



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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To: Madisonian, Montana Standard and the Bozeman Daily Chronicle

RE: Amendment and Partial Bond Release Application for Ruby Valley Garnet

Dear Editor:

Please publish the following legal notice in the next issue of your newspaper once each week for three consecutive weeks:

LEGAL NOTICE

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has completed a partial bond release request for Ruby Valley Garnet LLC and has determined that the application for an amendment is complete enough to proceed with an environmental assessment for the Red Wash site. Ruby Valley Garnet processes old tailings for recovery of garnets. However, the amendment would be located in an area that has not been previously mined. The mill and existing mine sites are near Alder, about nine miles east of Virginia City, in sections 4, 9 and 10, Township 6 South, Range 4 West, in Madison County. The Red Wash site is about three miles southeast of the mill in Sections 22, 23, 24 and 25, Township 6 South, Range 4 West and Section 30, Township 6 South, Range 3 West. The existing permit area is 505.6 acres. The proposed amendment would add 158 acres for a total permit area of 663.6 acres.

The review updated bonding requirements pursuant to Section 82-4-338(3) and (4), MCA, of the Montana Metal Mine Reclamation Act (MMRA). Ruby Valley Garnet is currently permitted under Operating Permit 00157 from DEQ and is entirely on private lands, including the proposed amendment area.

Historically, the area was dredge mined for gold, resulting in an unreclaimed landscape characterized by dredge tailing piles. The Red Wash site is undisturbed rangeland that has been used for livestock grazing.

Reclamation bonds may not be released or decreased until the public has been provided an opportunity for a hearing and a hearing has been held if requested. The current reclamation bond is \$132,185, with an additional bond in the amount of \$10,000 held under a Small Miner

Exclusion Statement (SMES) that can be released once that acreage is incorporated into the operating permit. The Department believes that \$201,713 represents the costs of implementing the currently approved reclamation plan per the MMRA.

A copy of the bond calculations that form the basis for the partial bond release can be obtained by contacting the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, Environmental Management Bureau, P. O. Box 200901, 1520 E. Sixth Ave., Helena, MT 59620-0901, or by calling Herb Rolfes at (406) 444-3841 or e-mail at hrolfes@mt.gov. Please submit comments or questions on the proposed amendment and bond release by October 6, 2006.