



## United States Department of the Interior

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AUG 10 2000

EMS Transmission: 8/14/2000  
Instruction Memorandum No. NM-2000- 052  
Expires: 9/30/2001

To: All FMs, NM/TX/OK

From: DSD, Resource Planning, Use and Protection

Subject: Identification of Priority Hazardous Material/Abandoned Mine  
Land Sites  
DD: 8/25/00

The Washington Office has requested that each State Office identify the top 25 sites which are eligible for cleanup under abandoned mine land (AML) or Hazardous Materials (HazMat) cleanup programs (IM WO-2000-166). In order for us to assemble such a statewide list we need each Field Office to submit their highest priority AML/HazMat sites in need of cleanup. Field Offices are requested to identify a minimum of three and up to ten highest priority AML and Hazmat sites in need of cleanup ranked according to applicable criteria for risk assessment to health, safety, and the environment.

*AML water projects.* For AML water quality-based sites evaluation should be consistent with the provisions of IM 2000-012, "Policy for Funding and Assessment of Abandoned Mine Land Water Quality Restoration Projects." (Note at this point in time AML water quality water projects are not expected in New Mexico, as characterization required by the guidance has not occurred. If you have perceived AML water quality sites, please contact Mark Blakeslee so characterization can be undertaken at those sites. The sites must also be listed in the AMLIS data base.)

*AML physical safety hazard sites.* The AML sites with physical safety hazards: (a) where a death or injury has occurred and the site has not already been addressed; and/or (b) situated on or in immediate proximity to developed recreation sites and areas with high visitor use should be evaluated based on the criteria of the draft IM entitled Mitigating and Remediating Physical Safety Hazards at Abandoned Mine Land Sites.

AML physical hazard sites should have previously been inventoried. Sites within the following locations have been inventoried and entered into AMLIS:

Lake Valley	Las Cruces Field Office
Orogrande	Las Cruces Field Office
Cerrillos Hills*	Taos Field Office
San Pedro Mountains*	Taos Field Office
Ojo Caliente	Taos Field Office

\*Albuquerque FO presently supports Taos in these areas.

To select a physical hazard site, each FO should consult their hard copy inventory data and provide Bill Dalness, NM 930, with a copy of the inventory sheet for each selected site. A field visit to the site is optional. If you have any questions or cannot locate your hard copy inventory data, contact Bill Dalness, who also has a hard copy of all inventory data. He will provide the requested AMLIS information for each selected site to the WO.

If you want to select a site that has not been inventoried, it must first be inventoried using the NM AML Inventory Sheet (revised 5-1-95). Inventoried sites require a GPS location and photo. Send the completed sheet for the selected site and any additional information to Bill Dalness who will enter it into AMLIS.

*Hazmat sites (including AML sites with non-water hazmat problems).* Hazmat sites should be evaluated using the criteria contained in the National Contingency Plan rules at 40 CFR Parts 300-399.

Listings should include a mix of sites from the above three groups. Field Offices should submit a list of sites, along with a brief description for each listing. The descriptions should be no more than 2-3 paragraphs, and include:

A site name along with appropriate identification numbers from Abandoned Mine Land Inventory System (AMLIS), the cleanup database or other pertinent database(s);

Location information, including Congressional District, and latitude/longitude coordinates;

Citations of existing studies related to the site; and

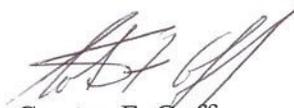
The status of the site, including the nature of the on-the-ground problems;

A clear explanation as to why the site is a priority from risk management perspective; and

An estimate of the cost to all aspects of the project cleanup, both for the on-the-ground work, and also for any necessary NEPA or CERCLA or other associated work.

All projects proposed to be funded need to be selected from a BLM inventory. Accordingly, the AML sites need to be selected from those that are in AMLIS. If the site is not already in AMLIS, an inventory sheet needs to be prepared and sent to Bill Dalness, NM 930, for entry into AMLIS, as outlined above, under AML physical hazard sites.

Please provide your list of all priority projects to Mark Blakeslee, NM 930, via email and in Wordperfect format by August 25, 2000. In addition, the specific AML inventory sheets must be provided to Bill Dalness, NM 930, by the same date.



Carsten F. Goff

Distribution

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