

To: Anita Bilbao[abilbao@blm.gov]
From: Brune, Jeff
Sent: 2017-09-12T09:24:17-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: Request for Decision Template
Received: 2017-09-12T09:24:26-04:00
[Daneros Uranium Mine Decision Document FINAL jb.doc](#)
[La Sal Uranium Mines Complex Decision Document FINAL jb.doc](#)

Hi Anita,

I made small edits to the attached Decision Templates and will have clean copies available in DC for the briefing today.

Would you please have your staff put them in DTS (each one separately) and route them through the appropriate Directorate before routing to WO-100 and ASLM? Per IM 2017 086, please also attach supporting documents including the EA, FONSI, and DR. Please let me know if you have any questions.
Jeff

On Fri, Aug 25, 2017 at 2:29 PM, Brune, Jeff <jbrune@blm.gov> wrote:

Ed and Anita,

I spoke with Mike about the Daneros and La Sal proposed modifications to their respective mining plans of operation. Per IM 2017 086, we will need a Decision Template prepared and put through DTS for WO 100 and ASLM review, and ultimately concurrence by Jim Cason, Associate Deputy Secretary.

We need to get this briefed up before moving forward with WO 100 and possibly with ASLM. We did receive your briefing request and materials. Mike, John, and Kathy's schedules are pretty booked, but we're aiming for September 11.

If you have any questions, please feel free to follow up with Peter who will be back on Monday.

http://web.blm.gov/internal/wo_500/directives/dir_17/im2017_086.html

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

Date: September 12, 2017

To: David L. Bernhardt, Deputy Secretary of the Interior

Through: Katharine S. MacGregor, Acting Assistant Secretary
Land and Minerals Management

From: Michael D. Nedd, Acting Director of the Bureau of Land Management

Bureau/Office: Bureau of Land Management Utah

Title of Document: La Sal Uranium Mines Complex Plan Modification

ONE PARAGRAPH SUMMARY OF PROPOSED DECISION

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Moab Field Office and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Manti La Sal National Forest plan to sign decisions approving a mine plan modification to the La Sal Uranium Mines Complex (Pandora, La Sal, Beaver Shaft, and Snowball mines) near the town of La Sal, Utah in San Juan County. The decision would consolidate two plans of operation for the four mines, authorizing expanded operations in phases, resulting in 38 and 24 acres of surface disturbance on BLM and USFS lands, respectively. Projected ore production would be up to 267,000 tons annually over the expected 20 year mine life. Ore would be transported about 75 miles to the White Mesa Mill. The Environmental Assessment (EA) was completed in June 2017; the associated Finding of No Significant Impact and Decision Record are prepared and ready for signature. The BLM was the lead agency in preparing the EA, with the USFS as a cooperating agency. The goal is for the Moab Field Office and the Manti La Sal National Forest to issue separate, concurrent decisions in mid to late September.

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NEED AND DEADLINE FOR ISSUANCE

In 2009, Denison Mines Corporation submitted an application to modify the La Sal complex mining plan of operations to the BLM and USFS. Energy Fuels Inc. acquired the complex in 2012. The BLM seeks to be responsive to the request for the mine plan modification and to authorize expansion activities. A delay would prevent potential employment opportunities to the local community. This project aligns with the President's America First energy Plan.

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POSITIONS OF AFFECTED STAKEHOLDERS

Organizations including Uranium Watch, Living Rivers, Canyonlands Watershed Council, Grand Canyon Trust, Center for Biological Diversity, and Sierra Club are generally opposed to the project.

Attachment 1 1

These groups submitted joint comments for alternatives development, which were considered for the EA.

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Members of the general public expressed concerns about wildlife, noise pollution, radiation, and plans to ensure successful reclamation. The EA assessed these impacts, and the modified mining plan of operation includes measures to minimize these impacts and outlines a detailed reclamation plan.

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The San Juan County Commission provided written support for the project, citing the positive economic benefits to the local economy.

The Environmental Protection Agency and the Utah Division of Air Quality coordinated with the BLM to address concerns for air quality and ground water.

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OTHER RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

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

The proposed modification to the mining plan of operations would disturb 38 acres on BLM managed land and 24 acres on USFS managed land. Approving the modification would employ approximately 130 miners and support personnel.

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DEPUTY SECRETARY'S DECISION:

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_____ APPROVE _____ DISAPPROVE

COMMENT:

_____ Date

David L. Bernhardt, Deputy Secretary

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

Date: September 12, 2017

To: David L. Bernhardt, Deputy Secretary of the Interior

Through: Katharine S. MacGregor, Acting Assistant Secretary
Land and Minerals Management

From: Michael D. Nedd, Acting Director of the Bureau of Land Management

Bureau/Office: Bureau of Land Management Utah

Title of Document: Daneros Uranium Mine Plan Modification

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED DECISION

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Monticello Field Office plans to sign a decision approving a mine plan modification at the Daneros Mine, an underground uranium mine 67 miles west of Blanding in western San Juan County, Utah. Forty miles of haul route occur 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 also allows for expansion into three existing waste rock dump sites, which would eventually be reclaimed. Projected ore production would be 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; the associated Finding of No Significant Impact and Decision Record are prepared and ready for signature.

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NEED AND DEADLINE FOR ISSUANCE

In 2013, Energy Fuels Inc. 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 them 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

The 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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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.

Attachment 1 1

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

The National Park Service expressed concerns for fugitive dust and gaseous pollutants, noise pollution, and impacts 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 issues arise related to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.

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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. They did not provide comments on the EA.

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OTHER RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

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

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

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DEPUTY SECRETARY'S DECISION:

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_____ APPROVE _____ DISAPPROVE

COMMENT:

Date

David L. Bernhardt, Deputy Secretary