

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM CHECKLIST

Project Title: La Sal Mines Complex Plan of Operations Modification

NEPA Log Number: DOI-BLM-UT-Y010-2011-0048-EA

File/Serial Number: UTU-88241

Project Leader: Rebecca Doolittle

DETERMINATION OF STAFF: (Choose one of the following abbreviated options for the left column)

NP = not present in the area impacted by the proposed or alternative actions

NI = present, but not affected to a degree that detailed analysis is required

PI = present with potential for relevant impact that need to be analyzed in detail in the EA

NC = (DNAs only) actions and impacts not changed from those disclosed in the existing NEPA documents cited in Section D of the DNA form. The Rationale column may include NI and NP discussions.

The following elements are not present in the Moab Field Office and have been removed from the checklist:
Farmlands (Prime or Unique), Wild Horses and Burros.

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination*	Specialist	Date
RESOURCES AND ISSUES CONSIDERED (INCLUDES SUPPLEMENTAL AUTHORITIES APPENDIX 1 H-1790-1)				
PI	Air Quality Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Emissions inventory is required, along with state permits for radon, etc.	Ann Marie Aubry	12-20-2010
PI	Floodplains	This project involves altering an ephemeral channel, relocating the drainage adjacent to waste rock pile. A stream alteration permit (404 permit) is already approved by state, impacts will be minimized through site design and erosion control measures.	Ann Marie Aubry	12-20-2010
PI	Soils	Surface disturbance will impact soils.	Ann Marie Aubry	12-20-2010
NP	Water Resources/Quality (drinking/surface/ground)	No surface water resources in or near the project area. No groundwater resources affected by the project due to no shallow water in this area.	Ann Marie Aubry	12-20-2010
NP	Wetlands/Riparian Zones	No riparian resources in or near the project area.	Ann Marie Aubry	12-20-2010
NP	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	There are no ACECs in the planning area (see Map 21, Moab RMP ROD, 2008)	Katie Stevens	12-22-2010
NI	Recreation	Very little recreation use occurs in the area of the mine.	Katie Stevens	12-22-2010
NP	Wild and Scenic Rivers	There are no suitable Wild and Scenic Rivers in the planning area (see Map 22, Moab RMP ROD, 2008)	Katie Stevens	12-22-2010
NI	Visual Resources	The area is within VRM Class III, where changes to visual environment may occur; the changes to the surface are expected to be minimal.	Katie Stevens	12-22-2010
NP	BLM Natural Areas	The planning area is not within a BLM Natural Area (see Map 16, Moab RMP ROD, 2008)	Bill Stevens	12-23-2010
PI	Socio-Economics	There will be socioeconomic effects of the mine to state and local taxes, as well as an economic benefit to the community of La Sal.	Bill Stevens	12-23-2010

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NP	Lands with Wilderness Characteristics	In compliance with Secretarial Order 3310, the BLM has evaluated the proposed action to determine whether the proposal overlaps any areas that potentially have wilderness characteristics. The BLM has determined that lands in the area clearly lack wilderness characteristics because they do not meet the size criteria and/or they lack the appearance of naturalness due to existing development.	Bill Stevens	3/14/2011
NP	Wilderness/WSA	The planning area is not within a WSA or a Wilderness Area (see Map 23, Moab RMP ROD, 2008)	Bill Stevens	12-23-2010
PI	Cultural Resources	There are numerous archaeological sites in the immediate area of the proposed haul road and Dump C expansion. A class III survey needs to be conducted before any ground disturbing action can proceed. Additionally, monitoring of any sites eligible for National Register nomination needs to be conducted.	Don Montoya	3/16/2011
PI	Native American Religious Concerns	NA Consultation is required and a detailed Class I survey needs to be sent to the tribes for comment.	Don Montoya	3/16/2011
NP	Environmental Justice		Ben Kniola	12/28/2010
NI	Wastes (hazardous or solid)	Highly radioactive materials would be hauled to the mill for proper handling and use. Any other radioactive material left at the mine site would be at lower levels (and would be handled in a manner to reduce environmental impact).	Ben Kniola	12/28/2010
NP	Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Animal Species	No TE habitat or occupancy	Pamela Riddle	3/17/2011
PI	Migratory Birds	Surface disturbing activities during nesting will impact birds and may create a permanent loss of habitat.	Pamela Riddle	3/17/2011
NI	Utah BLM Sensitive Species	Habitat for the Gunnison sage grouse, Gunnison prairie dog & burrowing owl - no known occupancy of sage grouse or prairie dog. No prairie dog activity indicates low potential for burrowing owl presents.	Pamela Riddle	3/17/2011
PI	Fish and Wildlife Excluding USFW Designated Species	Habitat loss & disturbances to general wildlife and winter range for deer & elk.	Pamela Riddle	3/17/2011
NP	Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Plant Species	No threatened, endangered or candidate plant species occur in the area.	Kim Allison	12-20-2010
NI	Livestock Grazing		Kim Allison	12-20-2010
NI	Rangeland Health Standards		Kim Allison	12-20-2010
NI	Invasive Species/Noxious Weeds	A weed management plan has been developed to prevent and control the spread of noxious weeds and invasive plants during and following construction, operations and reclamation. Denison and its contractors will be responsible for carrying out the methods described in this plan. Weeds and invasive species are spread by a variety of means including humans (e.g., workers, hikers and recreationalists, etc.), vehicles, construction equipment, construction and reclamation materials, livestock, and wildlife. Implementation of preventive	Jordan Davis	3-25-2011

