



GREAT BASIN UNIFIED AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT
157 Short Street, Bishop, California 93514-3537 Tel: 760-872-8211 www.gbuapcd.org

April 27, 2026

Project Darwin, LLC
ATTN: Jack Stone
P.O. Box 29
Darwin, CA 93522

Re: Permit to Operate 1795-00-21; Mobile Crushing and Processing Facility, Darwin Mine,
Darwin, California

Jack Stone:

Please find enclosed your Permit to Operate (PTO) issued regarding the subject matter above. This PTO is issued to update the previously issued Authorities to Construct to a full PTO. Field inspections by District staff have verified compliance with various Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District Rules and Regulations.

This permit shall be renewable annually on its anniversary date of April 1, provided the facility remains in compliance with all conditions. The permittee shall pay an annual permit renewal fee in accordance with the applicable fee schedule set forth in District Rule 301.

Please review all permit conditions and make sure operating staff are aware of all relevant conditions as well. A copy of this permit must be kept readily available at the operating premises. You have had prior conversations with the District during which you suggested that you would be adding additional equipment to this processing plant, which is why the District waited to issue this PTO. You recently informed District staff that these modifications would not be happening at this time and you would prefer for the PTO to be issued with the equipment originally listed on the Authority to Construct Permit. Should you decide to pursue these modifications in the future, you must notify the District and submit an application for a permit modification for any changes to the permitted equipment. This permit does not allow you to modify the processing plant to include anything other than the listed equipment.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Tom Schaniel, Air Quality Specialist, at (760) 872-8211.

Thank you,

Ann Logan
Air Pollution Control Officer

Enclosures: Permit to Operate 1795-00-21



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PERMIT TO OPERATE 1795-00-21

PROJECT DARWIN, LLC., DARWIN MINE, CRUSHING FACILITY, DARWIN, CALIFORNIA

GRANTED TO:		FACILITY ADDRESS:				
Project Darwin, LLC P.O. Box 29 Darwin, CA 93522		Darwin Mine 13 Utah Drive Darwin, CA 93522				
EQUIPMENT LOCATION:		FACILITY ASSESSOR PARCEL:				
36.27569° N, 117.59609° W		Inyo County APN: 035-040-03				
EQUIPMENT DESCRIPTION:						
Ore crushing and processing facility totaling 300 hp, powered by line power, with a throughput of 100 tons per hour. See the equipment list on next page.						
EMISSION CONTROL:						
Ultrasonic foggers at all drop points, except water spray bars at stockpile drops Hours of operation are limited to 12 hours per day.						
Permitted Particulate Matter Emissions						
Emission Type	Crushing and Handling		Haul Roads/Storage Piles		Total	
Units	lb/hr	tpy	lb/hr	tpy	lb/hr	tpy
Potential to Emit	1.02	2.23	0.15	0.28	1.17	2.51
PERMIT CONDITIONS:						
See the attached conditions. It is the permittee's responsibility to comply with all laws, ordinances and regulations of the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District and other governmental agencies which are applicable to the permittee's operation. Any modification of the equipment or operation, as defined in District Rule 200.A – Authority to Construct, will require a new permit.						

Ann Logan
Air Pollution Control Officer

April 27, 2026
Date Granted

April 1
Annual Renewal Date

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Equipment List

Equipment	HP
Mine Car Dump	-
Primary Crusher	100
Conveyor Feed to Screen Plant	20
Screen Plant	30
Screen Plant Under Size Conveyor	20
Conveyor Feed to Secondary Crusher	20
Secondary Crusher	50
Secondary Crusher Conveyor to Screen Plant Feed Conveyor	15
Under Size Conveyor to Radial Stacker	15
Radial Stacker	30
High Grade Bin	-
Oxide Ore Stockpile	-
Sulfide Ore Stockpile	-
Bin Load into Truck	-
Total Horsepower	300

