DEQ
Montana Department of Environmental Quality

Air, Energy & Mining Division

EXPLORATION LICENSE: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

SECTION A – APPLICATION INFORMATION

Application Type: ☒ New License ☐ Amendment to Existing License (#_____)

1. **Amendment Fee** (*Not Required for New License; Required to amend an existing Exploration License*)

Activities only ***on*** the surface of the land	Activities ***beneath*** the surface of the land (*includes drilling*)	***Both*** on surface and beneath the surface
$250	$500	$500
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**

2. Licensee Name (Person or Company): US Critical Materials Corp.

3. Date Submitted: _____

4. Contact Name: Scott Osterman

   Address: 4190 S. Highland Drive, Suite 230 City: Salt Lake City State: Utah Zip: 84124

   Phone: 801.680.7448 Email: scott.osterman@uscriticalmaterials.com

   NOTE: All official correspondence will be directed to the email provided above.

Authorized Agent: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

NOTE: The exploration license does not convey a right to occupy land not owned by the licensee. A licensee is responsible for obtaining and maintaining a lease or other authorization from the landowner to occupy the land on which the licensee is to conduct exploration activity. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) does not confirm whether the licensee has obtained such authorization and does not resolve any disputes regarding access between a licensee and the landowner.

SECTION B – PROJECT LOCATION

1. Project Name: Sheep Creek Exploration Project
2. County in which the proposed site is located: Ravalli
3. Project Coordinates: *(Decimal Degree Only)* Latitude: 45 . 51928 Longitude: -114 . 31744
4. Landowner: ☐ Private ☐ BLM ☑ USFS ☐ DNRC/State ☐ Other

   Contact Name: Dan Pliley

   Phone: 406.821.3269 Email: daniel.pliley@usda.gov

SECTION C – PROJECT TIMELINE *The dates listed below include exploration and reclamation, are based on feedback from the Forest Service, and are dependent on receipt of permits, which may be earlier or later than the dates shown.

1. Proposed Start Date of Exploration: April 1, 2027 Proposed End Date of Exploration: March 31, 2028
2. Proposed Start Date of Reclamation: _____ Proposed End Date of Reclamation: _____

NOTE: Final reclamation of all surface disturbances would be required to be completed no later than 2 years following the conclusion of exploration unless otherwise incorporated into an Operating Permit.

3. Hours of Operation:
   Shifts per Day: 1 Hours per Shift: Up to 12 Total Hours per Day: Up to 12

   Total Days per Week: 7 Additional Information: Primarily daytime hours.

SECTION D – MAPS

1. **Refer to Map Guideline for further information: https://deq.mt.gov/mining/assistance**
2. **General Location Map (Required) –** The intent of this map is to provide a map showing the location of the proposed operation sufficient to allow the public to locate the proposed site. The General Location Map may be displayed on an aerial or topographic background and must show the site's location in relation to the nearest town or city. Roads must be labeled from the nearest town to the site on the General Location Map.
3. **Project Map (Required) –** The intent of this map is to show the location of the proposed project with an aerial background. The map must be at a scale to adequately display the features of the project. The Project Map must display all project disturbances including but not limited to:
   a. New roads
   b. Overland travel routes
   c. Label all Trenches
   d. Label all Portals
   e. Label all Drill Pads
   f. Sump Locations (if outside of drill pad footprint)
   g. Buildings (existing, proposed and temporary)
   h. Camp Area
   i. Lay down/loadout area
   j. Fuel Storage Area
   k. Water Crossings
   l. Other features pertinent to the project

NOTE: Provide as many Project Maps as necessary to depict the proposed area(s) at a viewable/readable scale.

SECTION E – EXPLORATION METHODS AND DESCRIPTION

1. Exploration Methods (check all that apply):

☒ Drilling ☐ Trenching ☐ Placer ☐ Underground

☒ Other (describe): Bulk Sampling

2. Volume of Material to be tested: Approx. 3,000 short tons via bulk sampling and approx. 200 short tons via drilling.

3. Description of Project:

See attached Plan of Operations, Section IV.C.

