



Date: February 10, 2025  
To: Robin Reilly, DRMS  
From: Brock Bowles and Joel Renfro, DRMS  
RE: Yoast Mine (C-1994-082),  
SL-9 Bond Release Vegetation Success Review

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The SL-9 application submitted vegetation data for the years 2022 and 2023. The data meets the requirement of two years testing. Two sampling blocks were tested separately and compared to their respective reference area.

Bond Release Block 4 (BRB-4) encompassed the area of the haul road, north of the permit area. The success standards for BRB-4 was determined by the data collected in the Haul Road Reference Area. The areas tested in Bond Release Block 5 (BRB-5) area shown on Map 2 of the application. The success standards for BRB-5 were determined by the data collected in the Extended Reference Areas. The data for the Haul Road Reference Area and the Extended Reference Areas were included in the application package.

The sampling methods used to collect data in 2022 and 2023 were consistent with the methods outlined in Tab 22- Revegetation Plan in the Yoast permit application package. The Extended Reference Area, used as the standard for the BRB-5, is a weighted standard based on the abundance of 4 different plant communities documented in the pre-mining landscape. The four plant communities were weighted in the following manner: mountain brush - 48.9%, aspen - 24.4%, sagebrush/snowberry - 24.0%, and steep mountain brush - 2.7%.

Sample adequacy was evaluated for each bond release blocks and reference areas. Sample adequacy was achieved in all parameters except BRB-4 2022 production, BRB-5 2022 & 2023 production, and BRB-5 2022 & 2023 WPD test 1. In all cases, thirty-two samples were taken which exceeds the 30-sample minimum required for areas that do not achieve sample adequacy as outlined in an email from Dan Mathews, DRMS, 2005.

The reclamation standards for cover, production and species diversity were met for BRB-4 in both 2022 and 2023. BRB-4 was not subject to a woody plant requirement because it is part of the haul road corridor (Tab-22 Revegetation Plan, page 49).

The reclamation standards for cover, production, woody plant density and species diversity were met for BRB-5 in both 2022 and 2023.

The Division was able to confirm that all sampling methods used in the application were consistent with the methods outlined in the Yoast permit. The performance standards were calculated in accordance with the methods outlined in the permit. The Division was able to replicate the results of these findings with the data submitted with the SL-9 application.



The Division requires additional information from the SL-9 Bond Release application for the following item:

**Appendix F**

Page 15 of the application mentions seed mixes used in reclamation are included for reference in Appendix F. Appendix F and the seed mixes were not included with the application package. Please provide seed mixes used in reclamation under this Appendix.