



STATE OF IDAHO  
DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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[www.deq.idaho.gov](http://www.deq.idaho.gov)

Brad Little, Governor  
John H. Tippetts, Director

August 23, 2019

**VIA EMAIL**

Matthew Drews, Environmental Manager  
U.S. Silver Idaho, Inc.  
P.O. Box 440  
Wallace, ID 83873  
mdrews@us-silver.com

RE: IPDES Permit No. ID0000027, U.S. Silver Idaho, Inc.  
Minor Modification Request for IPDES Industrial Permit issued by EPA

Dear Mr. Drews:

On July 31, 2019 the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) received a letter from U.S. Silver Idaho, Inc. requesting a minor modification to IPDES permit ID0000027, which was issued by EPA and became effective August 1, 2019. On July 1, 2019 NPDES program authority was transferred from EPA to DEQ for Individual Industrial Permits. Therefore, your request for minor modifications will be processed through DEQ.

DEQ has determined your current permit, ID0000027, effective August 1, 2019, is eligible for minor modifications as requested in accordance with IDAPA 58.01.25.201.03(c), Rules Regulating the Idaho Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Program, where the minor modifications may: *Change an interim compliance date in a schedule of compliance, provided the new date is not more than one hundred twenty (120) days after the date specified in the existing permit and does not interfere with attainment of the final compliance date requirement.*

DEQ has determined that the following minor modifications are approved to be incorporated:

- 1) A 120 day extension, not to exceed November 29, 2019, will be granted to the initiation of monitoring for parameters outlined in Table 5 of the permit which include: downstream copper, dissolved organic carbon, calcium, magnesium, sodium, potassium, sulfate (as SO<sub>4</sub>), chloride, alkalinity (as CaCO<sub>3</sub>), and downstream pH.
- 2) Subsequently, items #1 and #2 of Table 6B in Permit ID0000027 will also be extended by 120 days as follows:
  - a. Change Table 6B, Item #1:
    - i. From: "By one (1) year from the effective date of the final permit, the permittee must provide to EPA and DEQ a summary of the first year of copper BLM monitoring data as specified in Permit Part I.D."
    - ii. To: "By one (1) year from November 29, 2019, the permittee must provide to DEQ a summary of the first year of copper BLM monitoring data as specified in Permit Part I.D."

b. Change Table 6B, Item #2:

- i. From: “By two (2) years from the effective date of the final permit, the permittee must provide to EPA and DEQ a summary of the second year of copper BLM monitoring data as specified in Permit Part I.D.”
- ii. To: “By two (2) years from November 29, 2019, the permittee must provide to DEQ a summary of the second year of copper BLM monitoring data as specified in Permit Part I.D.”.

All other requirements of Table 6B of Permit ID0000027 will remain unchanged and the permittee must demonstrate compliance with those requirements, accordingly.

Once the updated permit has been finalized, a hard copy will be issued to U.S. Silver Idaho, Inc. In order to fully understand the compliance requirements of this permit once minor modifications are made, it is strongly recommended that you contact, Wes Green, IPDES Compliance Officer, at (208) 666-4639, to schedule a permit handoff meeting to review and discuss the terms and conditions of this permit. Please note that DEQ recommends that the following representatives attend the meeting: your facility’s plant manager, responsible official, environmental contact, and any other staff responsible for day-to-day compliance with permit conditions.

If you have questions, please contact me at (208) 373-0599 or [rakael.pope@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:rakael.pope@deq.idaho.gov) or AJ Maupin, IPDES Permit Supervisor, at (208) 373-0167 or [aj.maupin@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:aj.maupin@deq.idaho.gov).

Sincerely,



Rakael Pope  
Industrial Permit Writer  
DEQ IPDES Division

NPDES Permit No. ID0000027

cc: AJ Maupin, DEQ IPDES Division  
Tyler Fortunati, DEQ IPDES Division  
Troy Smith, DEQ IPDES Division  
Wes Green, DEQ Coeur d’Alene Regional Office  
Susan Poulosom, EPA Region 10  
Cindi Godsey, EPA Region 10