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Condition 1: Permit

An up-to-date copy of the permit shall be kept readily available at all times on the operating premises. It is the responsibility of the permittee to ensure that operating staff are aware of all permit conditions. The provisions of this permit may be modified by the District. Operation of this equipment without a written Permit to Operate is a violation of District Rule 200.B, and can result in civil and criminal penalties under California Health & Safety Code (CH&SC) Section 42400. [Origin of Condition: District Rule 200 – Permits Required; CH&SC Section 42400; and District Rule 210 – Conditional Approval]

Condition 2: Right of Entry

The "Right of Entry," as defined by CH&SC Section 41510 of Division 26, shall apply at all times. Representatives of the District upon presentation of credentials, shall be permitted to enter the project location to inspect and copy any record required to be kept under the terms of this permit. District staff shall also be permitted to inspect any equipment, work practices, air-emission-related activity or method dictated by this permit. If deemed necessary by the District to verify compliance with these conditions, the permittee, shall within 7 days' notice, be available to open any sample extraction port or exhaust outlet for the purpose of conducting source tests or to collect samples. [Origin of Condition: District Rule 210.A – Conditional Approval; and CH&SC 41510]

Condition 3: Maximum Production Rate and Hours of Operation

The maximum amount of rock that may be processed through the crushing, screening and conveying equipment is 100 tons per hour. The crushing and screening operation may operate up to 12 hours per day, and 4,380 hours per year. The permittee shall keep adequate production records on site to verify compliance with this condition. [Origin of Condition: District Rule 209-A.D – Standards for Authorities to Construct, Best Available Control Technology and Mitigation Requirements District Rule 210 – Conditional Approval; and District Rule 218 – Limiting the Potential to Emit]

Condition 4: Dust Control

- a. The permittee shall be responsible for dust control from commencement of this project to final completion. The applicant shall also be responsible for ensuring their subcontractor(s), employees, and all other persons connected with the project abide by the conditions of this permit. [Origin of Condition: District Rules 101.U – Person; District Rule 210.A – Conditional Approval; and District Rule 401 – Fugitive Dust]
- b. If wind conditions are such that the applicant cannot control dust, the permittee shall shut down all operations (except for equipment used for dust control). Under no circumstance shall wind generated dust be allowed to blow across a property boundary. [Origin of Condition: District Rule 401 – Fugitive Dust]

Condition 5: Waste Dust Disposal

Reject waste material generated by the crushing circuit shall be collected for disposal and handled in such a manner as to minimize entrainment to the atmosphere. The waste dust shall be buried with at least 4 inches of overburden material. At no time shall waste material be disposed of where it could be exposed to windy conditions or blow across a property boundary. [Origin of Condition: District Rule 210.A – Conditional Approval, and District Rule 401 – Fugitive Dust]

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Condition 6: Visible Emissions

The permittee shall not discharge into the atmosphere from any single source of emission whatsoever, any air contaminant, for a period or periods aggregating more than three minutes in any one hour, which is as dark or darker in shade as that designated as No. 1 on the Ringelmann Chart or of such opacity as to obscure an observer's view to a degree equal to or greater than a shade designed at No.1 (20% opacity) on the Ringelmann chart. [Origin of Condition: District Rule 400 – Ringelmann Chart]

Condition 7: Federal New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) for Dust Control of Crushers, Screens, and Conveyors:

- a. An ultrasonic fogging system or water spray system shall be properly maintained and operating whenever the plant is conducting crushing, screening, and conveying to reduce dust emissions. In accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 40, Part 60 (40 CFR 60) – NSPS, Subpart OOO – Standards of Performance for Nonmetallic Mineral Processing Plants (April 16, 2009), fugitive dust emissions shall be limited to 12% opacity for the crusher and 7% for the screens, each conveyor drop point and each material loading operation. If these limits are violated, additional water spray-jets points shall be installed to control the dust emissions. [Origin of Condition: District Rule 210 – Conditional Approval; and 40 CFR 60, Section 60.670 to Section 60.676]
- b. A water storage tank shall be installed for use with the equipment water spray controls. [Origin of Condition: District Rule 210 – Conditional Approval]
- c. If the crushing, screening and conveying equipment, equipped only with water spray dust controls (including the foaming system), cannot meet the opacity standard for the NSPS, additional control measures shall be required. In the event that a baghouse is required, the stack emissions shall be subject to a concentration limit of 0.014 grains per dry standard cubic feet and, unless a wet scrubber is used, a 7% opacity limit. [Origin of Condition: 40 CFR 60, Section 60.672(a); and District Rule 210 – Conditional Approval]

