



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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June 12, 2013

Dwight Hand  
PO Box 53  
Ronald, WA 98940

**Subject: Application for Renewal of State Waste Discharge Permit No. ST0009265 for Mieras Mill Site**

Dear Mr. Hand:

Thank you for the updated application for renewal of your State Waste Discharge Permit. Many of the details previously requiring completion/correction/expansion have been addressed but a few still need additional information to complete the application.

I have enclosed a copy of EPA's source book for mining in the Northwest and Alaska. This resource may assist you in providing the information required to complete your state waste discharge application.

**Section B. Product Information**

#1. You did a very nice job of describing the milling portion of your mine but we need a description of the mining portion as well. The ore rock you process has been addressed but the waste rock generated as a bi-product of the mining process to generate the gold and silver ore needs to be completed. You need to characterize the mineral constituents in both the ore and the waste rock. Sulfide minerals are often associated with metallic mineral deposits and can generate pollutant bi-products through chemical decomposition due to exposure to air and water. An analysis of the tailings pond fines will tell us what components are in the tailings and the ore rock. Section 2.1.3, page B-4 of the enclosed handout may assist you in defining your waste products.

Be sure to include information on the type of drill used to prepare for blasting and the blasting agent (type and amount) used to extract the metal ore. Both need consumables to operate properly and those consumables need to be described.



### Section C. Plant Operational Characteristics

Question 7 on page 5 of 19 requires a selection. Please check the box that correctly identifies the type of waste water discharge your operation produces. The description you gave Ecology indicates that you will infiltrate your waste stream through a pond near a stream.

Question 9 requests you list all incidental materials, hard rock mining usually requires explosives. Do you have explosives stored at the site? What type of consumables do you use with the drilling operation related to ore extraction (fuel for a compressor, drilling etc.)? Table B-1 of the enclosed document may assist you in completing the application and answering this question.

### Section E. Wastewater Information

Question 2: You need to characterize (analyze) your waste water produced by the milling operation. A partial list of analytes is provided, some of which you will not need to do. A list of parameters of concern with hard rock mining of metallic ore includes:

pH, cyanide, oil and grease, sulfate, nitrate (total), iron (total), zinc, lead, and copper.

You will need to collect a sample of the tailings deposited in the tailings pond and a sample of the pond water for analysis at a certified lab. This information must be provided with the application for review.

When you have acquired the missing information and completed the application form, please contact me and we will schedule a site visit to your mine. Thank you for working to complete the State Waste Discharge Permit application. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (509) 457-7113.

Sincerely,



Lorraine Powell  
LG, LEG, LHG # 524  
Hydrogeologist/Mining Specialist  
Water Quality Program

Enclosure: EPA Source Book, Appendix B Receiving Waters, State application

cc: Cindy Huwe, Ecology-Yakima