

To: Anita Bilbao[abilbao@blm.gov]; Joann Perea-Richmann[jperearichmann@blm.gov]
From: Sutherland, Ryan
Sent: 2017-11-17T10:31:27-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Daneros and La Sal Decision Documents
Received: 2017-11-17T10:32:14-05:00
[Daneros Uranium Mine Decision Document FINAL.doc](#)
[La Sal Uranium Mine Decision Document Final.doc](#)

Anita,
Attached are the requested Decision Documents with the requested edits. I'll print copies and bring to your office.

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

Date: November 17, 2017

To: David Bernhardt, Deputy Secretary of the Interior

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

From: Brian Steed, 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 Moab Field Office and the 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 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 945,000 tons over 20 years. Ore would be transported about 75 miles to the White Mesa Mill. The EA was completed in June 2017; its associated FONSI and DR are prepared and ready for signature. The BLM was the lead in preparing the EA, with 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.

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 acquired the complex in 2012. With the longstanding application, BLM seeks to be responsive to the mine plan modification request and authorize expansion activities. There is an upward trend in the uranium market a delay would prevent potential employment opportunities to the local community. This project aligns with the President's America First energy Plan.

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

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

OTHER RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

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

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

ACTING DEPUTY SECRETARY'S DECISION:

APPROVE

DISAPPROVE

COMMENT:

Date

David Bernhardt

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

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To: David Bernhardt, Deputy Secretary of the Interior

Through: Katharine S. MacGregor, Acting Assistant Secretary
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From: Brian Steed, 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 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 EA was completed in June 2017; its associate FONSI and DR are prepared and 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, 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

BLM is partnering with DOE, and 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 supports this partnership.

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 for fugitive dust and gaseous pollutants, noise pollution and impacts to night skies. The environmental assessment assessed these issues and the modified mining plan of operation includes measures to minimize impacts.

The Ute Mountain Ute Tribe expressed concerns about potential impacts of mill operations to the White Mesa community. The environmental assessment 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.

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 environmental assessment was revised to clarify their affiliation, they had no further concerns and asked to be kept informed should NAGPRA issues arise.

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 environmental assessment.

OTHER RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

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

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

ACTING DEPUTY SECRETARY'S DECISION:

APPROVE

DISAPPROVE

COMMENT:

Date

David Bernhardt