



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Pecos District
Carlsbad Field Office
620 E Greene Street
Carlsbad, NM 88220



Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact for the Intrepid HB AMAX Solution Mine Extension NEPA No. DOI-BLM-NM-P020-2015-0586-EA

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

I have determined that the proposed action, as described in the EA will not have any significant impact, individually or cumulatively, on the quality of the human environment. Because there would not be any significant impact, an environmental impact statement is not required.

In making this determination, I considered the following factors:

1. The activities described in the proposed action do not include any significant beneficial or adverse impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(1)). The EA includes a description of the expected environmental consequences of expanding Intrepid's solution mining activities into the abandoned AMAX mine workings.
2. The activities included in the proposed action would not significantly affect public health or safety (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(2)).
3. The proposed activities would not significantly affect any unique characteristics (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(3)) of the geographic area such as prime and unique farmlands, caves, wild and scenic rivers, designated wilderness areas, wilderness study areas, or areas of critical environmental concern.
4. The activities described in the proposed action do not involve effects on the human environment that are likely to be highly controversial (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(4)).
5. The activities described in the proposed action do not involve effects that are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(5)).
6. My decision to implement these activities does not establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represent a decision in principle about a future consideration (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(6)).
7. The effects of expanding Intrepid's solution mining activities would not be significant, individually or cumulatively, when considered with the effects of other actions (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)). The EA discloses that there are no other connected or cumulative actions that would cause significant cumulative impacts.
8. I have determined that the activities described in the proposed action will not adversely affect or cause loss or destruction of scientific, cultural, or historical resources, including those listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(8)). Known cultural resources will be avoided by project activities and contribution to the PBPA has been made in lieu of cultural surveys. Effects to cultural resources are discussed in the EA starting on page 75.
9. The proposed activities are not likely to adversely affect any endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(9)). The project area contains a small portion of potential habitat for lesser prairie-chicken. Effects to this habitat will be mitigated by controls on timing of construction to avoid critical breeding times. Effects to wildlife are discussed in the EA starting on page 62.

10. The proposed activities will not knowingly threaten any violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(10)). Plan conformance and conformance with relevant laws, regulations, and policies are listed on pages 2 and 3 of the EA.

APPROVED:

George MacDonell
Field Manager
Carlsbad Field Office

Date