

# ADOPTION OF EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW (EA/EIS)

## Part I. Proposed Action Description

**Applicant/Contact Name & Address:** RC Resources Inc, 6500 N. Mineral Dr. Suite 200 Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815

**Type of Action:** Application for Beneficial Water Use Permit No. 76N 30068837

**Location Affected by Action:** The fully developed mine area is defined by the USFS-KNF as the mitigated mining limit. It is located in the S2S2 of Section 14, E2E Section 22, Section 23, W2W2 Section 24, W2NW Section 25, Section 26, the E2E2 Section 27, and the W2 Section 35, Township 27N, Range 32W, Sanders County, Montana. The place of use for the mill site is the NE, Section 10, Township 26N, Range 32W; for the Paste Plant the SENE Section 28, Township 26N, Range 32W; and for the tailings impoundment area Section 28 and the S2S2 of Section 21, Township 26N, Range 32W, Sanders County, Montana.

**Narrative Summary of Proposed Action:** The Rock Creek Mine is a proposed underground copper and silver mine; the mill was designed to produce 10,000 tons of ore per day. The Applicant proposes to impound groundwater within the Rock Creek Mine in underground transitory sumps/pits and divert groundwater directly from the active mining areas or from the sumps/pits for mining purposes January 1<sup>st</sup> thru December 31<sup>st</sup>. The Applicant will store up to 130 AF of water at any point in time within the mine during a year and divert up to 857 acre-feet (AF) of water from the mine per year. No flow rate is associated with this application; the mine is viewed as a large pit.

## Part II. Existing Environmental Review Information

Title: Final Environmental Impact Statement and the updated Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement

Publication Date: August 19, 2001 and February 19, 2016, respectively

Lead Agency: USFS-Kootenai National Forest

Location Where Interested Parties Can View or Obtain the Document: USFS-KNF website: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/kootenai/landmanagement/projects>

## Part III. Criteria for Adopting Existing Environmental Review

- Yes  No Does the existing environmental review cover an action paralleling or closely related to the proposed action?
- Yes  No Is the information in the existing environmental review accurate and clearly presented?
- Yes  No Is the information in the existing environmental review applicable to the action being considered?
- Yes  No Were all appropriate Agencies consulted during preparation of the existing environmental review?
- Yes  No Were all alternatives to the proposed action evaluated as part of the existing environmental review effort?
- Yes  No Have all of the impacts of the proposed action been accurately identified as part of the existing environmental review?
- Yes  No If the existing environmental review identifies any significant impacts as a result of the proposed action, will they be mitigated below the level of significance?

#### Part IV. Conclusion

If the answers to ALL of the questions listed above are "Yes", the existing environmental review can be considered sufficient to satisfy DNRC's MEPA review responsibilities.

Name: Melissa Brickl

Title: Hydrologist/Water Resource Specialist

Date: 6.21.2016

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

*Melissa Brickl*