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# State of Utah

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## MINE FIRE IS TARGET OF STATE AGENCY

(Salt Lake City) – A fire in an abandoned Gilsonite mine in Uintah County that has been burning since July of 2012 may soon be extinguished. The Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining’s Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program (AMRP) is planning to put that fire out and at the same time seal about 250 feet of open trench at the old mine site.

The fire is located on private mining claims near the town of Dragon and was started by a range fire that burned across the site. Project Manager Mark Wright says the plan is to smother the fire by placing borrow material in the mine voids where Gilsonite is burning. “The borrow material will also provide a permanent safe closure to about 250 feet of open trench at the site,” he said. The mine known as the Black Dragon mine or Rector mine operated off and on from 1903 into the 1950s.

Funding for the project comes from the federal Office of Surface Mining. Before work can start on the project the AMRP will prepare an Environmental Assessment and consult with the State Historic Preservation Office. Public comment on the project is also welcome. Questions or comments can be sent to Mark Wright at [markwright@utah.gov](mailto:markwright@utah.gov) or call (801) 538-5267.

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