

Media contact:

Jabriel Pierce

Gard Communications

503-552-5028

jpierce@gardcommunications.com

August 14, 2026

HiTech Minerals to Begin Next Phase of McDermitt Lithium Exploration

MCDERMITT, Ore. — HiTech Minerals has completed the state and federal permitting process for the next phase of lithium exploration in the McDermitt area and is set to collect new samples and environmental information starting in September.

All major approvals from the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management's Permitting Council are now in place, allowing HiTech to continue mapping one of the nation's largest lithium deposits and plan the next steps of the project.

"This major milestone makes it possible to move forward on the next stage of a project that will benefit the McDermitt community, Malheur County, the state and nation for generations to come," said Ian Rodger, CEO of HiTech Minerals. "Our focus right now is on gathering information — cultural, environmental and scientific — so we can make the best possible decisions for the land, project and community."

Lithium is a critical mineral resource necessary for everything from communications and agricultural equipment to electric vehicles and large-scale batteries to store renewable power. The U.S. lithium supply is currently controlled by China, and the U.S. must develop its own supply for economic and national security.

"Congratulations to the Bureau of Land Management for getting this critical mineral project to the finish line," said Emily Domenech, BLM Permitting Council Executive Director. "By utilizing our Transparency Dashboard, the Permitting Council has been able to support more mining projects than ever before, resulting in more projects completing permitting on time."

HiTech will minimize and mitigate environmental impacts as much as possible during this drilling phase in line with the requirements of the permit. During the exploration phase, on-site activity will be limited to five months a year to minimize impacts on winter range wildlife and on sage grouse during their lekking and nesting season.

The next phase is subject to reduction in the current regional fire risk and BLM authorizing start of field works in the area. The HiTech team is working in coordination with local authorities to develop detailed risk management plans, including staging water trucks on site to provide water for drilling, dust suppression and emergency fire control.

What to expect:

- Site preparation is expected to begin in early September and the next stage of exploratory drilling later in the month September, subject to fire risk, to better understand the geology and collect samples and data for further studies.
- About 25 workers will be on site during this stage.

About HiTech Minerals

HiTech Minerals is a lithium development company with experience developing first-class projects around the world. We know how to align our work with the community, and we have the technical expertise to do it right over the long term.