

Letters to the editor

The expected result of exploration

Mr. Felderhof's July 14, 2020, opinion piece in the Cañon City Daily Record states that "... signage regarding Zephyr Minerals Ltd. is...largely misleading and at worst, totally false. Most obvious are the signs. There is no Dawson gold mine nor are there submitted permit applications for a mine."

Factually, he is right. However, what is the expected result of spending hundreds of thousands of dollars on exploration, staking and filing hundreds of mining claims on public land, applying for rights-of-way and suing local landowners for access if it isn't to begin a mining process? Newspaper articles and releases back up this observation. Examples (amongst others) include:

— "Zephyr Minerals has been conducting exploratory drilling to gauge whether it would be feasible to get permission to start an underground gold mine in the area west of Dawson Ranch..." Cañon City Daily Record, Jan. 2, 2020

— "Zephyr Minerals, a Canadian-based gold exploration and development company, won't begin mining for the Dawson Gold Project for at least three years, according to the company's chief executive officer." Cañon City Daily Record, Dec. 11, 2019.

— "The U.S. Bureau of Land Management is seeking public comment...for a proposed road that would allow access to Zephyr Minerals' proposed gold mine off of Temple Canyon Road...Zephyr Minerals is conducting exploratory drilling to gauge whether it

would be feasible to get permission to start an underground gold mine...If access is approved by BLM officials, Zephyr Minerals will initiate the mine permitting process..." Pueblo Chieftain, September 3, 2018.

— "An underground gold mine involves putting a ramp underground where development and extraction will take place..." Cañon City Daily Record, May 12, 2018.

— "He (Will Felderhoff) said Zephyr should be in position to apply for a mining permit application late this year or early next year, which includes a public hearing with the Fremont County Board of Commissioners." Cañon City Daily Record, May 12, 2018.

— "Zephyr Minerals is proposing a 40-foot-wide and 380-foot-long road on BLM-managed public land to access private property they plan to mine...If approved, Zephyr Minerals will initiate the mine permitting process with the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety (DRMS)." Bureau of Land Management Press Release, August 24, 2018.

So, Mr. Felderhof, when should the public begin to be concerned about a gold/hard rock mine? When you and Zephyr Minerals tell us it is OK to gripe? Or would it be acceptable for the public and concerned groups to be proactive in their opposition to a foreign company coming to Colorado and wanting to take publicly owned minerals from public lands, all the while not paying revenue or royalties to the federal government while destroying our local environment?

**Royal Gorge Preservation Project,
Cañon City**