AGENDA

Goal
- To have a solution-oriented group that meets regularly to discuss Opencut mining issues and opportunities. This meeting is not designed to discuss site specific issues.

Today's Objective
- Provide an update and a discussion on Opencut related issues.

1:00 – 1:15 INTRODUCTIONS

Introduction of Participants - All

DEQ UPDATE AND DISCUSSION

- Staffing and Workload
  - Ruby Hopkins – New Opencut Scientist
  - All bonding is with Jennifer Skartveit until further notice.

- Annual Production Reports (APR) mailed out January 3, 2022.
  - March 15, 2022 – 2nd notice sent to 140 Operators
  - May 1, 2022 – 3rd notice sent to 52 Operators
  - June 9, 2022 – Violation letters sent to 29 operators
  - Late July 2022 – DEQ will refer operators who have not returned APRs to DEQ’s Enforcement program.

- Opencut Rule Making Process
  - Diversified small working group met three times to work on proposed rules
  - Proposed rules were published in the Montana Administrative Record (MAR) on July 8, 2022.
  - Public hearing on the proposed rules will take place on August 8, 2022.
  - DEQ will accept public comments until 5:00 pm on August 8, 2022

- Water Quality Division
  - Stormwater Permits

- Field Season Update
  - Inspections
  - Expired Permits
  - Compliance Assistance Liaison
Technology Update
- FACTS update
- Public facing WMA update
- File Transfer Service

Environmental Quality County
- Presentation on July 19, 2022

Pending Bond Release Requests

Proposed Legislation

OTHER OPENCUT ITEMS
- Stakeholder input

PLANNING FOR NEXT MEETING
- Action Items
- Future meeting topics
- Next meeting date

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