



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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Instruction Memorandum No. NV-2010-014
Expires: 9/30/2011

To: District Managers and Field Managers, Nevada

From: Ron Wenker
State Director, Nevada

Subject: Nevada Bureau of Land Management Rock Characterization and Water Resources
Analysis Guidance for Mining Activities

Program Area: Mining Law Administration, Surface Management

Purpose: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Nevada has determined the need to clarify what rock and water resources data information is collected under 43 CFR 3809.401(b)(2) and 3809.401(c)(1) for the BLM to adequately analyze potential environmental impacts as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and to determine if a Plan of Operations (POO) will prevent unnecessary or undue degradation.

This Instruction Memorandum (IM) also clarifies what is needed for rock and water baseline data and analysis to help determine when a proposed POO is considered complete, per 43 CFR 3809.411(a), assists in determining what the appropriate level of NEPA analysis will be required, how baseline rock and water resources data is collected, analyzed and incorporated into proposals for authorizing new or amended mine POOs.

Policy/Action: This IM reiterates policy and provides guidance on the implementation of the attached Nevada Bureau of Land Management Rock Characterization and Water Resources Analysis Guidance for Mining Activities. To facilitate the technical review process, NEPA analysis and ultimate approval of the proposed mine POO or amendment, the guidance is provided as a tool for the BLM, in coordination with the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) and the mining proponent, to ensure adequate baseline data collection,

characterization, analysis, and reporting is consistent with BLM and NDEP protocols and standards.

The information required under the 43 CFR 3809 regulations and this IM must be incorporated into the POO on a case by case basis to properly manage ore, waste material, process components and long term management of all processing components in an environmentally acceptable and defensibly manner.

Time Frame: This IM is effective immediately.

Coordination: The policies and procedures found in this IM were developed from previous Nevada BLM IMs and input from the BLM-Nevada District/Field Offices, NDEP, Nevada Mining Association, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Budget Impact: There is no anticipated budget impact. It is anticipated that this IM will improve efficiencies for implementing 43 CFR 3809 regulations.

Contacts: If you have any questions concerning this Instruction Memorandum, please contact Scott Murrellwright at (775) 861-6581 or Craig Smith at (775) 861-6453.

Signed by
Ron Wenker
State Director, Nevada

Authenticated by
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Attachment

1 - Nevada Bureau of Land Management Rock Characterization and Water Resources
Analysis Guidance for Mining Activities (10 pp)