Filed: 1/22/2014 10:32:22 AM WEQC

# BEFORE THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL STATE OF WYOMING

IN THE MATTER OF THE BOND	)	
FORFEITURE PROCEEDINGS	)	
AGAINST THE BOND OF	)	<b>Docket No. 13-4502</b>
HETTINGER LLC	)	FILED
LIMITED MINING OPERATION	)	
NO. 1412(ET)	)	JAN 2 2 2014

### MOTION FOR BOND FORFEITURE

Jim Ruby, Executive Secretary Environmental Quality Council

The Department of Environmental Quality, Land Quality Division (DEQ), through the Office of the Attorney General, hereby moves the Environmental Quality Council for an order forfeiting Hettinger LLC's reclamation performance surety bond and as grounds for this motion states the following:

- 1. Hettinger LLC (Hettinger) holds Limited Mining Operation No. 1412(ET), authorizing it to mine scoria over a ten (10) acre area.
- 2. Hettinger posted a cash reclamation performance surety bond for the purpose of assuring reclamation of the mining site in the amount of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) via US Bank Check No. 508964277.
- 3. Hettinger's authorization to operate was suspended on May 10, 2010, for failure to pay taxes.
- 4. Hettinger filed Chapter 7 bankruptcy on March 7, 2012, in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware, Case Number 1:12-bk-10823.

- 5. Hettinger has failed to demonstrate active mining status and no site-reclamation activity has been observed or reported.
- 6. Hettinger failed to respond to numerous communications from DEQ requesting information regarding the status of Hettinger's operation.
- 7. The DEQ issued Notice of Violation (NOV) No. 5156-13 to Hettinger on May 3, 2013, due to Hettinger's failure to reclaim the mining site. *See* Exhibit A.
- 8. Based on these facts, the DEQ determined Hettinger's reclamation performance surety bond should be forfeited.
- 9. The Council approved the DEQ's request to initiate bond forfeiture proceedings against Hettinger on September 12, 2013. *See* Exhibit B.
- 10. On October 14, 2013, DEQ requested that the Office of the Attorney General begin this forfeiture proceeding. *See* Exhibit C.
- 11. On December 4, 2013, the Office of the Attorney General sent notice to Hettinger by certified mail that the Council would enter an order forfeiting Hettinger's reclamation performance surety bond unless Hettinger demanded a hearing before the Council within thirty (30) days. *See* Exhibit D.
- 12. The Office of the Attorney General received the notice sent to Hettinger on December 17, 2013, marked by the Post Office as "return to sender." See Exhibit E.
- 13. There is currently no other known addresses at which notice may be served to Hettinger.

14. Neither the Office of the Attorney General nor the Council has a record of a request for a hearing before the Council from Hettinger.

15. WYO. STAT. ANN. § 35-11-421(b) states that if no demand is made by the operator within thirty (30) days of receipt of the notice, then the Council shall order the bond forfeited.

16. Based on the foregoing facts, the DEQ and the Attorney General's Office have satisfied all statutory prerequisites to the forfeiture of Hettinger's reclamation performance surety bond, and the Council should order Hettinger's cash bond forfeited.

WHEREFORE, the DEQ respectfully requests that the Council enter an order forfeiting Hettinger's ten thousand dollar (\$10,000.00) reclamation performance surety bond to the DEQ to be used to reclaim those lands affected by Hettinger's activities under permit number 1412(ET).

DATED this 22 day of January 2014.

FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF **ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY** LAND QUALITY DIVISION

Jeremy A. Gross (7-5110) Assistant Attorney General 123 State Capitol

Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

(307) 777-6946

# CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, hereby certify that on this <u>22</u> day of January, 2014, I served a true copy of the foregoing Motion and draft Order for Bond Forfeiture as follows:

Hettinger LLC 12596 W. Bayaud Ave. Lakewood, CO 80228 [X] U.S. Mail, postage prepaid[ ] Facsimile[ ] Hand Delivery

Wyoming Attorney General's Office

# DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY STATE OF WYOMING

#### NOTICE OF VIOLATION

IN THE MATTER OF THE NOTICE OF	)	
VIOLATION ISSUED TO	)	
HETTINGER LLC		<b>DOCKET NO. 5156-13</b>
PMB 512	)	
12081 WEST ALAMDEDA PARKWAY #512	)	
LAKEWOOD, CO 80228-2701	971	
1412ET – LIMITED MINING OPERATION	)	

#### NOTICE

#### NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT:

- Notice of Violation (NOV) is being sent to you pursuant to Wyoming Statute §35-11-701(c)(i) which requires that a written notice shall be issued in the case of failure to correct or remedy an alleged violation.
- The Department of Environmental Quality, Land Quality Division Noncoal Rules and Regulations Chapter 10, Section 5(a) states that "After mining operations have ceased or within thirty (30) days after the abandonment of the mining operation, the operator shall notify the Administrator of such fact and commence reclamation and restoration."
- 3. During his inspection performed on January 24, 2013, Mr. Kurt King documented that the operation has been abandoned for at least 1 ½ years. The former landowner, Mr. Robert Brug, and the current landowner, Mr. Craig Means, confirmed the site is abandoned.
- 4. Wyoming Statute §35-11-901(a) provides that any person who violates any provision of the Environmental Quality Act or any rule, standard, permit, license or variance adopted hereunder is liable to a penalty of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) for each day of violation, which penalty may be recovered in a civil action brought by the Attorney General in the name of the People of the State of Wyoming.