SECTION F – PROJECT QUANTITIES AND DIMENSIONS

1. Exploration Drilling:

a. Drill Pads *The length and width vary. See attached Plan of Operations, Table 1.

i. Quantity: 3 Length (ft): Varies Width (ft): Varies Depth (ft): 1' or less

b. Internal Drill Sumps *At Location #1, located within the adit. Not a surface disturbance.

i. Quantity: 1 Length (ft): Approx. 18 Width (ft): Approx. 30 Depth (ft): Approx. 10 (with a slope)

c. External Drill Sumps *At Locations #2 - #4, located adjacent to the drill pads.

i. Quantity: 3 Length (ft): Approx. 10 Width (ft): Approx. 10 Depth (ft): Approx. 6

d. Drill Holes

i. # Holes per Pad: Up to 16 Total # Drill Holes : 45 Maximum Depth (ft): 1,000' (avg. of 400')

ii. Total depth of all drill holes (ft): 18,000

iii. Please complete and include a EXPLORATION LICENSE: DRILLING PROGRAM APPENDIX

NOTE: The maximum drill hole depth will be used in the assessment of environmental impacts of the proposed project. Exceedance of this depth may require a new amendment and MEPA review. It is recommended that operators overestimate the maximum depth drilled to avoid unnecessary impacts to drilling operations.

2. Other Surface Disturbances:

a. Trenches/Test Pits

i. Quantity: 0 Length (ft): _____ Width (ft): _____ Depth (ft): _____

b. Waste Rock Stockpiles *Waste rock will be placed within an existing void space in the adit tunnel, not on surface.

i. Quantity: 0 Length (ft): _____ Width (ft): _____ Volume (yd^3): _____

c. Laydown Area *The length and width vary. See attached Plan of Operations, Table 1 for dimensions of laydown areas on Forest Service land and Interim Staging Area Map for dimension of laydown area on private property.

i. Quantity: 6 Length (ft): Varies Width (ft): Varies Depth (ft): 0

d. New Roads

i. Length (ft): 0 Width (ft): _____ Depth (ft): _____

e. Overland Travel (need explanation)

i. Length (ft): 0 Width (ft): _____ Depth (ft): _____

f. Culverts

i. Quantity: 0 Length (ft): _____ Diameter (in): _____

g. Slash Piles (need explanation)

i. Quantity: 0 Length (ft): _____ Width (ft): _____ Height (ft): _____

h. Heli-Pads *The length and width vary. See attached Plan of Operations, Table 1 for dimensions of heli-pads on Forest Service land and Interim Staging Area Map for dimenstion of heli-pad on private property.

i. Quantity: 5 Length (ft): Varies Width (ft): Varies Depth (ft): N/A

i. Camping Area

i. Length (ft): 0 Width (ft): _____

ii. Arrival Date: _____ Departure Date: _____

iii. List all vehicles, tents, etc. located in the camping area: _____

_____

j. Ponds

i. Quantity: 0 Length (ft): _____ Width (ft): _____ Depth (ft): _____

k. Portals

i. Height (ft): 0 Length (ft): _____ Width (ft): _____ Depth (ft): _____

ii. Height (ft): _____ Length (ft): _____ Width (ft): _____ Depth (ft): _____

iii. Height (ft): _____ Length (ft): _____ Width (ft): _____ Depth (ft): _____

l. Other (please describe)

Quantity: 2 Length (ft): _____ Width (ft): _____ Depth (ft): _____

2 adit entrances -- Adit 1 and Adit 3. The Adit 1 entrance will be widened to accomodate a 12' x 12' gate and the Adit 3 entrance will be widened to accomodate a 12' x 15' gate.

SECTION G – PROJECT OPERATIONAL ELEMENTS

1. Equipment and Vehicles- What equipment will be on site during exploration and reclamation?

a.	Drill Rig(s)	Quantity: 1	Make: TBD, Diamond Core	Model: Boart Longyear LF70 or Equivalent
b.	Water Trucks	Quantity: 0	Make:	Model:
c.	Fuel Trucks	Quantity: 1	Make: TBD	Model: Equipment Service Truck
d.	Excavators	Quantity: 1	Make: TBD	Model: CanDig or Equivalent
e.	Bulldozers	Quantity: 0	Make:	Model:
f.	Backhoes	Quantity: 0	Make:	Model:

*See attached Plan of Operations, Table 3.

g. Haul/Dump Trucks Quantity: 0 Make: _____ Model: _____
h. Skid Steers Quantity: 1 Make: TBD Model: RT-25 or Equivalent
i. ATV/UTVs Quantity: 2 Make: TBD Model: TBD
j. Generators Quantity: 2 Make: TBD Model: 100 kw and 20 kw
k. Wash Plants Quantity: 0 Make: _____ Model: _____
l. Conveyors Quantity: 0 Make: _____ Model: _____
m. Personal Vehicles Quantity: 3 Make: Varies Model: _____
n. Other Quantity: 8 Make: See note below. Model: _____

*3 hand-held jack-leg drills, 1 air compressor, 2 chainsaws, and 2 small light plants/towers (if needed).

