

July 14, 2022

ITEM 201-1501A-0722

Request for Authorization to Build a Rock Specimen Storage Facility; Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, Montana Technological University

THAT

Consistent with Board of Regents Policy 1003.7 and MCA 18-2-102 (c) the Montana Board of Regents authorizes the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology to expend up to \$550,000 to construct a rock specimen storage facility on the Montana Tech Campus in Butte utilizing federal funds.

EXPLANATION

1. MBMG researchers routinely collect rock and mineral specimens during the course of geologic and ore deposit studies throughout Montana; the MBMG also regularly accepts core and other MT rock specimens from outside donors.
 2. The specimens are housed within the MBMG Natural Resource Building on the Montana Tech campus in Butte, in one of two on-campus storage buildings, or in 40-foot freight-shipping containers, all of which are near capacity and competing with space for laboratory equipment and archival documents.
 3. The project will construct a new rock specimen storage facility to house rock specimens collected by MBMG and other researchers from sites throughout Montana. The project will enable continuance and expansion of systematic collection, curation, and digital tracking of thousands of specimens. The project may also include enough space and resources to preserve specimens collected by other researchers in the Montana University System.
 4. The MBMG has received a notice of award of \$200,000 from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) National Geological and Geophysical Data Preservation Program (NGGDPP) in support of the construction of the sample storage building with a cost-share from federal indirect cost funds of \$350,000.
 5. The project requires Governor's consent per MCA 18-2-102 (c).
-

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment #1: Board of Regents Policy – 1003.7