



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Kootenai National
Forest

31374 U.S. Highway 2
Libby, MT 59923



Montana Department of
Environmental Quality

PO Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620-0901

April 19, 2011

Dear Interested Party:

The purpose of this letter is to update you on the status of Kootenai National Forest's (KNF) and the Montana Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) pending environmental document for the Revised Reclamation Plan for the Troy Mine.

The Troy Mine is located within the Kootenai National Forest and is situated approximately 18 miles southwest of Libby, Montana. The underground copper and silver mine is operated currently by Troy Mine Incorporated and has been in operation almost continually since 1978.

In March 2006, the company submitted a plan for reclamation of the Troy Mine to the agencies. Their proposal is to reclaim lands disturbed by mining activities with the following reclamation elements:

- Removal of buildings, structures, and selected roads;
- Non-hydraulic plugging (backfilling) of the adits and recontouring the slope of the South Portal patio;
- Regrading of slopes and benches to fit with the surrounding natural environment;
- Revegetation of most of the disturbed areas;
- Mine water disposal to the decant ponds by using the existing tailings pipelines and reclaim water line; and
- Monitoring of surface water bodies and embankment stability.

Public scoping was initiated for the proposed reclamation plan by the joint lead agencies (the KNF and the DEQ) in October 2007. The agencies completed an initial analysis in December 2010. Based on the analysis and potential water quality issues, the agencies decided to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Within the next month the KNF will submit a Notice of Intent to the Federal Register indicating that an EIS will be prepared for the proposed Revised Reclamation Plan for the mine.

Once the Draft EIS is ready for comment, the KNF will publish a Notice of Availability in the Federal Register. There will be a 45-day comment period on the draft document.

If you have any questions or concerns about this process, please contact one of the Project Coordinators. Bobbie Lacklen is the Project Coordinator for the KNF and can be reached at: (406) 283-7681 or email blacklen@fs.fed.us. Emily Corsi is the Project Coordinator for DEQ and she can be reached at: (406) 444-2813 or email ecorsi@mt.gov.

Sincerely,

Maggie Pitman
Acting Forest Supervisor
Kootenai National Forest

Richard H. Opper
Director
Montana Department of Environmental Quality

