

**Oregon Consolidated Permit Application (CPA) Process – Chemical Process Mine
Calico Resources USA**

Public Hearing

Date: January 29, 2026; 5:00 pm

Location: (Physical) Vale Senior Citizens Center, 100 Longfellow St S, Vale, OR 97918

(Online) Zoom teleconference, with public access by phone or online.

Purpose: Public hearing on Draft Permits related to the Grassy Mountain Mine Project.

<i>Attendees (in person or online)</i>	<i>Agency or Affiliation</i>
Sarah Lewis	Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI)
Ruarri Day-Stuart	DOGAMI
Dayne Doucet	DOGAMI
Becky Johnson	DOGAMI
Bob Brinkmann	DOGAMI
Alex Lopez	DOGAMI
Lori Calarruda	DOGAMI
Adam Bonin	DOGAMI
Antony Sparrow	Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
Laura Gleim	DEQ
Ron Doughton	DEQ
Ryan Lewis	DEQ
Ania Lloyd	DEQ
Amy Devita-McBride	DEQ
Kendra Girard	DEQ
David Hurley	DEQ
J.R. Giska	DEQ
Jeremy Fleming	DEQ
Doug Welch	DEQ
Jesse Ratcliffe	Oregon Department of Justice (DOJ)
Mike Schmeiske	Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL)
Greg Jackle	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)
Joy Lovett	ODFW
Tom Segal	ODFW
Philip Milburn	ODFW
Bill Goss	Oregon Health Authority (OHA)
Steve Ahlquist	Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD)
Caryn Burri	US Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Rachel Goldman	Paramount Nevada Gold
Andy Rieber	Paramount Nevada Gold
Andrew Bentz	Paramount Nevada Gold
April Ehrlich	Oregon Public Broadcasting (OPB)
Chris MacMahon	WSP
Tom Patterson	SLR Consulting
Scott Miller	SLR Consulting
Anne Kim	No Affiliation Listed
Adele Schaffeld Griffin	Public
Julie Layshock	No Affiliation Listed

Paul Harding	No Affiliation Listed
Olivia Fajardo	No Affiliation Listed
Doug Hymas	No Affiliation Listed
Ann von Mehren	No Affiliation Listed
Sandy Porter	Treasure Valley Community College (TVCC)
Tom Vialpando	TVCC
Alison Uno	Stantec
George Fennemore	Stantec
Wendy Wente	Mason, Bruce & Girard, Inc
Sarah Bauman	Public
Jean R Cameron	Public
Robin Hayakawa	Central Oregon Land Watch (COLW)
Evan Hurt	No Affiliation Listed
Skip Yates	No Affiliation Listed
Elizabeth Howard	No Affiliation Listed
Michelle & Douglas Wright	No Affiliation Listed
Randy Jones	Public
K Schoorl	No Affiliation Listed
Nathan Ayers	Terra West Conservancy
Andrew Shields	Terra West Conservancy
Lyndsey DeMarco	Air Sciences Inc.
Dr. Thom Seal, PE	SME
Lynn Findley	Oregon State Senator (retired)
Michael McGinnis	Calico Resources USA Corp.
Rabbi Fora	Friends of Fora
Travis Penfold	No Affiliation Listed
Cindy Howard	Ausenco
Brian Cleaver	Rancher
Mike Brown	No Affiliation Listed
Tye Morgan	No Affiliation Listed
Matt Hoffman	No Affiliation Listed
Kitt Hawins	Evergreen Lining
Richard W. Musser	Public
Jim Mendiola	Malheur County Commissioner
John Zuegr	Farmer
Zack Kurtz	Farmer
Sierra Watson	Senate District 30
Todd Fuller	City of Vale
Mike Maupin	Ag Realty
Jodie Maupin	Ag Realty
Matt Everett	Public
Kelsi Haueter	Malheur County
Terry Wagner	Ten Mile Ranch
Colton Holloway	Holloway Livestock
Taylor Rembowski	Malheur County Economic Development

Agenda:

