



# 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)  
CO106332662

January 16, 2023

Highbury Resources  
Attn: Scott Pottorff, Project Manager  
28151 DD Rd  
Nucla, CO 81424

Re: Slick Rock NOI Modification – Acceptance of 3809 Notice Modification and Required Amount of Financial Guarantee

Dear Mr. Pottorff:

On January 9th, 2024, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Tres Rios Field Office (TRFO) received Highbury Resource's updated Slick Rock Notice modification (CO106332662), to conduct exploratory drilling for uranium and vanadium on unpatented mining claims on BLM TRFO administered public lands in T. 44 N. R. 18 W. Sec 26, 27, 28, 29, 33, 34, New Mexico Prime Meridian, San Miguel County, Colorado.

The notice modification proposes a new operational timeframe between May 2, 2024 and November 30, 2024. This new operational timeframe accommodates the TRFO Wildlife Biologist's timing recommendation to protect big game species.

The TRFO called BRS Engineering who represents Highbury Resources, on January 12, 2024 to discuss this operational timeframe modification. The TRFO clarified its intent that avoiding operations between December 1 and May 1 for bighorn sheep and mule deer, non-T&E species, is a recommendation and not a requirement for notice-level activity. The TRFO considers this notice modification an operator committed measure that exceeds our notice requirements to prevent undue and unnecessary degradation.

The TRFO has completed the review of this notice, and determined the notice 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. 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.

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 Department of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety (CDRMS), has reviewed Highbury's reclamation cost estimate for this project and determined that the amount of \$25,406 is sufficient to meet all the anticipated reclamation requirements. 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.

Term of Notice – This notice, CO106332662, 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 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, BLM Tres Rios Field Office Geologist, at (970) 385-1342 or bcwade@blm.gov.

Sincerely,

Derek Padilla  
Field Manager

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