

**NOTICE: ANNOUNCEMENT OF MITIGATED SEPA DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE AND AVAILABILITY OF APPLICATION**

**PERMIT NO.:** ST-9256

**APPLICANT:** LIBERTY MINING & EXPLORATION, LLC  
OLD TOWN MINE  
PO BOX 765  
CLE ELUM, WA 98922

Liberty Mining and Exploration, LLC has filed a SEPA checklist and application for a new of State Waste Discharge Permit No. ST-9256 in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 90.48 Revised Code of Washington (RCW), Chapter 173-226 Washington Administrative Code (WAC), and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act as amended.

**SEPA DETERMINATION**

The Department has issued a Mitigated Determination of Nonsignificance (MDNS) and Adoption of Existing Environmental Document under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) for this project. After review of the completed Environmental Checklist and other information on file with the agency, Ecology has made a determination that this proposal will not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment.

Following evaluation of the application and other available information, a draft permit will be developed which would allow the discharge of placer mine process water to a maximum of 5,000 gallons per day to a holding pond from its facility located south of Williams Creek, approximately one quarter mile east from the confluence with Swauk Creek and approximately 1.5 miles west of Liberty in Kittitas County. All discharges to be in compliance with the Department of Ecology's Water Quality Standards for a permit to be issued.

The Department of Ecology has determined that it will take no further action on this application at this time. The application and all attachments, submitted May 28, 2004 and accepted August 16, 2005, will become a "temporary permit" effective 30 days following the final date of this notice. Operation consistent with the application and attachments shall be authorized for a period up to 5 years or until Ecology issues a formal permit. A final determination will not be made until all timely comments received in response to this notice have been evaluated.

**PUBLIC COMMENT AND INFORMATION**

Any persons desiring to present their view to the Department of Ecology regarding this state permit application or SEPA MDNS are invited to submit written comments regarding the proposed permit. All comments must be submitted by October 7, 2005 (within 30 days of the final date of publication of this notice) to be considered for the final determination. Comments should be sent to: Department of Ecology, Central Regional Office, 15 West Yakima Avenue, Suite 200, Yakima, WA 98902, Attention: Cindy Huwe. E-mail comments should be sent to Cindy Huwe at [chuw461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:chuw461@ecy.wa.gov).

Publication dates of this Notice are August 31, and September 7, 2005.

The application, SEPA Determination of Nonsignificance, and related documents are available upon request and are also available for inspection and copying at the Department's Central Regional Office weekdays between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., weekdays. To obtain a copy or to arrange to

view copies at the Central Regional Office, please call Cindy Huwe at 509/457-7105, e-mail [chuw461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:chuw461@ecy.wa.gov), or write to the address below.

Any interested party may request a public hearing on the proposed permit within 30 days of the publication date of this notice. The request for a hearing shall state the interest of the party and the reasons why a hearing is necessary. The request should be sent to the above address. The Department will hold a hearing if it determines that there is significant public interest. If a hearing is to be held, public notice will be published at least 30 days in advance of the hearing date. Any party responding to this notice with comments will be mailed a copy of a hearing public notice.

Please bring this public notice to the attention of persons who you know would be interested in this matter. The Department is an equal opportunity agency. If you have a special accommodation needs, please contact Cindy Huwe at 509/457-7105 or TTY (for the speech and hearing impaired) at 1-800-833-6388.