Time	Agenda Topic
5:00 pm	Welcome and Introductions
5:10 pm	Proposed Grassy Mountain Mine
5:20 pm	Consolidated Permitting Process
5:30 pm	DOGAMI Draft Operating Permit/Draft Order
5:40 pm	DEQ Draft Permits
5:50 pm	Q+A Session
6:11 pm	Public Hearing – Public Comments
6:48 pm	Meeting Conclusion and Final Remarks/A D J O U R N

Notes:

Introduction & Agenda

- Meeting introduction by Alex Lopez (DOGAMI).
- Public comments are allowed in person or over Zoom, but no call in comments.
- Requests no booing, whistling, clapping, etc.
- Reminder that questions being asked during the Q&A Session are not considered public comment and will not be logged as such.

Update on State Permitting Process

- Adam Bonin (DOGAMI) provided a review of the Draft DOGAMI consolidated operating permit.
 - Calico is the applicant.
 - The project is located in Malheur County.
 - It potentially involves the processing of up to 2.07 million tons of Oregon (silver/gold).
 - Both private and public (BLM) lands are in the permit area.
 - This will be an underground gold mine.
 - There will be an indoor ore processing facility.
- The timeline for the mine after permitting would likely resemble the following:
 - 2 years to construct the mine
 - 8 years of operation
 - 4 years to reclaim and close the mine
 - 26 years of post-mine closure monitoring
- The mine would have the following components:
 - A conventional mill
 - A temporary waste rock storage facility (that is lined)
 - A permanent Tailing Storage Facility (TSF) that is also lined

- An ore processing plant
- A cyanide destruction process
- Adam then provided a review of Oregon’s Consolidated Permit Application (CPA) process:
 - Outlined in OAR 632-037 & ORS 517.952-989
 - Goal is for economic growth and opportunity while protecting Oregon’s environmental resources and public health and safety.
 - DOGAMI has been the lead agency for permitting the Grassy Mountain Project.
 - The creation and ongoing work of both the Technical Review Team (TRT) and Project Coordinating Committee (PCC) allow the agency to maintain transparency with the sharing of information with the public.
 - Required work products that have been submitted include the following:
 - Baseline Data Reports (BDR) of various types
 - Environmental Evaluation (EE)
 - Socioeconomic Impact Analysis (SIA)
 - Wildlife Protection Plan
 - Wildlife Mitigation Plan
 - Groundwater Monitoring Plan, and others
- The permitting process has not been “quick” by any means.
 - Original Notice of Intent (NOI) was submitted in June 2012.
 - First CPA was submitted in November of 2019.
 - SIA and EE were submitted in October 2024
 - There have been roughly **50 public meetings** held over the course of the permitting process.

Next Steps: Preparing the Final Consolidated Operating Permit

- The next steps for the permitting process include getting the final permits from DEQ as well as final permit conditions from ODFW.
- DOGAMI will then prepare the final order itself.
 - The order will propose the Consolidated Operating Permit’s approval.
 - It will also document compliance with relevant rules and statutes.
 - There will be a final order to accompany the final permit.
- The Federal Process accompanies the state process, with the culmination as the Record of Decision which was published right before the meeting on January 29, 2026.
- Public comment ends February 6, 2026. Any comments submitted should be specific to the draft permits.
- If the final steps are met and the wildlife mitigation is met, a final order and final permits would hypothetically be issued.
- Financial assurance and bonding would need to be in place beforehand. This includes both the joint reclamation bond DOGAMI and the BLM will hold, as well as the credible accidents bond that just DOGAMI will hold.

Next Steps: DEQ

- Ryan Lewis (DEQ) – Solid Waste Engineer
 - DEQ will be issuing multiple permits for the Grassy Mountain project.
 - **WPCF-OS (Water Pollution Control Facility-Individual Onsite)**

- **1200-Z (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, Stormwater Discharge General Permit – 1200-Z):** this permit regulates stormwater associated with stormwater activity.
- **ACDP (Air Containment Discharge Permit) Title 5**
- **WPCF-N (Water Pollution Control Facility-Individual Permit):** allows for groundwater protection.
- DEQ regulates air quality, water quality, and land quality – hence the need for multiple permits.
- The combination of the permits allows for regulation that covers solid waste disposal, protection for drinking water and human health, while also allowing beneficial use determination and wildlife exposure mitigation.
- DEQ proposes to issue approvals of the proposed beneficial use determinations.
- They are planning to conduct regular compliance inspections and have long-term plans for reclamation.

