



Bureau of Land Management Vernal Field Office

Solid Mineral Resources

Solid minerals are generally categorized as being either leasable, locatable or mineral material [salable]. The Minerals for America brochure, found at most BLM offices, explains more about these categories. Online brochures for (1) Mining Claims and Sites on Federal Lands, (2) How to Obtain Sand, Gravel, and other Mineral Materials, and (3) The Federal Coal Leasing System can be found at www.blm.gov/nhp/300/wo320/index.html. The following solid mineral resources are of particular interest on public lands within the Vernal Field Office boundaries of northeastern Utah, which includes Daggett, Duchesne, and Uintah Counties.

Solid leasables – Within the Vernal Field Office, there are federal gilsonite and phosphate leases as well as pending prospecting permit applications for gilsonite and phosphate. Our office has title plats showing the location of leases, and pending and authorized prospecting permit applications. The BLM Utah State Office in Salt Lake City (324 South State Street, Suite 301; P.O. Box 45155, Salt Lake City, UT 84145-0155) is the office responsible for receiving and processing applications for leasing and prospecting for solid leasables in Utah, pursuant to the 43 CFR 3500 regulations. The Utah State Office also approves all plans for mining and exploring for solid leasables. Field Offices usually write the environmental documentation related to solid leasable mineral actions.

Locatables – Field Offices do not accept mining claim location notices or claim maintenance documentation for locatable minerals. The pamphlet Mining Claims and Sites on Federal Lands (imcg.wr.usgs.gov/usbmak/mngindex.html) and the 43 CFR 3630 regulations should be referenced if you have any questions about location and maintenance filing requirements, including updates of location and maintenance fees. You must abide by the surface management or 43 CFR 3809 regulations if you wish to conduct surface disturbing activities on your claim or site on public lands. Contact your local BLM Field Office, or administrating field office, for information about open surface management notices and plans, as well as use and occupancy cases. If

you plan to be camped or temporarily housed on location when you work your claim or plan to employ a watchman to guard your mining equipment, you must abide by the provisions of the use and occupancy regulations - 43 CFR 3715 [NOTE: these regulations only apply to public lands].

In the Federal Register published November 21, 2000, BLM amended its 43 CFR 3809 regulations governing mining operations involving metallic and some other minerals on public lands. The regulations were amended to improve their clarity and organization, address technical advances in mining, incorporate policies BLM had developed after the 43 CFR 3809 regulations were issued twenty years ago, and to better protect natural resources and our Nation's natural heritage lands from the adverse impacts of mining. These amended regulations are intended to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of BLM administered lands by mining operations authorized under the mining laws. These amended regulations will become effective January 20, 2001.

For more information on these amended regulations, please go to www.blm.gov/nhp/news/releases/pages/2000/pr001121_3809.htm. You may also go to the Solid Mineral Regulations link below for a link to the amended 43 CFR 3809 regulations.

Salables [mineral materials] – Each Field Office is responsible for accepting and processing applications for sales and permits for sand, gravel, stone and other mineral materials on public lands they administer. See the How to Obtain Sand Gravel and Other Mineral Materials pamphlet (www.blm.gov/nhp/300/wo320/sndgrvl.html). The Vernal Field Office offers over-the-counter sales of stone for personal noncommercial use only from two common use areas; the Buck Canyon area about 50 miles south of Vernal, Utah and the West Wrinkles about 33 miles southwest of Roosevelt, Utah. We also offer sales of sand and gravel from two community pits; the Green River pit about 9.5 miles south of Vernal and the Wild Mountain pit about 25 miles northeast of Vernal. Contact us for further information about our over-the-counter sales. Our office administers several contract sales for sand, sand and gravel, and stone as well as free use permits issued to local Counties, Cities and other governmental agencies. We do require a mine and reclamation plan for all contract sales and permits authorized by the Vernal Field Office. The location of sales and permits appear on BLM title plats.

Additional Information - The Forest Service has separate regulations about mining claim exploration or development on National Forests as well as for mineral materials. The Forest Service will direct you to the local BLM office if you have questions about what claims or sites are located on lands administered

by the Forest Service. This is because location notices of claims and sites in Utah are required to be filed with the Utah State Office of the BLM in Salt Lake City. The BLM maintains a computer database with claim and site information which can be searched by claim name and number, claimant name, location [township-range-section] or UMC [Utah mining claim recordation number]. Members of the public, state and other federal agencies can now access BLM's public land and minerals record information at www.blm.gov/lr2000. The data includes base information on all BLM mineral leases and agreements. Please contact your local BLM office about how to obtain information from this computer database should you have any questions on its use.

Regulatory Links - The links to regulations have been provided for your information. You are welcome to review paper copies of the solid mineral regulations at the BLM office nearest to you [see the location of BLM offices at our home page www.blm.gov/nhp/index.htm] or follow the link below for our on line versions. For those interested in information about the status of proposed rules, you may go to www.blm.gov/nhp/news/regulatory/index.htm (the local media may not publish news releases about proposed regulatory changes and you do have the opportunity to provide comments!). Each office should be able to provide additional guidance about what you may need to file if you wish to explore for or develop solid leasable minerals, locatable minerals and mineral materials.

If you have any questions related to the solids mineral programs within the Vernal Field Office, please feel free to contact the Vernal Field Office at 435-781-4400.

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