Condition 8: Baghouse Operations (if required)

- a. If a baghouse is used to control dust from the crushing, screening and conveying equipment, the permittee shall monitor its performance with a Magnehelic pressure gauge, measuring the differential pressure drop across the device. This gauge shall be accurately maintained at a convenient and safe location. In order to properly maintain the baghouse, the permittee shall keep in stock a 10% supply of replacement bags on hand allowing for prompt baghouse repairs. The dust control system shall be in use at all times the screening plant is in operation. [Origin of Condition: District Rule 209-A.D – Standards for Authorities to Construct, Best Available Control Technology and Mitigation Requirements; and District Rule 210.A – Conditional Approval]
- b. Dust collected for as product or for disposal shall be handled in such a manner as to minimize entrainment to the atmosphere. At no time shall baghouse waste material be disposed of where it could be exposed to windy conditions or blow across a property boundary. The waste dust shall be compacted and chemically sealed or buried with at least 3 inches of overburden material. This control procedure shall be completed before the close of business each day. [Origin of Condition: District Rule 210.A – Conditional Approval; and District 401 – Fugitive Dust]

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Condition 9: Haul Road Emissions:

- a. 15 mph speed limit signs shall be posted along the unpaved haul road and for any working grounds surrounding the plant, product piles and waste piles. During daily activity, all traffic, including the permittee's employees and contractor(s), shall observe this speed limit while traveling on all dirt roads and working grounds throughout the project. The speed limit shall be strictly enforced by the permittee. [Origin of Condition: District Rule 402 – Nuisance; and District Rule 210 – Conditional Approval]
- b. In order to prevent violations of District Rules 400 – Ringelmann Chart, and 401 – Fugitive Dust, at least one water truck shall be available on a full-time basis to apply water to the haul road and open surface areas. In the event the water truck fails or suffers a breakdown condition beyond routine truck maintenance, reporting of this breakdown shall be forwarded to the District according to the terms specified in Condition 10: Breakdown. [Origin of Condition: District Rule 400 – Ringelmann Chart; District Rule 401 – Fugitive Dust; and District Rule 403 - Breakdown]

Condition 10: Storage Piles

The height of the storage piles and the stacker conveyor drop distances shall be kept to a minimum. Storage piles of fine crushed material susceptible to wind erosion shall not be left exposed to high winds. As a dust control measure, this class of stored material shall not be allowed to exceed a maximum storage pile height of 15 feet. In order to prevent a violation of District Rule(s) 400, or 401, water or other reasonable control measures shall be applied to these storage piles as necessary to control wind-caused fugitive dust. Water used as a dust suppressant agent shall be considered only a temporary dust control measure. [Origin of Condition: District Rule 210.A – Conditional Approval; District Rule 400 – Ringelmann Chart; and District Rule 401 – Fugitive Dust]

Condition 11: Quarry Size and Abandonment

- a. The Permittee shall keep the active quarry as small as possible. Once any portion of the quarry becomes exhausted of useful material, or mining activities cease in that area, the applicant shall immediately begin reclamation of the disturbed surfaces. The permittee shall not allow any abandoned portion of the quarry to remain subject to wind erosion for a period in excess of three (3) months without applying all reasonably available dust control measures necessary to prevent the transport of dust or dirt beyond the property boundary. Reasonably available control measures may include, but need not be limited to: sealing, re-vegetating or otherwise stabilizing the soil surfaces with chemical surfactant, or latex binders. [Origin of Condition: District Rule 210.A – Conditional Approval; and District Rule 401 – Fugitive Dust]
- b. At the termination of mining, and prior to abandoning the site, the operator shall apply reasonably available dust control measures to prevent windblown fugitive dust from being emitted from the site after the quarry is closed. The permittee shall comply with the fugitive dust mitigation measures outlined by the Inyo County Planning Commission's Reclamation Plan. [Origin of Condition: District Rule 210.A – Conditional Approval; District Rule 401 – Fugitive Dust; and District Rule 402]

