



City of Glenwood Springs

101 W. 8th Street, Glenwood Springs, CO 81601

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Bryana Starbuck, Public Information Officer, bryana.starbuck@cogs.us

Update on the proposed expansion of the Mid-Continent Mine

GLENWOOD SPRINGS, Colo. (January 26, 2024) – Yesterday, the Bureau of Land Management’s (BLM) Colorado River Valley Field Office Manager Larry Sandoval informed City officials that the Bureau had finalized its Determination of Common Variety (DCV) investigation and found that majority of the limestone deposit at the Mid-Continent limestone mine is not disposable under the mining laws because it was being marketed for common purposes. The BLM has released no written confirmation of the precise nature or consequences of this determination. However, the City officials are optimistic that this development is an important step in preventing the proposed expansion of the Mid-Continent Mine. BLM has been working on the DCV for nearly five years at this point.

“We are heartened to learn that BLM has made a determination that appears to be in line with our residents’ desires to protect surrounding landscapes, water quality, and hot springs from the proposed massive mine expansion and ensuing heavy industrial impacts on the City,” said Glenwood Springs Mayor Ingrid Wussow. In 2018 the mine’s operator, Rocky Mountain Industrials, proposed expanding the Mid-Continent Mine from 15 to 447 acres.

As part of the review of the expansion proposal, BLM had to determine whether the limestone being mined was “locatable” under the 1872 Mining Law. The DCV process looked at both the purity of the rock being mined as well as what it was being used for. Under federal law, the rock must be of “chemical or metallurgical grade” and be put to a high value use such as cement ingredients, or coal dust suppression.

“We have known for years that this rock is being sold for construction material, which does not qualify as a locatable use under the mining laws. We look forward to reviewing the DCV in full to learn more about how the agency analyzed these issues,” said Glenwood Springs Assistant City Attorney Richard Peterson-Cremer.

The City has submitted a Freedom of Information Act request to the BLM requesting the DCV report and any accompanying cover letter.

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