Q+A Session

Q+A session details are not documented since they are not part of the public hearing and public comment period.

Public Comments (The Hearing)

- Rabbi Fora – concerned that cyanide will poison the groundwater. Also concerned that Calico will be making billions while the community will only be taking in the equivalent amount of a local McDonalds.
- Travis Penfold – worried about the monetary gain leaving the local community. Concerned that a Nevada company is being permitted to do this kind of work in Oregon.
- Randy Jones – comments regarding the tailings and controlling the cyanide discharge. Applicant should reduce the weak acid dissociable (WAD) cyanide to 0.04 – 0.1 mg/L (says this is backed by data and that DOGAMI can require it via statute and rule). Credible accidents need to be addressed – both total collapse and partial collapse. Citizens of Oregon shouldn't be left to bear that responsibility.
- Jean Cameron – frequency of wildlife mortality reporting to DEQ should be monthly rather than daily. Question: Are additional wildlife deterrents being considered and will employee bussing be available?
- Jim Mendiola (County Commissioner) – Thanks everyone for their work. Says to keep going! Emphasized the potential economic impact this project could have on the area (>\$200 million).
- Cindy Howard (Ausenco) – feasibility study (was the engineer on it). Has worked in the industry for 27+ years and most of her experience is in gold ore bodies. Says there are no real nasties in this deposit – like copper – and is wondering why the WAD cyanide limits were lowered. Expressed concerns over the feasibility of 1 mg/L WAD cyanide DEQ limit in the WPCF-N permit.
- Chris MacMahon (WSP) – Senior Tailings Design Engineer (formerly with Golder Associates, Inc.). Explained how the Tailing Storage Facility (TSF) is designed and how the protection measures are put in place. Tailings leave mill as slurry and are discharged to the TSF through spigots. The TSF is double layered with leak detection. Slurry is discharged and water separates tailings mass in

supernatant pool. The TSF is designed for largest credible earthquake. 2 million tons of tailings to be stored in the TSF.

- Scott Miller (SLR) – permits describe this as “a mine with no discharge”, nowhere in the mining area does the groundwater come to the surface. Depth of groundwater in the mining area itself is about 100 to 300 feet below the ground surface. No aquatic exposures from mining, with the closest stream being roughly 17 miles away and closest downgradient spring being roughly 2 miles away. Extensive monitoring will be occurring by DEQ.
- Sarah Bauman – What is the date on the groundwater study? Are there subsidies for Oregon residents on electricity? Transparency - Conflict of interest for how much it personally benefits Congressman Cliff Bentz. Terrible idea for Oregon. Should be embracing nature and green spaces. A Nevada company comes in and dumps cyanide and kills everything and the residents of the area get nothing.
- Adele Schaffeld Griffin – Her children are fifth generation Oregonians in Malheur County. She wondered who in the room lived in the area, grew up in the area, or had a vested interest in the area. Says that the county desperately needs more jobs. It’s an extremely poor county, with only low income available. They need access to good jobs.
- Brian Cleaver (rancher; generational) – Has claim dead center in Grassy Mountain area. He’s having issues with water for his cattle (and has been since the 1980s). There is no water in this area. Says he has a water right on the wells that are being used. He’s worried about his cattle. 24 hours is all it takes to deplete the springs and wells. Owyhee Dam was going to be raised at one point due to water issues.
- Dr Tom Seal – retired professional mining metallurgical engineer. Sits on Grant County Natural Resource Council. Would like to see a mine like this permitted in Oregon as there are many minerals in Oregon that can be utilized. Wants to see a seep for wildlife. Wildfire made lots of carbon dioxide, thinks the limit in the permit for carbon dioxide is unrealistic. WAD cyanide limit is also unrealistic. Nevada has a higher limit. No need to put liner under the stockpiles.

Final Remarks

- Final comments were requested. There were none offered.
- The meeting adjourned at 6:48 pm.