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Condition 12: Portable Equipment (PERP)

Before any State of California Portable Equipment Registration Program (PERP) equipment is deployed at this facility, its proposed deployment shall be reviewed by District staff for compliance with CARB and District Stationary Source requirements. This review will consider if the proposed PERP equipment can be deployed at the facility, and if it can be, what limits the length of its deployment is subject to. For any PERP equipment that is approved for deployment, the permittee shall comply with all PERP permit conditions, including the one to notify the District when the equipment is brought into the District. [Origin of Condition: District Rule 200 – Permits Required]

Condition 13: Diesel Vehicles and Mobile Equipment Requirement (DOORS)

The applicant shall ensure that all self-propelled off-road diesel vehicles 25 hp and greater, and most two-engine vehicles, have a current certificate in the state of California's In-Use Off-Road Diesel Fueled Fleets Regulation (DOORS) program. Mobile equipment and vehicles shall display properly affixed program stickers. The Mobile Crushing Plant is subject to this requirement. [Origin of Condition: District Rule 210.A – Conditional Approval]

Condition 14: Breakdown (or Emergency) Reporting and Operating Under Breakdown Conditions

The permittee shall comply with the breakdown requirements of District Rules 403 (Breakdown), which shall include notifying the Air Pollution Control Officer of a breakdown condition within an hour of detection, unless it can be demonstrated that a longer reporting period is necessary -- not to exceed 2 days. Notification shall identify the time, location, equipment involved, and to the extent possible the cause of the breakdown and steps taken to correct the breakdown condition. Within one week after the breakdown occurrence, the permittee shall submit a written report to the Air Pollution Control Officer which includes: date of correction of the breakdown, determination of the cause of the breakdown, corrective measures to prevent a recurrence, an estimate of the emissions caused by the breakdown condition, and pictures of the failed equipment, if available. Breakdown conditions shall not persist longer than 24 hours or the end of the production run, whichever is sooner, unless the permittee obtains an Emergency Variance pursuant to District Rule 617 – Emergency Variance. [Origin of Condition: District Rule 403 – Breakdown]

Condition 15: Recordkeeping

Required record keeping information shall be retained by the permittee in a form suitable for inspection for a period of at least two (2) years from the end of the calendar year of the journal entry. [Origin of Condition: District Rule 206.B – Monitoring Facilities, and CH&SC Section 42705 – Records]

Condition 16: Toxic Air Emissions

The permittee shall promptly notify the District in writing should they learn of or encounter conditions where toxic air emissions of concern are emitted and allowed to disperse into the ambient air. Toxic air emissions are those listed on the AB2588 list of substances. [Origin of Condition: District Rule 210.A – Conditional Approval; and CH&SC Section 44321]

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Condition 17: Right to Revise Permit

The provisions of this permit may be modified by the District if the District determines the controls are inadequate. If requested by the Air Pollution Control Officer (APCO), the permittee shall within 30 days submit a written plan to the District describing how the dust emissions will be controlled and maintained at or below 12% opacity for the crushers and 7% for the screens and conveyor drop points. The APCO shall approve or modify the plan. The permittee shall implement the plan within 60 days following the APCO's approval and shall perform any required new source testing. [Origin of Condition: District Rule 210.C – Annual Review of Conditions]

Condition 18: Reporting

The owner or operator shall, upon request from the District, provide records or summaries of equipment usage and any other information as may be deemed necessary in determining the nature and amount of emissions from the permitted equipment. [Origin of Condition: District Rule 215 – Public Availability of Emission Data]

Condition 19: Severability Clause

If any provision of this permit is found invalid, such finding shall not affect any remaining provisions. [Origin of Condition: District Rule 107 - Constitutionality]