



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING
Reclamation and Enforcement
Western Region Office
P.O. Box 25065
Lakewood, Colorado 80225



December 7, 2023

Jason Musick
Coal Program Supervisor
Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety
1313 Sherman Street, Room 215
Denver, CO 80203

Re: Partial Phase III Bond Release SL-9; Bowie Resources, LLC; Bowie No. 1 Mine; C-1981-038

Dear Mr. Musick,

This letter acknowledges the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement - Denver Field Branch's (OSMRE-DFB) receipt and review of the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety's (DRMS) October 26, 2023 Proposed Decision and Findings of Compliance regarding the Bowie No. 1 Mine SL-9 partial Phase III bond release application. OSMRE agrees with the proposed decision and hereby provides concurrence in accordance with 30 CFR 740.15 (d)(3) and 30 CFR 906.30, Article IX, Section 24 of the State-Federal Cooperative Agreement.

By email dated August 28, 2023 DRMS invited OSMRE to attend the SL-9 field inspection at the Bowie No. 1 Mine; OSMRE participated in the inspection which was held on September 6, 2023. The surface and mineral ownership associated with SL-9 is federal and private. Accordingly, by letter dated December 4, 2023 the Bureau of Land Management - Uncompahgre Field Office provided its concurrence with DRMS's proposed decision. OSMRE interprets this to mean Bowie Resources, LLC (BRL) is in compliance with all stipulations associated with its federal leases.

DRMS's proposed decision notes BRL's compliance with the Colorado regulatory program at Rule 3.03.1 (2)(c) and recommends approving partial Phase III bond release on 59.29 acres at the Bowie No. 1 Mine. DRMS currently holds a performance bond in the amount of \$ \$2,768,916.16 which covers the entire permit area including the acreage proposed for release. Under SL-9 DRMS proposes to release a total of \$265,217.95 from reclamation liability. OSMRE concurs with DRMS's proposed decision.

Thank you and your staff for coordinating this bond release action through the OSMRE - Denver Field Branch.

Sincerely,

Howard E. Strand, Manager
Denver Field Branch

C: Bowie Resources, LLC



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
COC-025079
C-1981-038 (CDRMS)

Dan MacKinnon
Natural Resources Specialist USDOI-OSMRE
P.O. Box 25065
Lakewood, CO 80225-0065

RE: Proposed Decision of the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (CDRMS)
SL-09 Phase III Bond Release at the Bowie No. 1 Mine, Permit Number C-1981-038

Dear Mr. MacKinnon,

This is to inform you that my staff has reviewed the CDRMS Findings and the Proposed Decision dated October 26, 2023, and concurs with CDRMS's findings.

We note that CDRMS accepts that Bowie Resources, LLC conducted reclamation of the area known as the Bowie #1 Mine-East Mine Area and has sufficiently replaced topsoil, established the success standard for vegetative cover, provided for the support of the post-mining land use of rangeland /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 III bond release.

We acknowledge that the reclaimed lands included in the bond release area total of 59.29 acres of which 18.36 acres are managed by BLM-UFO. 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. It is my decision that BLM-UFO has no objection to the subject Phase III Bond release.

If you have any questions, please contact Foster Beckett at (970)-326-5198.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Copping
Uncompahgre Field Manager

CC Robert Zuber, CDRMS
Basil Bear, BRL