M/015/072

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Price Field Office
125 South 600 West
Price, Utah 84501

3809
(UTU-73779)
(UT-066)

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DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING

NOV 24 1997

Anthony A. Gallegos
Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210
Box 145801
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

Dear Sir:

Enclosed are the requested Lone Tree Wedge Gypsum Mine/Plan of Operations environmental assessment and its Decision Record.

Sincerely,

Richard C. Manus

Field Manager

2 Enclosures
1. Plan of Operations EA
2. Decision Record

SEE SEPARATE VOLUME FOR COMPLETE COPY OF Nov. 26, 1997 EA

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DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING

File Code 3809

DECISION RECORD AND
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

EA Log No. UT-066-97-8

Lease or
Serial No. UTU-73779

Project Lone Tree Wedge Gypsum Mine/Plan of Operations

Applicant Western Clay Company
P.O. Box 127
Address Aurora, Utah 84620

Project Location T.24S., R.7E., Sections 13, 23, & 24, SLM

County Emery, Utah

BLM Office Price Field Office

Telephone No. 801-636-3600

Decision:

It is our decision to approve Western Clay Company's plan of operations for the expansion of their surface gypsum mine as described in the proposed action of Environmental Assessment No. UT-066-97-8. Exhibit 1 (stipulations) and the monitoring plan shall be made part of the conditions of approval for the plan of operations. A bond in the amount of $76,700 shall be required for reclamation.

Rationale for the Decision:

Western Clay Company requires a source of gypsum in order to supply various buyers. The surface protection measures included in the plan of operations and in the Bureau of Land Management Exhibit 1 are expected to mitigate most of the impacts of the proposed action. The proposed action as approved and mitigated would not result in unnecessary or undue degradation of public land. The only residual impacts would be the loss of a small amount of soil and decrease in the amount of salt in the surface runoff. Short-term impacts include displacement of wild horses from 2,500 acres, loss of vegetation on 25.75 acres, and loss of recreational use on 525.75 acres. There would also be a loss of about 253 Wright fishhook cactus plants, which U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has determined will not jeopardize the continued existence of the species. Other short-term impacts include some additional emissions of total suspended particles, particulates less than 10 microns in size, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, and volatile organic compounds, but the national air quality standards would be met. Up to 13 acres of cryptogamic crust would be disturbed during the next five years and soil stability would be lost until the crust begins to reestablish; total reestablishment of the cryptogamic crust could take 40 to over 200 years. Increased traffic on the county road and the presence of the mine would have an adverse effect on the quality of experience for recreation users in the area. The proposed action is compatible with existing and proposed land use. Approval of the plan of operations is in conformance with the San Rafael Resource Management Plan, which was approved May 24, 1991 and is consistent with other land use plans.

Authority for such action is granted to the Secretary of Interior under the provisions of Title III of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et. seq.) and regulations under 43 Code of Federal Regulations 3809.

Compliance and Monitoring:

The monitoring plan shall become part of the conditions of approval for the plan of operations. The operation shall be checked at least two times a year in compliance with Bureau of Land Management Policy for compliance with the terms and conditions of the approved plan of operations.

Finding of No Significant Impacts:

We have reviewed Environmental Assessment No. UT-066-97-8 which includes the analysis and mitigation of any potentially significant environmental impacts. We have determined that the proposed action selected with the mitigation measures as described in the environmental assessment will not have any significant impacts on the human environment and the San Rafael Resource Management Framework Plan adequately addresses cumulative impacts concerning mining law administration activity. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not required.

Richard L. Manus

Field Manager

11/20/97

Date