

Kirkland Mining Co, Skull Valley
Pozzolan: Mineral Material vs. Locatable Mineral

Mineral Material or Locatable Mineral

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 the BLM to make the locatable mineral determination. The "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.

Monitoring and Assessing an Operation

Kirkland Mining withdrew their original mineral materials (sand, gravel, "saleable" minerals) plan of operation for the Skull Valley site. In July, the company withdrew that plan and submitted a different plan. The company withdrew that plan on August 5, and subsequently submitted a mining notice under the 43 CFR 3809 "locatable minerals" regulations, which is a non-discretionary action.

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

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.