

Other views

Chairman addresses negative ads, postings about Zephyr Minerals

Will Felderhof
Zephyr Minerals
Dear Citizens of Cañon City and
Fremont County:

I am writing to address the negative radio ads, website postings and signage regarding Zephyr Minerals Ltd. by nonprofit groups — notably Dawson Ranch HOA, Royal Gorge Preservation Society, Fremont County Democrats, Information Network for Responsible Mining and Wild Connections, which is at best 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. Zephyr is exploring and has been since 2012. I challenge the HOA sign at the Tanner Parkway entrance (in the city ROW) stating 86% oppose Zephyr. Data on the HOA website indicates that of 560 property owners, 292 (52%) did not respond to the survey. Of the responses, 14% did not oppose Zephyr.

Therefore, statistics indicate that 68% of the property owners in Dawson Ranch do not oppose Zephyr. The HOA's posted sign blatantly and intentionally misrepresents the survey results.

The Fremont County Democrats posted Wild Connections' virtual tour that includes "experts" from the Information Network for Responsible Mining speaking of mine portals, truck traffic and tailings piles. It is speculating 100%. There are absolutely no facts to substantiate this fear-mongering. Zephyr has provided no information to the government for mine development because a mineable gold deposit is yet unproven and further exploration drilling is required. Should a mineral discovery be made, it will be very deep and not suitable for development as an open pit.

WC's "experts" insist the mine is illegal. Zephyr is exploring on legally held unpatented mining claims issued by U.S. BLM, as well as patented claims on which it pays annual taxes totaling approximately \$27,000 a year. Zephyr has been submitting exploration plans to U.S. BLM for review since 2012. Plans for exploration in the Wilderness Study Area were submitted in June 2019. After nine months of Zephyr providing additional information at BLM's request, BLM determined in March 2020 that the 2020 exploration campaign was compliant

with the WSA 3802 federal regulation. Zephyr's 2020 exploration plan was rigorously reviewed by BLM.

Zephyr self-imposed exploration restrictions recommended by the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife that were directed at activity in the State of Colorado owned Section 16. Even though not required, all exploration in the WSA adjoining Section 16 will be limited by these same restrictions, including no construction of roads, exploring between July 1 and Oct. 30 and a 500-foot setback from Grape Creek. WC's virtual tour fails to mention this setback distance leading viewers to wrongly believe exploration will be close to Grape Creek.

It is interesting that WC utilized a helicopter outside the wildlife protective window, mentioned above, to generate its alarmist fantasy video and helicopters have been flying tours into the Royal Gorge for years, yet WC suggests that Zephyr's use of a helicopter be denied. Did WC obtain approval from CPW for its helicopter flight?

Zephyr's helicopter will be based at the airport. The warm-up idling mentioned in the virtual tour will occur at the airport. The helicopter's presence in the WSA will be for 10-20 minute intervals as it lowers supplies to the drill site a few times each day during drilling. Twice a day, the helicopter will land for drillers to get to and from the site; again requiring 10-15 minutes per trip. It is noteworthy that while Zephyr is restricted to a four-month window between June 1 and Oct. 30, so as not to disturb bighorn sheep, helicopter tours operate outside this wildlife protective window.

The current federal and state environmental regulations are based on solid science and are fully understood and adhered to by Zephyr. Zephyr is committed to operating within the Rules and Regulations of the Colorado mining law and, in addition, in an environmentally responsible manner. Zephyr sees itself as a responsible corporate citizen of Cañon City and Fremont County. For those citizens who support us, thank you, and to those who are just getting to know us, we seek your support. We urge you to seek information about Zephyr from our website www.zephyrminerals.com.

Will Felderhof is the executive chairman and director for Zephyr Minerals.