



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Uncompahgre Field Office
2465 South Townsend Ave
Montrose, CO 81401

In Reply Refer To:
COS05000, 3400

Howard Strand, Manager
OSMRE - Denver Field Branch
P.O. Box 25065
Lakewood, Colorado 80225

RE: Proposed Decision of the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (CDRMS)
SL-7 Phase II and III Bond Release at the Bowie No. 1 Mine, PN C-1981-038

Dear Mr. Strand:

This is to inform you that my staff has reviewed the CDRMS Findings and Proposed Decision dated June 15, 2021.

We note that CDRMS accepts that Bowie conducted reclamation of the area known as the Run-of-Mine area (ROM area) or as the Timber Storage area in 2008 and 2017 and has sufficiently replaced topsoil, established the success standard for vegetative cover, provided for the support of the post-mining land use of rangeland and wildlife habitat, and protected the hydrologic balance in accordance with the approved reclamation plan thereby meeting all requirements of the Act and the Rules at the site and further qualifying them for phase II & III bond release.

We acknowledge that the reclaimed lands included in the bond release area total 10.38 acres located on private surface adjacent to BLM managed surface. We also 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.

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

Sincerely,

Suzanne Copping
Acting Field Manager

CC Robert Zuber, CDRMS
Basil Bear, BRL
Tammy Bishop, JES