



State of Utah

SPENCER J. COX
Governor

DEIDRE HENDERSON
Lieutenant Governor

Department of
Environmental Quality

Kimberly D. Shelley
Executive Director

DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
Erica Brown Gaddis, PhD
Director

September 2, 2021

Division of Water Quality
Utah Department of Environmental Quality
Public Notice of Intent to Issue a Ground Water Discharge Permit
Permit No. UGW450011

Purpose of Public Notice

The Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is soliciting comments on the request to renew a ground water discharge permit as described below. The ground water discharge permit is issued by the Director of the Division of Water Quality under authority of the Utah Water Quality Act, Section 19-5-106(g) Utah Code Ann. 1953, as amended and Utah Administrative Code R317-6. Under Section 19-1-301.5, effective May 8, 2012, a person who wishes to challenge a Permit Order may only raise an issue or argument during an adjudicatory proceeding that was raised during the public comment period and was supported with sufficient information or documentation to enable the Director to fully consider the substance and significance of the issue. Utah Code Ann. 19-1-301.5 can be viewed at the following internet URL: le.utah.gov/xcode/Title19/Chapter1/19-1-S301.5.html.

Permit Information

Permittee: Desert Hawk Gold Corporation

Mailing Address: 1290 Holcomb Ave.
Reno, NV 89502

Facility Location: Near Gold Hill in Tooele County, Utah

Desert Hawk Gold Corporation is looking to renew and revise its existing ground water discharge permit. The original ground water discharge permit was approved for the processing of approximately 2,300,000 tons of granodiorite ore from the Kiewit mine for the extraction of gold and silver. The 19.5-acre process area includes a leach pad and process pond that are underlain by a composite liner system consisting of an 80-mil high density polyethylene synthetic (HDPE) liner underlain by a one-foot thick clay liner sloped at a 1% grade to the process pond. The process pond is underlain by a double HDPE liner system with leak detection. The proposed revision would increase the size of the leach pad in 3 additional phases and increase the amount of ore to be processed to approximately 10,000,000 tons. Two additional secondary containment ponds would also be constructed to contain high weather events as the leach pad area increases. An existing monitoring well (MW-3) required by BLM in the Roadenhouse wash will be used to monitor the secondary containment ponds. Phase A is the previously constructed 19.5-acre process area. Phase B would add 14.8-acres and one secondary pond. Phase C would add 23.4-acres and one secondary pond. Phase D would add 8-acres. Phases B, C, and D will require Construction Permits prior to construction. A small area on the existing leach pad will be used to process ore from an offsite mine. Two small leach pads will be lined with 60-mil HDPE and will contain approximately 30,000 tons of ore. Fluids in this area

will be processed separately. Upon completion of leaching, this area will be capped with 40-mil HDPE and 24 inches of compacted clay before additional ore from the Kiewit mine will be placed over the top.

Public Comments

Public comments are invited any time through close of business on **Monday, October 4, 2021**. Written comments may be directed to the Division of Water Quality (DWQ), PO Box 144870, Salt Lake City, UT 84114-4870. All comments received prior to close of business on **Monday, October 4, 2021**, will be considered in the formulation of final conditions to be imposed on the permit. A public hearing may be held if written requests are received within the first 15 days of this public comment period that demonstrate significant public interest and substantive issues exist to warrant holding a hearing.

Additional Information

Additional information may be obtained upon request by contacting Woodrow Campbell at (801) 536-4353 or wvcampbell@utah.gov, or by writing to the aforementioned address. Related documents are available for review during normal business hours at DWQ, 195 North 1950 West in Salt Lake City or on the DWQ web page at deq.utah.gov/public-notices-archive/water-quality-public-notices.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with special needs (including auxiliary communicative aids and services) should contact Larene Wyss, Office of Human Resources at (801) 503-5618.