2. Structures- Identify any temporary structures that would be on site during exploration and reclamation.

o. Core Sheds Quantity: 0 Size: _____ Description: _____
p. Connex/Containers Quantity: 0 Size: _____ Description: _____
q. Campers/Trailers Quantity: 0 Size: _____ Description: _____
r. Tents Quantity: 0 Size: _____ Description: _____
s. Saw Shacks Quantity: 0 Size: _____ Description: _____
t. Warehouses Quantity: 0 Size: _____ Description: _____
u. Portable Toilets Quantity: 5* Size: Approx. 44" wide, 48" deep, 90" high Description: Single occupant unit.
v. Water Pumps Quantity: 0 Make: _____ Model: _____

*4 portable toilets will be provided at the sites located on Forest Service land. One additional portable toilet will be provided at the interim staging area.

3. Fluid Storage/Transport- Identify any fluid storage containers or transport lines that would be on site during exploration and reclamation.

w. Large Fuel Tanks Quantity: 1 Capacity (gal): 1,000 Gallon (Jet A fuel; located at interim staging area)
x. Small Fuel Containers Quantity: 4 Capacity (gal): (1) 200 Gallon Diesel Tank (double-walled fly tank) (3) 15-Gallon Gas Cans
y. Water Tanks Quantity: 2 Capacity (gal): 1,000 Gallon
z. Water Lines Length (ft): _____ Diameter (in): _____

4. Onsite Personnel- Identify the person(s) associated with the project and their position/duties.

a. Position: Bulk Sampling Crew Quantity: 3 ppl
b. Position: Drilling Crew Quantity: 3 ppl
c. Position: Site Prep and Clean-up Crew Quantity: 3 ppl
d. Position: Supervisor Quantity: 1
e. Position: Geologist Quantity: 1
f. Position: Other Technical Support Staff or Visitor Quantity: 1
g. Position: _____ Quantity: _____
h. Position: _____ Quantity: _____
i. Position: _____ Quantity: _____

5. Water- Would water be used in the operation? Provide source and daily consumption details.

a. Natural Spring
   i. Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____ Section/Twp/Rge: _____

b. Stream/Pond/Lake Take-Point

i. Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____ Section/Twp/Rge: _____

c. Domestic Water Well

i. Ground Water Information Center ID#: _____

ii. Completion Date: _____

iii. Total Depth (ft): _____

iv. Static Water Level (ft): _____

v. Yield (gpm): _____

d. Daily Water Usage (gallons/day): Up to 300 gpd at Location #1 and and up to 8,500 gpd at Locations #2 - #4. The majority of the water will be recycled. See attached Plan of Operations, Section VI.B.

6. Supplemental Lighting- would supplemental lighting be required during exploration or reclamation operations?

a. Type of lighting to be used (describe): Solar, battery, or generator-powered temporary light fixtures.

i. Hours of Operation: Only if and as needed. See attached Plan of Operations, Section IV.C (Schedule).

b. Light pollution controls to be used:

- ☒ Downward Facing Lights
- ☒ Light Shrouds/Shields
- ☐ Directional Lighting
- ☐ Motion Sensors
- ☐ Automatic Timers
- ☒ Other Lights will be turned off when workers are no longer present.

7. Air Quality- Identify measures proposed to minimize impacts on air quality.

Proposed Best Management Practices (BMPs):

- ☐ Application of water to roads
- ☐ Factory Emissions Controls
- ☐ Controlled slash burning
- ☐ Reduce speed while traveling
- ☐ Reduced traffic volume
- ☒ Other: See attached Plan of Operations, Section VI.A.

8. Erosion Control- Identify measures proposed to control erosion and sediment transport.

Proposed Best Management Practices (BMPs): See attached Plan of Operations, Section VI.B.2.

