



Suzanne Steab < suzannesteab@utah.gov >

Fwd: Bear Canyon Mine Phase I and II Bond Release Concurrence

1 message

Daron Haddock < daronhaddock@utah.gov >
To: Suzanne Steab < suzannesteab@utah.gov >

Wed, Dec 4, 2013 at 1:23 PM

Forwarded message.

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From: **Dickinson, Flynn** < fdickinson@osmre.gov >

Date: Wed, Dec 4, 2013 at 1:19 PM

Subject: Bear Canyon Mine Phase I and II Bond Release Concurrence

To: Daron Haddock < DARONHADDOCK@utah.gov >, "Dean, Dana" < danadean@utah.gov >

Cc: Joe Helfrich < joehelfrich@utah.gov >, Howard Strand < hstrand@osmre.gov >, Elizabeth Shaeffer < eshaeffer@osmre.gov >, Alan Boehms < aboehms@osmre.gov >

Hi Daron,

I've attached a concurrence letter and inspection report for the Phase I and II bond release of the 5.6 acres at the Bear Canyon Mine. The hardcopy is in the mail and should be arriving shortly.

Flynn Dickinson

--
Daron R. Haddock

Coal Program Manager

Utah Division of Oil, Gas & Mining

[\(801\) 538-5325](tel:(801)538-5325)

2 attachments

 **Concurrence Letter.pdf**
76K

 **Inspection report.pdf**
539K



United States Department of the Interior



OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING
Reclamation and Enforcement
Western Region Office
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320
Denver, CO 80202-3050

December 4, 2013

Daron Haddock, Coal Program Manager
Utah Division of Oil Gas and Mining
P.O. Box 145801
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-5801

RE: Phase I & II Bond Release, Castle Valley Mining LLC, Bear Canyon Mine, Tank Seam Road, Upper Storage Pad, and Portal Pad Access Area, C/015/0025, Task ID #4402

Dear Mr. Haddock:

This letter acknowledges the Office of Surface Mining (OSM), Denver Field Division's (DFD) receipt and review of the above Phase I and II Bond Release Decision Document prepared by the Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining (DOGM) dated November 25, 2013. DFD agrees with the findings and Decision Document and hereby provides OSM concurrence for the above bond release action in accordance with 30 CFR 740.15 (d) (3), and 30 CFR 906.30, Article IX, Section 24, of the State-Federal Cooperative Agreement.

DOGM's Decision Document notes the applicant's compliance with the Utah approved regulatory program at Rule R645-301-880. The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) concurrence letter on the bond release to DOGM is attached in the Decision Document as is evidence of public notification and permit condition requirements that the applicant must meet.

DOGM's Decision document recommends authorizing the Phase I & II bond release of the Tank Seam Road, Upper Storage Pad and Portal Pad Access Area totaling 5.62 acres at Castle Valley Mining, LLC Bear Canyon Mine. Despite the release of the 5.62 acres, DOGM is not approving any release of bond funds due to updating unit costs and bond re-evaluation for other areas of the mine, and escalation of the total bond. The bond funds that would have been released are being reapportioned to these costs.

OSM finds that Castle Valley Mining, LLC has met or exceeded the requirements for Phase I and II bond release on the 5.62 acres of land described above. OSM concurs with DOGM's decision and recommends release for the requested area at the Bear Canyon Mine.

I have attached OSM's inspection report from the bond release inspection for your records. Please direct any questions concerning this action to Flynn Dickinson, Hydrologist, at fdickinson@osmre.gov or (303) 293-5013.

Sincerely,

Alan Boehms, Branch Chief
Denver Field Division

cc: Castle Valley Mining, LLC

DENVER FIELD BRANCH

INSPECTION NARRATIVE

COMPANY: Castle Valley Mining, LLC
MINE: Bear Canyon Mine
PERMIT NO: C/015/0025
DATE OF INSPECTION: October 30, 2013
WEATHER: Cold and intermittent snow, mid 30's
COMPANY OFFICIALS: Jaren Jorgenson, Tom Paluso, and Gary Taylor
STATE OFFICIAL: Daron Haddock, Joe Helfrich, and Ken Hoffman (DOGM) and Nicole Nielson (DWR)
OSMRE OFFICIAL: Flynn Dickinson
FLMA OFFICIALS AND/OR LANDOWNERS: Sue Wiley (BLM) and Charles Reynolds

A partial inspection of the Bear Canyon Mine was conducted to determine acceptability for Phase I and II bond release. This inspection was focused on releasing the Phase I and II liability associated with 5.62 acres of reclaimed area at Tank Seam Road, Upper Storage Pad, and Portal Pad Access Area.

For the completion of Phase I and II, the operator must complete the backfilling/regrading (which may include the replacement of topsoil) and drainage control of a bonded area in accordance with the approved reclamation plan and meet all applicable performance standards, including but not limited to:

- Backfilling and grading disturbed areas to achieve the approximate original contour with the elimination of all highwalls, spoil piles, and depressions
- Achieving a post-mining slope that does not exceed either the angle of repose or such lesser slope as is necessary to achieve a minimum long-term static safety factor of 1.3 and to prevent slides
- Minimizing erosion and water pollution both on and off the site
- Demonstrating that the re-vegetation is suitable to support the post-mining land use
- Demonstrating that water quality standard exceedances attributable to excess suspended solids contributions or other issues are not occurring from the reclaimed area(s)
- Re-establishing a stable vegetative ground cover and demonstrating vegetation success

The area eligible for Phase I and II bond release at the Bear Canyon Mine was a road and associated portal/pad areas that switchbacks up a mountain to the west of the mine office and main facilities area. Much of the initial reclamation, including backfilling and grading and augmented seeding, on this area was done in 2005. The entire length of the access road was 3,150 feet, with an average overall gradient of 9 percent.

The field inspection of the reclaimed access road and portal areas demonstrated that backfilling and grading was done to achieve stable AOC, that a diverse and native vegetative ground cover had been established, and that no apparent water quality issues existed. Much of the reclamation, especially at the upper portion of the road, was indiscernible from the surrounding area. The ground had been surface gouged prior to seeding to help establish vegetation, assist the soil in holding water, and control erosion and suspended sediment in runoff.

DOGM inspected the site prior to the official bond release inspection to verify the accuracy of the vegetation survey that was done on the area. Some of the species identified on the reclaimed area include Indian ricegrass, mountain mahogany, penstemon, sagebrush, and rabbitbrush. The postmining landuse for the area in question is wildlife and grazing.

Publication of the proposed bond release was published weekly in the local Emery County Progress newspaper from June 25 through July 16, 2013.

CC: UDOGM, Salt Lake City, UT
UDOGM, Price Field Office, Price, UT
Castle Valley Mining, LLC

FIGURES



Figure 1: Overview of the reclaimed area