



STATE OF
COLORADO

Cazier - DNR, Tim <tim.cazier@state.co.us>

Tom Zimmerman EA Complete - El Rancho Bondo Plan of Operations Modification (Dredging)

1 message

Sanderson, Amber <asanderson@blm.gov>
To: "Cazier - DNR, Tim" <tim.cazier@state.co.us>
Cc: Stephanie Carter <sscarter@blm.gov>

Mon, Nov 25, 2019 at 12:40 PM

Hi Tim,

Attached is the approval letter for the El Rancho Bondo Plan of Operations Modification which included suction dredging to their existing operations. The bond did increase \$153 based on inflation not as a result of the additional operations (dredging). Operations can't proceed until the additional financial warranty has been posted with BLM and all approved operations are in compliance with all State and other Federal laws/regulations.

I've also attached the most recent inspection conducted on 11/15/19.

If you have any questions please let me know.

Thanks,

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Amber Sanderson

Geologist - Mining Law and Mineral Materials

U.S. Dep't of Interior Region 7 - Upper Colorado Basin

BLM Royal Gorge Field Office

3028 E. Main St.

Cañon City, CO 81212

Phone - (719) 269 - 8750

2 attachments



111519 Zimmerman Inspection.pdf

3723K



112519 Zimmerman EA Complete Letter Signed.pdf

55K



Minerals Plan of Operations Inspection
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Royal Gorge Field Office



The BLM has conducted an inspection of your operations, which concludes whether the documented operations on file with BLM are compliant or non-compliant. Any non-compliance issues are reported in the Additional Actions Necessary section of this inspection.

Operation Type: ☐ 3600 ☒ 3809 w/ occupancy ☐ 3809 w/o occupancy

Date: Nov 15, 2019 Time: 12:38 Weather: Sunny	Operation Name: Zimmerman-El Rancho Bondo Case Number: COC75265 CDRMS Number: M-2018-028
<u>Attendees</u> BLM: A. Sanderson, C. Duval, Z. Dilles, & A. Parker Operator(s): Not present Other(s): None	<u>General</u> Operation(s) are in compliance with documentation on file <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A Operation(s) and disturbance on-site coincide with the operations and access on file <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A

Inspection Purpose: ☐ Pre-Operations ☒ General ☐ Final ☐ Trespass ☐ Complaint

Inspection Items	Compliant	Non-Compliant	N/A
1. Method of Operations			
Drilling, Trenching/Surface Excavation & Underground Excavation			
a. Drilling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
i. Pad Construction	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii. Mud Pits	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii. Borehole Abandonment/Monitoring Well Conversion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Complete <input type="checkbox"/> Incomplete			
iv. Pad Reclamation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Trenching/Surface Excavation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. Trench/Excavation Construction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii. Trench/Excavation Stability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii. Trench/Excavation Reclamation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Underground Excavation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
i. Portal Construction	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii. Blasting Operations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii. Portal Reclamation/Conversion of Entry	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Site Conditions			
a. Material/Waste Rock Management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Erosion & Stormwater Control	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Man-made Structures	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Weed Management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Safety Conditions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Interim Reclamation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Inspection Items	Compliant	Non-Compliant	N/A
3. Housekeeping			
a. Container Management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Spills/Leaks Observed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Hazardous Substances/POL Management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. General Housekeeping	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Access			
a. Road Management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Berms	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Security	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Signage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Surface Water Controls	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Quality Assurance/Quality Control			
a. Routine Site Conditions Monitoring	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Air, Water, Noise, Other Monitoring	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Monitoring Reporting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Regulatory Submittals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. Other Agency/Entity Permits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Final Reclamation			
a. Exploration/Sampling Location	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Access Roads/Trails	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Grading	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Revegetation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Removal of Structures	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Free of Trash	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Additional Actions Necessary	
Non-Compliance Issues to be addressed by Operator	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	
Final Notes	
General Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No evidence of recent mining activity Bank stabilization may need to be updated due recent beaver activity (ref. 5, 7 & 8 images) Environmental Assessment (EA) was recently completed and the Plan of Operations authorized. Operations remain pending until the bond is reviewed and subsequently posted by the operator. CDRMS permit remains pending until other state permits are obtained by the operator. 	
Proprietary Information: N/A	
Date inspection shared with CDRMS:	
Date inspection shared with Operator:	

Images

Image 1: (Images taken by Charles Duval, 11/15/19)



Comment: View looking north of operational area; dredging operations (EA) between the west bank of the river and sandbar are pending until State compliance is met

Images 2-3: (Images taken by Charles Duval, 11/15/19)



Comment: Pin flags and signs are in-place to provide the general public a visual safety precaution to the edge of the active working face.

Images

Images 4-9: (Images taken by Charles Duval, 11/15/19)



Comment: Southern (4-8) and eastern (9) views of the river bank and bank stabilization work that the operator emplaced to decrease natural erosion and undercutting by beavers; New beaver activity is undercutting the bank and may cause a potential issue by decreasing the distance between the bank and the waste stockpiles.

Images

Images 10-11: (Images taken by Charles Duval, 11/15/19)



Comment: Beaver holes located on the bank stabilization bank; bank is starting to slough and become unstable; operator will likely need to add more material to build up the support of the bank if the beaver activity becomes inactive.

