



File Code: 2810
Date: November 3, 2021

Mr. Mike Wickersham
General Manager
Capstone Mining Corp.
Pinto Valley Mine
PO Box 100
2911 N Forest Service Rd 287
Miami, AZ 85539

Dear Mr. Wickersham:

On November 1, the Tonto National Forest (TNF) received the updated Pinto Valley Mine Plan of Operations No. 2810-031202-2016-01 for activities on National Forest System lands related to the Pinto Valley Mine in Miami, Arizona. Additionally, the TNF received the financial assurance mechanism, surety bond No. 09165403 in the amount of \$44,733,019, in favor of the United States of America and a Reclamation Performance Bond (FS-6500-7), dated October 29, 2021.

We reviewed the updated Plan of Operations, which was modified to incorporate the monitoring and mitigation measures described in the Pinto Valley Mine Record of Decision, dated August 19, 2021. Furthermore, we reviewed the financial assurance information to ensure it is complete and acceptable to the agency. In conclusion, all required information has been submitted as required by the Pinto Valley Mine Record of Decision and in compliance with 36 CFR 228 A and FSM 2810. Therefore, I have made the decision to authorize the Pinto Valley Mine Plan.

Enclosed is the signed and approved Pinto Valley Mine Plan of Operations for mining activities on National Forest System Lands (FS-2800-5) and the accompanying, fully executed Non-Federal Commercial Road Use Permit (FS-7700-41), dated November 3, 2021.

With these approvals, implementation can be initiated on National Forest System lands, as described in your current Pinto Valley Mine Plan of Operations No. 2810-031202-2016-01.

Please keep the TNF up to date on your activities and contact Lee Ann Atkinson, Minerals NEPA Coordinator, by email at leeann.atkinson@usda.gov if you have questions or if you would like to discuss your approved Pinto Valley Mine Plan of Operations.

The Forest Service Certified Locatable Minerals Administrators continue to review and refine the reclamation bond calculation in collaboration with Pinto Valley Mining Corp. It is anticipated that a revised amount will be determined within the next few months.



Mindy Vogel, Pinto Valley Mine EIS Project Manager and Certified Minerals Administrator Level I and II, will continue to lead this review effort, and can be reached by phone at 303-275-5250 or by email at mindy.vogel@usda.gov.

Sincerely,



NEIL BOSWORTH
Forest Supervisor

Enclosure 1: FS 2800-5, Section IX. Operating Plan Approval
Enclosure 2: FS-7700-41, page with Signature and Approval

cc: Mr. Tim Ralston

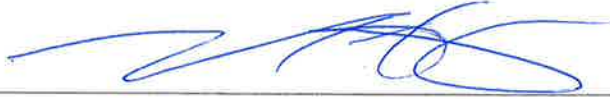
IX. OPERATING PLAN APPROVAL

Neil Bosworth

Forest Supervisor

Printed Name

Title



11/3/21

Signature (Authorized Officer)

Date
(mm/dd/yy)

