of this part, a rule or order adopted under this part, or a term or condition of a permit [is subject to] a civil penalty of not less than $100 or more than $1,000 for each of the following violations, an additional civil penalty of not less than $100 or more than $1,000 for each day during which the violation continues, and an injunction from continuing the violation. If the violation created an imminent danger to the health or safety of the public or caused significant environmental harm, the maximum penalty is $5,000 for each day of violation. In addition, if any provisions of the Montana Water Quality Act, and/or rules and regulations adopted pursuant to the Act, are violated as a result of the exploration operation, the operator is subject to penalties of up to $25,000 for each day of violation.

EXPLORATION LICENSE

Applicant Principal, Controlling Member, and Business Information

The Department of Environmental Quality requires an exploration license applicant to provide a list of its principals and their corresponding firm or business associations of which the applicant or principal is or was a principal or controlling member and that previously has been issued an Exploration License, Operating Permit, or Small Miner Exclusion Statement under the Metal Mine Reclamation Act. For individual applicants, the applicant may likely also be considered the principal.

- *If the applicant is **not** an individual*:
  - Please provide a list of the principals associated with the organization (See Section 1).
  - Please provide a list of any business associations related to mining and exploration in Montana and the principal/controlling member's roles in that business association (See Section 2).
- *If the applicant **is** an individual*:
  - Please identify the individual under the "Company Principals" table shown below (See Section 1).
  - Please provide a list of any of the individual's business associations related to mining and exploration in Montana and the individual's role in that business association.

(1) COMPANY PRINCIPALS (if applicant is not an individual)

Name	Role
Scott Osterman	CEO
Chad Miller	CTO
Robert Nosel	COO
Eric Levy-Myers	Dir Government Relations
Peter Mejstrick	Lead Geologist

(2) COMPANY PRINCIPALS OR CONTROLLING MEMBERS BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS

Name	Business/Organization	Role (if any)