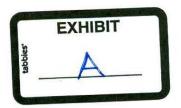
**NOTHING IN THE NOTICE** shall be interpreted to in any way limit or contravene any other remedy available under the Environmental Quality Act, nor shall this NOV be interpreted as being a condition precedent to any other enforcement action.

Todd Parfitt
Director,
Department of Environmental Quality

Administrator, Land Quality Division

Please direct all inquiries regarding this Notice of Violation to Mr. Mark Rogaczewski, District III Supervisor, Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality/Land Quality Division, 2100 West 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Sheridan, WY, 82801

cc: Mark Rogaczewski, LQD file, 1412ET



## MEMORANDUM

TO:

Environmental Quality Council

AUG 5 Zuis

FROM:

Todd Partitt - DEQ Director

RECEIVED

DATE:

July 31, 2013

RE:

Bond Forfeiture Recommendation - Hettinger LLC, Limited Mining Operation

No. 1412ET

Attached is information relating to the failure of Hettinger LLC to reclaim lands affected by mining under the above-referenced Limited Mining Operation Notification.

I have determined that the bond for this Limited Mining Operation should be forfeited. Since this is a voluntary forfeiture, it is requested that the Council approve this request as a final action.

Should you have any questions, please contact Kurt King, LQD District III.

xc:

Nancy Nuttbrock - LQD Administrator

Mark Rogaczewski- LQD District III Supervisor

Attachments: Notice of Violation, Docket No. 5156-13

9/15/13

Approved

Chairman, Environmental Quality Council

FILED

SEP 1 2 2013

Jim Ruby, Executive Secretary Environmental Quality Council





# **Department of Environmental Quality**

To protect, conserve and enhance the quality of Wyoming's environment for the benefit of current and future generations.



Todd Parfitt, Director

#### **MEMORANDUM**

TO:

Attorney General's Office

FROM:

Todd Parfitt, Director - Department of Environmental Quality

DATE:

October 14, 2013

SUBJECT:

Bond Forfeiture - Hettinger LLC, Limited Mining Operation No. 1412ET

On September 12, 2013, the Environmental Quality Council gave its approval for the Director to make formal request of the attorney general to begin bond forfeiture proceedings for Limited Mining Operation 1412ET.

This memorandum serves as that formal request. Please begin forfeiture proceedings of the bond for Limited Mining Operation 1412ET in accordance with Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 35-11-421(b).

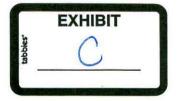
If you have any questions, please contact Mark Rogaczewski, Land Quality Division, Sheridan office.

**Todd Parfitt** 

Director

Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality

District III cc:







# Office of the Attorney General

Governor Matthew H. Mead

Attorney General Peter K. Michael Water and Natural Resources Division 123 State Capitol Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002 307-777-6946 Telephone 307-777-3542 Fax Chief Deputy Attorney General John G. Knepper

> Division Deputy Jay A. Jerde

December 4, 2013

## CERTIFIED MAIL # 7005-3110-0001-8313-6061 RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Hettinger LLC 12596 W. Bayaud Ave. Suite 100 Lakewood, CO 80228

RE: Notice of Proposed Bond Forfeiture for Permits 1412ET and 711(s); Notice of Violation No. 5156-13 & 5157-13

To Whom It May Regard:

On May 3, 2013, the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, Land Quality Division (DEQ) issued Notices of Violation Nos. 5156-13 and 5157-13 to Hettinger, LLC (Hettinger) alleging that Hettinger had abandoned its mining operations without completing reclamation in violation of the Land Quality Rules and Regulations and Wyo. STAT. ANN. §§ 35-11-401(e)(viii) and 35-11-415(b)(ix). On September 12, 2013, DEQ requested and received the Wyoming Environmental Quality Council's (EQC) approval to proceed with bond forfeiture for Permit 1412ET. Likewise, DEQ obtained EQC approval for bond forfeiture on Permit 711(a) on November 15, 2013. Both memoranda are attached to this notice. On November 22, 2013, DEQ requested that the Attorney General's Office initiate bond forfeiture proceedings pursuant to Wyo. STAT. ANN. § 35-11-421(a).



DEQ now seeks an order from the EQC to forfeit Hettinger's reclamation performance bonds for both Permits: for Permit 1412ET, U.S. Bank Cashier's Check No. 508964277 in the amount of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000); and for Permit 711(s), both Hettinger, LLC company check No. 5142 in the amount of twenty-five thousand one hundred five dollars (\$25,105) and U.S. Bank Cashier's Check No. 789500789 in the amount of eighteen thousand ninety-five dollars (\$18,095). If the bond becomes forfeit, DEQ will use the proceeds to reclaim the affected mine sites in Wyoming.

Pursuant to WYO. STAT. ANN. § 35-11-421(b), the Wyoming Attorney General's Office is hereby notifying you that the bond will be forfeited unless a representative of your company makes a written demand for a hearing to the EQC within thirty (30) days after receipt of this notice.

If you have any questions concerning these proceedings, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jeremy A. Gross

Assistant Attorney General

cc:

Nancy Nuttbrock

file



STATE OF WYOMING
ATTORNEY GENERAL
123 STATE CAPITOL
CHEYENNE, WYOMING 82002



7005 3110 0001 8313 6061





RECEIVED

DEC 1 7 2013

WYOMING ATTORNEY GENERAL OFFICE, WNR

Hettinger LLC 12596 W. Bayaud Ave.

Suite 100 Lakewood,

NIXIE

302 DE 1009

0012/12/13

RETURN TO SENDER ATTEMPTED - NOT KNOWN UNABLE TO FORWARD

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