- ☐ Vegetated Buffers
- ☐ Temporary Seeding
- ☐ Mulch Cover
- ☐ Earthen Berms
- ☐ Water Diversions
- ☐ Surface Roughening
- ☒ Plastic Liners
- ☒ Secondary Containment
- ☒ Straw Wattles
- ☒ Silt Fence
- ☒ Spill Prevention/Response
- ☐ Sediment Traps

9. Solid Waste- Describe plan to store and control solid waste.

a. Trash Cans/Dumpsters: Quantity: Multiple Capacity (yd^3): Small capacity.

b. Disposal Facility: Name: Victor Transfer Station City: Connor

10. Historic and Archaeological Resources- Describe any measures that would be taken to reduce the impact to any historic and archeological resources that may be encountered. _____

See attached Plan of Operations, Section VI.F.

11. Hazardous Substances- Identify the type, volume, and storage of all hazardous materials and toxic substances which would be on site during exploration and reclamation operations;

a. Petroleum Products See attached Plan of Operations, Table 4.

i. Diesel Fuel: Quantity:_____ Capacity (gal): _____

ii. Gasoline: Quantity:_____ Capacity (gal): _____

iii. Lubricants: Quantity:_____ Capacity (gal): _____

iv. Other: Quantity:_____ Capacity (gal): _____

Note: BMPs proposed to prevent the release of petroleum products to the environment:

☒ Spill Kits ☒ Regular Equipment Maintenance ☒ Secondary Containment

b. Solvents See attached Plan of Operations, Table 4.

i. Brake Cleaner: Quantity:_____ Capacity (gal): _____

ii. Carb Cleaner: Quantity:_____ Capacity (gal): _____

iii. Degreaser: Quantity:_____ Capacity (gal): _____

iv. Other: Quantity:_____ Capacity (gal): _____

Note: BMPs proposed to prevent the release of solvents to the environment:

☒ Spill Kits ☒ Proper and Secured Storage ☐ Secondary Containment

c. Cyanide: _____

d. Millings: _____

e. Process and laboratory reagents: _____

f. Explosives: _____

g. Other: _____

SECTION H – RECLAMATION

1. Weed Control Plan

a. Describe how noxious weeds would be controlled during exploration operations: Vehicles and equipment will be decontaminated and inspected prior to entering the project site. Noxious weeds within the project area will be manually removed and/or treated with commercially-available herbicide.

b. Describe how noxious weeds would be controlled after reclamation: Noxious weeds identified during post-reclamation inspections within the project area will be manually removed and/or treated with commercially-available herbicide.

2. Reclamation Plan

a. Describe ongoing reclamation that may occur during exploration operations: Reclamation activities described in the attached Plan of Operations, Section VI.H., may occur simultaneous with exploration operations.

b. If proposed work spans multiple operating seasons, describe “end-of-season” reclamation: See attached Plan of Operations, Section VI.B.4.

c. Describe final reclamation of the site: See attached Plan of Operations, Section VI.H.

d. Describe any surface disturbance or structures that would remain unreclaimed at the request of the landowner: Adit entrance gates will remain and will be closed and locked to prevent unauthorized entry and ensure public safety. Existing access roads used during exploration activities will remain.

SECTION I – OTHER PERMITS

THIS MAY NOT BE THE ONLY LICENSE OR PERMIT YOU NEED

State of Montana Permits

310 Permit – For work proposed in streams, wetlands, floodplains, and other water bodies. One joint application form is available to apply for several different Local/State/Federal permits. See: https://dnrc.mt.gov/licenses-and-permits/stream-permitting/

Montana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MPDES) Permit – for projects that have a surface water discharge. See: https://deq.mt.gov/water/assistance

Montana Ground Water Pollution Control System (MGWPCS) Permit – for projects that have a groundwater discharge. See: https://deq.mt.gov/water/assistance

Stormwater Pollution Prevention – for projects that have the potential to contribute sediment or pollution to surface waters from surface disturbances as a result of a storm event. See: https://deq.mt.gov/water/assistance

Suction Dredge Permit – for projects that utilize a suction dredge. Call: (406) 444-5326

Sage Grouse – In response to Senate Bill 261 and Executive Orders 10-2014 and 12-2015, many DEQ permits and approvals in sage grouse core, general, or connectivity habitat, received on or after January 1, 2016, must include a letter of comment from the Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation Program. See: https://sagegrouse.mt.gov/

Federal Authorizations

MSHA – Contact the MSHA field office in Helena. See: https://www.msha.gov/montana

USFS – Contact local USFS office. See: https://www.fs.usda.gov/

BLM – Contact local BLM office. See: https://www.blm.gov/montana-dakotas

US Army Corp of Engineers 404 Permit – may be required for any work in streams or wetlands See: https://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Regulatory-Program-and-Permits/Obtain-a-Permit/