Images 12-15: (Images taken by Charles Duval, 11/15/19)



Comment: Southern (12-13) and western (14-15) views of the active working face

Images

Image 16: (Images taken by Charles Duval, 11/15/19)



Comment: Mining related equipment stored among the vegetation west of the river bank

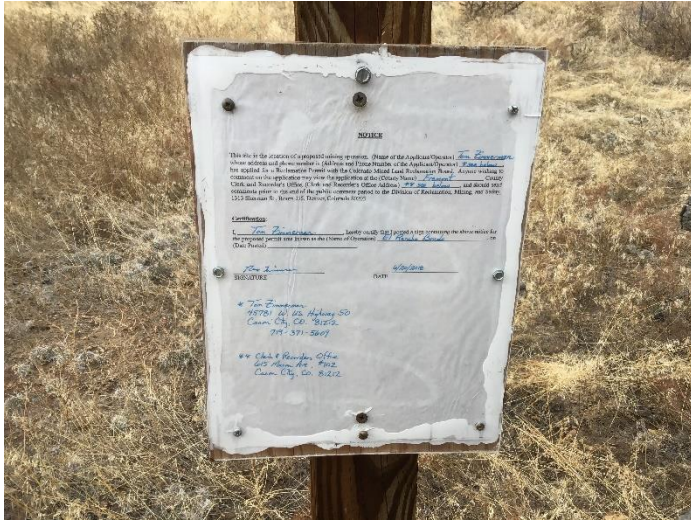
Images 17-18: (Images taken by Charles Duval, 11/15/19)



Comment: Storage steel locker (occupancy) used to store mining related equipment located a couple hundred feet from the western river bank

Images

Images 19-20: (Images taken by Charles Duval, 11/15/19)



Comment: Claim and operation signs located north of the active working face

Images 21-22: (Images taken by Charles Duval, 11/15/19)



Comment: Historic mining structure and waste rock pile located north of the active operational area; not used in active mining operations.



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Royal Gorge Field Office

3028 East Main Street

Cañon City, Colorado 81212

In Reply Refer To:
3809 (LLCOF02000, SSC)
COC-075265

NOV 25 2019

CERTIFIED MAIL – 7017 1000 0751 2921
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

DECISION

El Rancho Bondo

Attn: Thomas Zimmerman

45871 W. US Hwy 50

Canon City, CO 81212

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:
:
:

Surface Management

PLAN OF OPERATIONS MODIFICATION APPROVED DETERMINATION OF REQUIRED FINANCIAL GUARANTEE AMOUNT

Dear Mr. Zimmerman,

Your Plan of Operations modification in Township 18 South, Range 71 West, section 18 in Fremont County, CO to conduct dredging operations associated with the El Rancho Bondo placer claim (CMC 278502) was received by this office on July 26, 2017. The Plan of Operations modification proposes using motorized dredging equipment to process river gravels from the Arkansas River within an Area of Critical and Environmental Concern (ACEC). BLM determined the Plan of Operations modification was complete on October 17, 2017.

Per 43 CFR 3809 regulations, the Plan of Operations modification has to be analyzed under NEPA and allow for a public comment period. An Environmental Assessment (EA) was conducted to meet this requirement, which constitutes an in-depth review of the mining proposal. In accordance with 43 CFR 3809.411(c), the EA and proposed Plan of Operations modification (Enclosure 1) was available for public comment from November 19, 2018 through December 19, 2018 on the BLM e-planning website. At the conclusion of this analysis and public review period, a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) was reached and the decision record (DR) was signed on November 20, 2019 (Enclosure 2).

Subsequently, your Plan of Operations was approved with the understanding that the BLM project design features outlined in the NEPA EA DR will be implemented to the modification proposal. BLM has determined that undue and unnecessary degradation will be prevented, based,

in part, on the analysis in the NEPA EA document. Regulations outlined in 43 CFR 3809.420 provide further details on performance standards that apply to your operations.

Approval of a Plan of Operations by the BLM does not constitute a determination regarding the validity or ownership of any unpatented mining claim(s) involved in the mining operation. The operator, Thomas Zimmerman is responsible for obtaining any use rights or local, state, and/or Federal permits, licenses, or reviews that may be required for the operation.

Financial Guarantee – This office has reviewed the operation's current financial guarantee with the BLM in the amount of \$2,066 and determined an increase of \$153 is required, in order to be sufficient to meet all anticipated reclamation requirements. This increase can be filed with BLM directly to supplement the existing bond amount, therefore the new financial guarantee for these operations will total \$2,219. The amount of the reclamation cost estimate is based on the operator complying with all applicable operating and reclamation requirements as outlined in the Plan of Operations and the regulations outlined in 43 CFR 3809.420.

A completed bond form (Enclosure 3) and an additional financial guarantee in the amount of \$153 must be submitted to and accepted by the BLM Royal Gorge Field Office, 3028 East Main Street, Canon City, Colorado 81212. You must receive notification from this office accepting and obligating your financial guarantee before you continue any surface-disturbing operations. The types of instruments that are acceptable to the BLM for financial guarantees are found at 43 CFR 3809.555, and include cash, surety bonds, cashier's checks, money orders or irrevocable letters of credit (this does not include personal checks).

Appeal of the Decision Determining the Required Financial Guarantee Amount – Appeal of this Decision Determining the Required Financial Guarantee Amount can be pursued utilizing Form 1842-1 (Enclosure 4).

If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Carter at 719-269-8551.

Sincerely,

ACTING FOR



Keith E. Berger
Field Manager
Royal Gorge Field Office

Enclosures:

- 1 – El Rancho Bondo Approved Plan of Operations modification
- 2 – El Rancho Bondo EA, FONSI and ROD
- 3 – Supplemental Bond Form, COC-075265
- 4 – Appeals Form, 1841-1

cc: Tim Cazier, CDRMS