

To: Edwin Roberson[eroberso@blm.gov]; Anita Bilbao[abilbao@blm.gov]
From: Miller, Stephanie
Sent: 2017-11-20T13:25:53-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Daneros Uranium Mine Plan question (DTS 12145)
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Daneros Uranium Mine Decision Document FINAL RTC.doc

Ed and Anita,

Rich Cardinale has a couple questions on this project. Would you please forward the attached document to the office that can answer his questions? As soon as the responses are uploaded to DTS I can move this forward to ASLM.

Thanks,
Stephanie

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DATA CALL ON PROPOSED RECORDS OF DECISION AND OTHER SIGNIFICANT DECISION DOCUMENTS

Date: November 17, 2017

To: James E. Cason, Associate Deputy Secretary of the Interior

Through: Katharine S. MacGregor, Deputy Assistant Secretary
Land and Minerals Management
Exercising the Authority of the Assistant Secretary
Land and Minerals Management

From: Brian Steed, Deputy Director, Bureau of Land Management
Exercising the Authority of the Director Bureau of Land Management

Bureau/Office: Bureau of Land Management Utah

Title of Document: Daneros Uranium Mine Plan Modification

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED DECISION

The Monticello Field Office plans to sign a decision approving a mine plan modification at the Daneros Mine, an underground uranium mine located 67 miles west of Blanding in western San Juan County, Utah. Forty miles of haul route are located on existing county roads and a State Highway within the Bears Ears National Monument. The decision would authorize expanded operations in phases, resulting in an increase in surface disturbance from 4.6 to 46 acres. The decision would also allow for expansion into three existing waste rock dump sites, which would be reclaimed ultimately. The modification would result in projected ore production of up to 500,000 tons over 20 years. Ore would be transported about 60 miles to the White Mesa Mill. The Environmental Assessment (EA) was completed in June 2017, and the resulting Finding of No Significant Impact, and Decision Record have been prepared and are ready for signature.

NEED AND DEADLINE FOR ISSUANCE

In 2013, Energy Fuels submitted an application to modify its existing mining plan of operations. Considering the longstanding application, the BLM seeks to be responsive to Energy Fuels' request for a mine plan modification and authorize it to pursue expansion activities. A delay would prevent potential employment opportunities to the local community. The project aligns with the President's America First Energy Plan.

POSITIONS OF AFFECTED STAKEHOLDERS

BLM is partnering with the Department of Energy and the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining to inventory the area's mines and assess reclamation opportunities. The Daneros Mine plan modification and its proposed reclamation plan support this partnership.

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Commented [CR1]: Is this the current situation, or what will occur upon approval of the modification?

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The Utah Governor's Office and San Juan County Commission provided written support for the project, citing the positive economic benefits to the local economy.

The Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance and Uranium Watch organizations are generally opposed to the project.

The National Park Service expressed concerns regarding fugitive dust and gaseous pollutants, noise pollution and impact to night skies. The EA assessed these issues and the modified mining plan of operation includes measures to minimize impacts.

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The Ute Mountain Ute Tribe expressed concerns about potential impacts of mill operations to the White Mesa community. The EA concludes that the production quantities outlined in the proposed mining plan of operations at the Daneros Mine would have negligible indirect and cumulative impacts to the White Mesa community.

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The Navajo Nation claims ancestral and cultural affiliation to prehistoric cultural groups that occupied the area. They expressed concern about sacred sites located in the Valley of the Gods, which is about 60 miles from the Daneros Mine. After the EA was revised to clarify their affiliation, they had no further concerns and asked to be kept informed should Native America Graves Protection and Repatriation Act issues arise.

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The Hopi Tribe also claims ancestral and cultural affiliation to prehistoric cultural groups in the area and expressed opposition to uranium mining. The tribe did not provide comments on the EA.

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OTHER RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

[Include: public lands affected, revenue, and jobs]

The proposed mining plan modification would expand the life of the Daneros Mine by 41 acres. Approving the modification would employ approximately 40 miners and support personnel.

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Commented [CR2]: This is confusing and a bit awkwardly worded. Do we mean to say that approving the mine plan modification would continue to keep 40 miners employed or do we mean that an additional 40 miners would be employed as a result of the modification?

ASSOCIATE DEPUTY SECRETARY'S DECISION:

_____ APPROVE _____ DISAPPROVE

COMMENT:

Date

James E. Cason

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