



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

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-6
Partial Phase II 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 "Proposed Decision and Findings of Compliance" dated September 8, 2022.

We note that CDRMS accepts that Oxbow Mining, LLC 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 partial Phase II bond release on the requested 35.63 acres.

We acknowledge that the reclaimed lands in the partial Phase II bond release area total 35.63 acres, leaving 72.54 acres remaining for Phase II bond release, and 189.35 acres for Phase III bond Release, within this Mine Permit(C-1981-022). CDRMS will maintain a performance bond for all the final Phase III bond release, within the Mine Permit.

We agree that the subject reclamation acres are completed as CDRMS reported on April 5, 2022. If the USDA Forest Service (FS) and private landowner are 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 Foster Beckett at 970-826-5077, or 970-326-5198.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Copping
Field Manager

CC Leigh Simmons, CDRMS
Dan Gray, USFS