



**PUBLIC NOTICE NO. MT-25-05
OCTOBER 8, 2025**

PURPOSE OF PUBLIC NOTICE

The purpose of this notice is to state the Department's intention to issue a major modification to the wastewater discharge permit to the facility listed in this notice. This permit is issued by the Department under the authority of 75-5-402, Montana Code Annotated (MCA); the Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 17.30.1301 *et seq.*, Montana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MPDES); and Sections 402 and 303 of the Federal Clean Water Act. The Water Protection Bureau has prepared a draft permit for the facility listed below. Copies of the draft permit, fact sheet, and environmental assessment are available upon request from the Water Protection Bureau or on the Department's website <https://deq.mt.gov/public/index>. The draft permit is presented in underline-strikeout format, with all removed language in strikeout and all added language underlined.

APPLICANT NAME: Stillwater Mining Company

FACILITY NAME: Stillwater East Boulder Mine

FACILITY LOCATION: Sweet Grass County, Montana

RECEIVING WATER: East Boulder River and associated ground water

PERMIT NUMBER MT0026808

The Stillwater East Boulder Mine is an underground platinum and palladium mine with an associated mill and lined tailings impoundment. The mine is located approximately 32 miles southeast of Big Timber, Montana. This permitting action is a major modification of the 2023 MPDES permit.

The applicant has requested a modification implementing the water quality standards change from Base Numeric Nutrient Criteria applied in the 2023 renewal to the narrative nutrient criterion at ARM 17.30.637(1)(e) with respect to the Facility's water quality-based effluent limit for total nitrogen. Further, a permit condition may be modified under the "reopener" conditions in a permit when the condition is established under ARM 17.30.1361(2)(g). This modification implements the narrative nutrient criterion as it applies to the East Boulder Mine. This modification establishes a revised final effluent limitation for total nitrogen, adds a Nutrient Bioassessment Special Condition,

and removes the nutrient compliance schedule put in place in the 2023-issued permit. All other permit conditions remain in full effect.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comments are invited and **must be received by 11:59 p.m. on NOVEMBER 7, 2025.** Comments may be directed to the DEQ Water Quality Division, Water Protection Bureau, PO Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620. **All comments received or postmarked by 11:59 p.m. on NOVEMBER 7, 2025,** will be considered in the formulation of final determinations to be imposed on the permit. If you wish to comment electronically, you may e-mail DEQWPBPublicComments@mt.gov

During the public comment period provided by the notice, the Department will accept requests for a public hearing. A request for a public hearing must be in writing and must state the nature of the issue proposed to be raised in the hearing (ARM 17.30.1373).

The Department will respond to all substantive comments and issue a final decision within sixty days of this notice or as soon as possible thereafter. Additional information may be obtained upon request by calling (406) 444-5546 or by writing to the aforementioned address. The complete administrative record, including permit application and other pertinent information, is maintained at the Water Protection Bureau office in Helena and is available for review during business hours.

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