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		<p>measures to control the spread of noxious weeds and invasive plants is the most cost-effective management approach.</p> <p>The following preventive measures have been implemented and will be continued to prevent the spread of noxious/invasive plants during construction and future operations and maintenance activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prior to construction, Denison and its contractors will be trained on methods for cleaning equipment, identification of problem plant species in the project area, and procedures to follow when an invasive or noxious weed is located. To assist in identification, the contractor will be supplied with a list and pictures of noxious and invasive species that may exist within the project area. • Prior to any construction disturbance, all known weed populations will be flagged so that they may be avoided. • Equipment, materials, and vehicles will be stored at specified work areas or construction yards. All personal vehicles, sanitary facilities, and staging areas will be confined to a limited number of specified weed-free locations to decrease chances of incidental disturbance and spread of noxious weeds and invasive plants. • Disturbed areas will be promptly seeded following completion of activities to reduce the potential for the spread and establishment of noxious weeds and invasive plants. Seeding should occur as soon as possible following construction and during the optimal time period. Only BLM, USFS, and UDOGM approved mixture(s) of certified "weed-free" seed will be used. All other introduced construction materials used, such as straw and fill, shall also be certified weed-free. Vegetation treatments using Pesticide/herbicide will be used as outlined in the Record of Decision for Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides on Bureau of Land Management Lands in 17 Western States Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (Sept. 2007 and as amended) Pesticides/herbicides may be utilized to promote healthy, native vegetation, and prevent the spread and proliferation of noxious weeds. 		
NP	Vegetation Excluding USFW Designated Species	No BLM sensitive plant species occur within the project area.	Dave Williams	12-20-2010
NI	Woodland / Forestry	<p>There would be some removal of Pinion and Juniper at the proposed location but not to a degree that would affect the value of the woodlands or restrict the use of the trees as firewood. The use of the site is temporary and following the use, the site would be revegetated and PJ's would come back.</p> <p>PJ woodlands have existed throughout the area; during the past decade fire suppression has allowed</p>	Jordan Davis	3-25-2011

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		these woodlands to increase in density and size. The proposed disturbance could be construed as a positive impact opening the canopy and after use a reseeding allowing for establishment of more desirable vegetation to establish on site. Due to the size of the overall project it is deemed as a No Impact to the woodlands as not many of the trees would be expected to be impacted (they are dispersed throughout the area).		
NP	Fuels/Fire Management	No fuels treatments are currently proposed for the area.	Brian Keating	12-20-2010
PI	Geology / Mineral Resources/Energy Production	<p>The La Sal Mines Complex project is located in the Paradox Basin south of the La Sal Mountains. Oil and gas resource in this part of the basin occur in the Fractured Interbed, Buried Fault Block and Salt Anticline Plays within the Pennsylvanian Hermosa Group. These plays have a high potential for development in the area of the proposed project (BLM, 2004). Currently, there are two oil and gas leases overlying the proposed project area, but there is no oil and gas development. The proposed waste rock pile expansion and exploration would not interfere with any future oil and gas development because the oil and gas targets are deeper than the uranium-bearing deposits and drilling and production facilities could be site outside the active areas of the mining operation.</p> <p>The uranium deposits within the La Sal Mines Complex occur primarily in channels of the Salt Wash Member of the Morrison Formation. This area of San Juan County provides other opportunities for extraction of uranium resources. The La Sal Mines Complex proposal could have a positive impact for the energy minerals industry by potentially increasing the understanding of ore deposition. For the extraction of every 100,000 tons of uranium ore there would be a yield of approximately 600,000 lbs of U3O8 and constitute an irretrievable loss of the same.</p>	Rebecca Doolittle	05/15/09 1/25/2011
NI	Lands/Access	There are no issues regarding lands related transactions or conflicts with rights of way related to this proposal.	Jan Denney	
NI	Paleontology	<p>Paleontological resources are not expected to be encountered during exploration and are not present in the expansion area of the waste rock pile. The following standard stipulation applies for surface disturbing activities: 43 CFR 3809.420 (8) Cultural and paleontological resources. (i) Operators shall not knowingly disturb, alter, injure, or destroy any scientifically important paleontological remains or any historical or archaeological site, structure, building or object on Federal lands.</p> <p>(ii) Operators shall immediately bring to the attention of the authorized officer any cultural and/or paleontological resources that might be altered or destroyed on Federal lands by his/her operations, and shall leave such discovery intact until told to proceed by the authorized officer. The authorized officer shall</p>	Rebecca Doolittle	1/25/2011

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		<p>evaluate the discoveries brought to his/her attention, take action to protect or remove the resource, and allow operations to proceed within 10 working days after notification to the authorized officer of such discovery. (iii) The Federal Government shall have the responsibility and bear the cost of investigations and salvage of cultural and paleontology values discovered after a plan of operations has been approved, or where a plan is not involved.</p> <p>Underground mine development and production operations would occur in the Salt Wash Member of the Morrison Formation. Vertebrate fossils are known to occur in this member. Vertebrate fossils may be encountered during mining; however, in the event of an unanticipated discovery, the mine operator would be required to temporarily stop work in the immediate vicinity of the find and notify the BLM so that a BLM specialist could assess the situation and take appropriate action.</p>		

FINAL REVIEW:

Reviewer Title	Signature	Date	Comments
Environmental Coordinator			
Authorized Officer			