

## 23.0 RULE 6.4.23: EXHIBIT W – BASELINE SITE CHARACTERIZATION

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All In Situ Leach Mining Operations, Regardless of Designated Mining Operation Status.

In addition to all other required exhibits, applications for in situ leach mining operations shall include this Exhibit W.

(1) An applicant for an in situ leach mining operation permit shall design and conduct a scientifically defensible Baseline Site Characterization for affected surface water and groundwater and the environment prior to filing a permit application for an in situ leach mining operation. Prior to conducting any activity under the Baseline Site Characterization, the prospective applicant shall confer with the Office and obtain the Office's approval of the applicant's proposed Baseline Site Characterization. The Baseline Site Characterization must, at a minimum, include five (5) successive calendar quarters, or the period specified by the Office as necessary to adequately characterize the baseline conditions, of monitoring data and must be included in the permit application in order for the application to be considered filed. At a minimum, the Baseline Site Characterization shall thoroughly characterize the pre-mining site conditions including:

(a) A description of the following aspects of the proposed mining operation:

- (i) physiographic conditions;
- (ii) geologic and hydrogeologic conditions;
- (iii) surface water conditions; and
- (iv) groundwater conditions.

(b) A site inspection report that includes:

- (i) a narrative description of site observations;
- (ii) interviews with regulatory agencies having jurisdiction over the site including the regulatory history of the site;
- (iii) a narrative description of the results of a document review concerning the site; and
- (iv) a synopsis of any previous environmental or enforcement investigations.

(c) Analysis of the results of the Baseline Site Characterization, including a description of factors or conditions that require further investigation in order to design appropriate reclamation measures.

This section is not Applicable.