



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Tres Rios Field Office
29211 Highway 184
Dolores, Colorado 81323
<https://blm.gov/colorado>

In Reply Refer To:
3809 (LLCOS01000)
(COC-52049, COC-53227, CO-030-NI-9)

CERTIFIED MAIL – RETERN RECEIPT REQUESTED

7017 1730 0001 0897 4861

Mr. George Glasier
Pinion Ridge Mining, LLC
P.O. Box 825
31161 Highway 90
Nucla, CO 81424

Dear Mr. Glasier:

Thank you for the letter dated June 29, 2021 informing the Tres Rios Field Office that you intend to resume operations at the Sunday-St. Jude-Carnation (COC-53227) and West Sunday (COC-52049) Mines under their existing plans of operation.

Sunday-West Complex

It is our understanding from the letter and a June 30, 2021 telephone call between you and James Blair that you will be conducting operations that comply with your current Sunday-West complex Plan of Operations. The following are actions that you indicated you intend to take, and summarized as we understand them from the June 29 letter:

1. Opening the four portals.
2. Ventilating the mines through existing vents and portals.
3. Electrifying the mine.
4. Rehabbing selected workings that are above the water table.
5. Developing known ore bodies via underground drifting, drilling, and mining.
6. Moving waste rock generated by development activities to mined-out areas underground.
Ore would be stockpiled underground, and only placed on existing ore pads if they are to be shipped to a licensed facility or returned underground if not shipped within 180 days.
7. Initially the St. Jude Mine surface facilities and Sunday Mine Portal will be used for the mining operation. Pinion Ridge will notify DRMS (and presumably BLM) before using other surface facilities. Access would be by existing roads.
8. No surface disturbance beyond that which now exists would be created. Notification would be sent to BLM prior to any additional surface disturbance.

Please note if the ore pads, which were constructed last year, are to be used for storing ore, a bond will be required in advance of this use. The bond would be assigned accordingly to account for the cost-to-government for the disposal of the pad liner and any ore material placed onto the pad, since ore cannot be left unattended. BLM will work with DRMS to review the bonds for each site to make sure they are adequate for active operations, including potential disposal of any ore that is left on the ore storage pads.

Topaz Mine

You briefly indicated that you were considering putting the Topaz Mine into reclamation status during June 30, 2020, conversation with James Blair. However, there was no mention of Topaz reclamation made in the letter dated June 29, 2021. As you are aware, there is a reclamation plan on file with the DRMS, but there is presently no approved BLM operating plan for the Topaz Mine. There is a Notice-level operating plan (CO-030-NI-9) which appears to have been terminated on January 21 of 1981. BLM will work with DRMS to review the approved DRMS reclamation plan as well as the expired BLM Notice so we can expedite the reclamation of this mine.

Plans of Operations

Pinon Ridge submitted a Plan of Operations in May 2020 to consolidate the Sunday, Carnation, St Jude, West Sunday and Topaz mines under a single, modern 3809 Plan of Operations. That proposed plan is still in the “completeness review” process. Once the plan is deemed complete it would become the basis for a proposed action under NEPA. As mentioned above, it is our understanding that you now intend to reclaim the Topaz mine, and also operate the Sunday-St.Jude-Carnation and West Sunday under their old approved plans of operation, at least for the time being. Therefore, BLM requests that Pinon Ridge inform the Tres Rios Field Office whether you intend to continue pursuing this current proposed plan, and if so, whether Topaz Mine will remain a part of the proposed action.

Given the reopening of the mine complex and possible significant changes to your plans with the Topaz mine site, we would like to have a meeting to discuss these items. Please contact James Blair at 970-882-1135 to set up this meeting as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Connie Clementson
Field Manager.

CC: Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety

Enclosures:

CO-030-NI-9 (11p, text)

CO-030-NI-9 (4p, maps)