



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Uncompahgre Field Office
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Montrose, CO 81401

In Reply Refer To:
COS05000, 3400

Dan MacKinnon
Natural Resource Specialist
USDOI Office of Surface Mining (OSMRE)
P.O. Box 25065
Lakewood, CO 80225-0065

RE: Proposed Decision of the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (CDRMS) SL-4
Phase I, II, and III Bond Release at the Elk Creek Mine, PN C-1981-022

Dear Mr. MacKinnon:

In response to your request to provide written concurrence or objection prior to the close of the CDRMS 30-day comment period this is to inform you that my staff has reviewed the CDRMS Findings and Proposed Decision dated March 5, 2021.

We note that CDRMS accepts that Oxbow has successfully completed all surface coal mining reclamation operations in accordance with the approved reclamation plan and met all requirements of the Act and the Rules at all sites thereby qualifying them for phase III bond release.

We acknowledge that the reclaimed lands included in the bond release area total 16.4 acres of which 13.2 acres are BLM managed surface. We further acknowledge that the reclaimed area was once used to support underground mining activities that included coal mined from federal mineral estate managed by the BLM. We have determined that all the facilities and the related surface they occupied had served their useful purpose and were no longer necessary. We agree that the subject reclamation acres are completed as CDRMS reported. If the private landowner is also satisfied with the reclamation completed on their surface, then the BLM has no objection to the subject bond release.

We recognize that waste mine methane collection facilities at the Sanborn Creek sites are not in conjunction with the subject Mine Permit and are not the responsibility of OML. Those facilities will have future reclamation liability connected to the operator of those collection facilities via other State permitting.

If you have any questions, please contact Desty Dyer at (970) 240-5302.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Copping
Acting Field Manager

CC Leigh Simmons, CDRMS
Dan Gray, USFS