



# 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-070615  
COC-061357

Tom Medlin  
AML & Regulatory Program 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-08  
Partial Phase III Bond Release at the Oxbow Elk Creek Mine, Permit Number C-1981-022

Dear Mr. Medlin:

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 December 13, 2023.

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 III bond release on the requested 9.50 acres.

We acknowledge that the reclaimed lands in the partial Phase III bond release area total 9.50 acres, leaving 73.16 acres remaining for Phase II bond release, and 158.61 acres for Phase III bond Release, within this Mine Permit (C-1981-022). CDRMS will maintain a performance bond for all the Phase II and III bond release, within the Mine Permit.

We agree that the subject reclamation acres are completed as CDRMS reported on December 13, 2023. 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 970-326-5198.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Copping  
Field Manager

CC Leigh Simmons, CDRMS  
Dan Gray, USFS