

Conversation Contents

Kirkland Mine Status Response – "Locatable" & "Exploration" Questions

Attachments:

/113. Kirkland Mine Status Response – "Locatable" & "Exploration" Questions/1.1 Locatable Determination.pdf

/113. Kirkland Mine Status Response – "Locatable" & "Exploration" Questions/1.2 CFR-2014-title43-vol2-subpart3809.pdf

"Hawes, David" <rhawes@blm.gov>

From: "Hawes, David" <rhawes@blm.gov>
Sent: Thu Sep 24 2015 19:23:50 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Amanda James <ajames@blm.gov>
CC: David Eddy <deddy@blm.gov>
Subject: Kirkland Mine Status Response – "Locatable" & "Exploration" Questions
Attachments: Locatable Determination.pdf CFR-2014-title43-vol2-subpart3809.pdf

More background info. Adam is getting calls, too.
— Rem

----- Forwarded message -----
From: Hawes, David <rhawes@blm.gov>
Date: Thu, Sep 24, 2015 at 2:50 PM
Subject: Fwd: Kirkland Mine status?
To: Adam Eggers <aegggers@blm.gov>

Information for response regarding Skull Valley area mining notice from Kirkland Mining Company.
— Rem

----- Forwarded message -----
From: Hawes, David <rhawes@blm.gov>
Date: Tue, Sep 22, 2015 at 4:12 PM
Subject: Re: Kirkland Mine status?
To: Allison Dixon <allison@jakesrun.com>

Ms. Dixon: This is to follow up on our telephone conversation today.

At this time, we do not know whether the pozzolan in the Skull Valley stockpile and surrounding area rate as a common variety mineral material or a distinct and special value locatable mineral. Depending on its qualities, pozzolan may be either. The operation that Kirkland Mining Company is allowed to undertake under its exploratory mining notice will produce the material samples and market assessment for us to make the locatable mineral determination. The attached "Locatable Determination" document explains the considerations for making such a determination.

Under the Mining Law of 1872 and the BLM's 43 CFR 3809 regulations, 1,000 tons of material is the maximum amount that may be collected for purposes of geological and chemical testing, and market assessment.

The BLM assesses and documents the site of an operation beforehand. During and following the operation, BLM Geologists inspect the site to ensure no unnecessary or undo degradation occurs to the land. The BLM inspects the reclamation of the site prior to returning all or part of the operator's reclamation bond.

— Rem Hawes
Hassayampa Field Manager

On Mon, Sep 21, 2015 at 7:33 PM, Allison Dixon <allison@jakesrun.com> wrote:
Many thanks for your reply.

1. Does this material really meet the definition of a locatable mineral?
2. Is removal of 1,000 tons really "exploratory"?
3. How will BLM ensure that it is not a commercial operation?

The Thursday meeting is an annual event with Supervisor Simmons. I am trying to determine whether the mine is even on the agenda, although I imagine there will be questions from the public (but without you there, few answers!).

I will update the website tomorrow morning, and assume I can use your words (?)

Best regards,
Allison Dixon

On Sep 21, 2015, at 6:02 PM, Hawes, David <rhawes@blm.gov> wrote:

Kirkland Mining withdrew their mineral materials (sand, gravel, "saleable" minerals) plan of operation for the Skull Valley site. The company then submitted a mining notice under the 43 CFR 3809 "locatable minerals" regulations, which is a non-discretionary action.

BLM may ensure that such operations are exploratory rather than commercial in nature, disturb no more than 5 acres, do not cause unnecessary and undue degradation, and require a bond to ensure land restoration. The public lands in the Skull Valley area, like most public lands, are open to mineral entry. Because a notice-level mining operation is non-discretionary, it does not have to be approved by the BLM, and the BLM may only require environmental review if the operation is to grow beyond the notice-level operation.

The notice-level operation allows for up to 5 acres of surface disturbance and collection of a bulk sample of material up to 1,000 tons. Once the BLM processes Kirkland Mining's reclamation bond, received Friday, the company may begin likely within 30 days to remove a portion of the stockpile of material from the Skull Valley mine site. Stockpile and quarry sampling is expected to be completed within 180 days. Kirkland Mining will also drill 7 core holes in the surrounding area. These exploratory core holes will be approximately 4 inches in diameter and 75 feet deep on average.

I regret that I will not be able to attend Thursday's town hall meeting. Our Geologist and I, the only ones familiar with the Skull Valley area mine, are already committed that evening, as I will be speaking at the Public Lands Foundation national meeting.

— Rem Hawes

On Mon, Sep 21, 2015 at 12:50 AM, Hawes, David <rhawes@blm.gov> wrote:
Nice photo. Thanks. Yes, let me get back to you Monday afternoon.
-- Rem Hawes

On Monday, September 14, 2015, Allison Dixon <allison@jakesrun.com> wrote:
Hi Rem,
Could you please provide a status on the Kirkland Mine?

Here is a photo of my 82 year old mom on her annual visit to Skull Valley taking her favorite hike at the mine site a few weeks ago!

Best regards,
Allison Dixon