



# United States Department of the Interior



## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Tres Rios Field Office  
161 Burnett Drive Unit #4  
Durango, Colorado 81301  
[www.blm.gov/colorado](http://www.blm.gov/colorado)

In Reply Refer To:  
3809 (LLCOS01000)  
COC 080948

July 13, 2023

Tony Adkins  
Consulting Geologist to World Industrial Minerals  
P.O. Box 864  
29157 DD 31 Trl  
Nucla, CO 81424

Re: 3809 Notice – Wedding Bell Project Section 23 Mine Area – Acceptance of 3809 Notice and Financial Guarantee

Dear Mr. Adkins:

On July 10, 2023, the Tres Rios Field Office (TRFO) received World Industrial Minerals' Wedding Bell Project Section 23 Mine Area Notice revision (COC080948) (Notice) on behalf of Standard Minerals, to conduct exploratory drilling for uranium and vanadium on unpatented lode mining claims on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) TRFO administered public lands in T. 45 N. R. 18 W. Sec 23, New Mexico Prime Meridian, San Juan County, Colorado. World Industrial Minerals plans to drill 11 rotary drill holes with expected depths between 325 and 525 feet.

This office has completed the review of this Notice as per 43 CFR 3809.11, and determined it is complete, containing all the information required by the surface management regulations at 43 CFR 3809.301. We have also determined that the Notice as submitted is adequate to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation as defined by 43 CFR 3809.5. Activities under this Notice may commence as submitted with the attached stipulations. You must adhere to the performance standards outlined in 43 CFR 3809.420 where applicable, all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and permit requirements, as well as all mitigation to protect raptors, and cultural and paleontological resource stipulations attached to this letter.

This decision does not constitute certification of ownership to any entity named in the Notice, recognition of the validity of any associated mining claims, or recognition of the economic feasibility of the proposed operations.

Amount of Financial Guarantee – This office, in concert with the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety (DRMS), has reviewed Standard Minerals’ reclamation cost estimate for this project and determined that the amount of \$9,170.00 is sufficient to meet all anticipated reclamation requirements including mobilization, backfilling, and seeding costs. The amount of the reclamation cost estimate is based on the operator complying with all applicable operating and reclamation requirements as outlined in the Notice and the regulations at 43 CFR 3809.420.

Line items in the approved reclamation cost estimate are not to be considered as the limits of the reclamation expenditures should forfeiture of the financial guarantee be necessary. The line items listed are solely for the purpose of arriving at a total amount for the financial guarantee. This amount may be spent by the CO-DRMS on behalf of the BLM as it deems necessary to implement the approved reclamation plan. The financial guarantee amount does not represent reclamation liability limits or constraints should the actual cost of reclamation exceed this amount.

Appeal of the Decision Determining the Required Financial Guarantee Amount - If you are adversely affected by this decision, you may request that the BLM Colorado State Director review this decision. If you request a State Director Review, the request must be received in the BLM Colorado State Office at PO Box 151029 Lakewood, CO, no later than 30 calendar days after you receive or have been notified of this decision. The request for State Director Review must be filed in accordance with the provisions in 43 CFR 3809.805. This decision will remain in effect while the State Director Review is pending, unless a stay is granted by the State Director. If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.

If the State Director does not make a decision on your request for review of this decision within 21 days of receipt of the request, you should consider the request declined and you may appeal this decision to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA). You may contact the BLM Colorado State Office to determine when the BLM received the request for State Director Review. You have 30 days from the end of the 21-day period in which to file your Notice of Appeal with this office at BLM Tres Rios Field Office which we will forward to IBLA.

If you wish to bypass a State Director Review, this decision may be appealed directly to the IBLA in accordance with the regulations at 43 CFR 3809.801(a)(1). Your Notice of Appeal must be filed in this office at BLM Tres Rios Field Office, 29211 Hwy 184, Dolores, Colorado 81301 within 30 days from receipt of this decision. As the appellant you have the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error. This decision will remain in effect while the IBLA reviews the case, unless a stay is granted by the IBLA. If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.

Term of Notice – This Notice (COC-080948) will remain in effect for two years from the date of this letter unless you notify this office beforehand that operations have ceased, and reclamation is complete. If you wish to conduct operations for another two years after the expiration date of this Notice, you must notify this office in writing on or before the expiration date as required by 43 CFR 3809.333. You will also have to submit an updated reclamation cost estimate at that time.

Exploration activities under this Notice may not begin until all necessary federal and state permits and approvals have been obtained.

If you have any questions, please contact Bridget Wade, Tres Rios Field Office Geologist, at (970) 385-1342 or bcwade@blm.gov.

Sincerely,

Ryan Joyner  
Acting Field Manager

CC: Lucas West  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
DRMS Room 215  
1001 E 62<sup>nd</sup> Ave  
Denver, CO 80216

## **Attachment 1: Conditions of Approval**

The following conditions of approval for wildlife, cultural resources, and paleontological resources apply to this notice:

1. Raptor Stipulation: No surface disturbing or disruptive activity will occur between February 1 and July 31 to protect nesting raptors unless a raptor activity survey has determined that no active nests are present.
2. Other Wildlife Recommendations: The applicant shall avoid surface disturbing or disruptive activity from February 1 through May 1 to mitigate potential disturbance to desert bighorn sheep during lambing.
3. Mining Stipulation - Cultural and Paleontological Standard Stipulation (compatible with current 43 CFR 3809 regulations): The operator shall not knowingly disturb, alter, injure, or destroy any scientifically important paleontological remains or historical or archaeological site, structure, building, or object on federal lands. Operators shall immediately bring to the attention of the authorized officer any cultural and/or paleontological resources that might be altered or destroyed on federal lands by his/her operations, and shall leave such discovery intact until told to proceed by the authorized officer. The authorized officer shall evaluate the discoveries brought to his/her attention, take action to protect or remove the resource, and allow operations to proceed within 10 working days after the authorized officer is notified of such discovery. The federal government shall have the responsibility and bear the cost of investigations and salvage of cultural and paleontological values discovered.
4. Human Remains: If human remains are discovered or suspected the holder shall suspend operations immediately, physically guard the area, and notify the TRFO BLM immediately.
5. Archaeological Resources Protection Act: No person may excavate, remove, damage, or otherwise alter or deface or attempt to excavate, remove, damage, or otherwise alter or deface any archaeological resource located on public lands or Indian lands unless such activity is pursuant to an issued permit.

### **Paleontological Resources Mining Stipulations (compatible with the current 43 CFR 3809 regulations)**

6. Collecting: The project operator is responsible for informing all persons associated with this project including employees, contractors, and subcontractors under their direction that they shall be subject to prosecution for damaging, altering, excavating or removing any vertebrate fossils or other scientifically significant paleontological resources from the project area. Collection of vertebrate fossils (bones, teeth, turtle shells) or other scientifically significant paleontological resources is prohibited without a permit.

Unlawful removal, damage, or vandalism of paleontological resources will be prosecuted by federal law enforcement personnel.

7. Discovery: If vertebrate or other scientifically significant paleontological resources (fossils) are discovered on BLM TRFO-administered land during operations, the Operator shall suspend operations that could disturb the materials, stabilize and protect the site, and immediately contact the BLM Tres Rios Field Office Manager (Authorized Officer).
8. Avoidance: All vertebrate or scientifically significant paleontological resources found as a result of the project/action will be avoided during operations. Avoidance in this case means, “No action or disturbance within a distance of at least 100 feet of the outer edge of the paleontological locality.”