



WESTMORELAND SAN JUAN MINING LLC
A Subsidiary of WESTMORELAND MINING LLC

August 8, 2023

Mr. James Smith
Coal Director
New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South Saint Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Plata Mine Permit 2016-01, Phase I Bond Release Application

Dear Mr. Smith,

Pursuant to 19.8.14.1412 of New Mexico Administrative Code (NMAC), Westmoreland San Juan Mining (WSJM) has enclosed, for MMD review and approval, a Phase I bond release application for 54.1 acres at La Plata Mine for a portion of the area covered under Permit #2016-01. WSJM has accomplished all backfilling, grading and final surface configuration within approved drainage control, as required for Phase I bond release in accordance with the requirements of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act and the approved reclamation plan for La Plata Mine.

One copy of this application (and the appendices) has been uploaded to the MMD website.

If you have any questions regarding this submittal, please contact Derek Rawson at (505) 598-2145.

Sincerely,

Derek Rawson

Engineering Manager
Westmoreland San Juan Mining, LLC

Enc: 2023 Phase I bond release (e-copy)

19.8.14.1412 A(2)(a):

The permittee's name, address and the appropriate permit number.

Westmoreland San Juan Mining LLC (WSJM), La Plata Mine, has made an application for the Phase I bond release of 54.1 acres to the New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) for a portion of the area currently under Permit #2016-01 approved January 11, 2016. Application for bond release is submitted pursuant to 19.8.14 of New Mexico Administrative Code (NMAC).

Westmoreland San Juan Mining LLC
La Plata Mine
P.O. Box 561
Waterflow, New Mexico 87421

19.8.14.1412 A(2)(b)

An accurate legal description of the land sought for bond release (either metes and bounds or precise Section, Township and Range designations).

The La Plata Mine permit area is located approximately 16 miles north of Farmington, New Mexico. The areas requested for Phase I bond release are located within the following lands of San Juan County, New Mexico. The general legal description of the requested release areas is listed below. Locations are also shown on 2023 Phase I Bond Release Areas La Plata Mine Exhibit 1 found in Appendix B.

Township 32N, Range 12W, Section 7
- Section 7 – 17.8 acres

Township 32N, Range 13W, Sections 13, and 14
- Section 13 – 22.8 acres
- Section 14 – 13.5 acres

19.8.14.1412 A(2)(c):

The location of the area proposed for bond release shown on a USGS 7.5' map, which should also show the permit boundaries.

Areas requested for bond release for the La Plata Mine permit areas are shown on USGS 7.5' base maps at a scale of 1:4,800 2023 Phase I Bond Release Areas La Plata Mine USGS Quads See Appendix B Exhibits.

19.8.14.1412 A(2)(d):

A brief narrative summarizing the past history of the mine, the type, amount and date of the current bonding instrument, the number of acres included in the bond release application and the portion it represents of the total permit area, documentation of the type and dates of the reclamation performed with a summary of the results achieved as they relate to the approved reclamation plan, and any other pertinent information that the applicant or the Director may consider appropriate.

Coal mining at La Plata Mine began on January 13, 1986. Coal was transported from La Plata Mine to San Juan Generating Station from 1986 through 2002 utilizing the La Plata Mine Transportation Corridor. Reclamation of La Plata Mine occurred primarily from 2003-2008 which consisted of backfilling, regrading, and seeding. Reclamation activities were conducted according to approved processes and procedures under Subpart 906 Reclamation Plan of the La Plata Mine Permit 2016-01. Specifically, disturbed areas were regraded consistent with the approved Final Surface Configuration (FSC), capped with topsoil/topdressing material, and had drainage controls established.

The first Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act permit (MMD Permit 24-9P) for La Plata Mine was issued on January 10, 1986. The current permit number is La Plata Mine Permit #2016-01. A surety bond, amended on July 19, 2016, for \$16,681,640.00 is filed with MMD and the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement to satisfy the reclamation bond requirement.

The applicant is seeking a determination that the work necessary for Phase I bond release has been successfully completed. WSJM will not be seeking bond reduction.

A summary of Proposed Phase I release acreage and total permit acreage is provided in the table below. The proposed 2023 Phase I release all have post-mine land use designation of Wildlife Habitat use.

Portion of Permit Area Proposed for Phase I Release	Acres
2022 Proposed Phase I Bond Release Area	54.1
Total Permit Area	2,896.6

19.8.14.1412 A(2)(e):

A table listing the current names, addresses and number of acres held by each of the surface and mineral owners of record in the area proposed for bond release.

Surface Owner	Address	Area (ac)
USA Bureau of Land Management	P. O. Box 27115 Santa Fe, NM 87501	54.1
Total		54.1

Mineral Owner	Address	Area (ac)
USA Bureau of Land Management	P. O. Box 27115 Santa Fe, NM 87501	54.1
Total		54.1

19.8.14.1412 A(2)(f):

Copies of letters sent to adjoining landowners, local governmental bodies, planning agencies, sewage and water treatment authorities, and water companies in the vicinity of the reclamation operation, notifying them of the permittee's intention to seek bond release;

A draft letter notifying landowners, local government bodies, and other planning agencies of Westmoreland San Juan Mining's request for bond release is in Appendix A Surface Ownership Notification Letter. Copies of letters will be submitted to MMD after the draft letter has been reviewed and approved by MMD. The addresses are located in Appendix C Notification Mailing List.

Name	Address
USA Bureau of Land Management	P. O. Box 27115 Santa Fe, NM 87501
John Thatcher Jr Trust Attn. Westmore	9540 Maroon Circle Unit 300 Englewood, CO 80112

19.8.14.1412 A(2)(g):

Other maps or information required by the Director to locate or characterize the areas proposed for bond release, soils, revegetation, hydrological or other reclamation issues.

Maps of the proposed Phase I bond release areas are provided in Appendix B Exhibits. The exhibits include:

- 2023 Phase I Bond Release Area La Plata Mine Aerial: Shows proposed Phase I bond release areas and the years that the areas were regraded as part of the reclamation process.
- 2023 Phase I Bond Release Area La Plata Mine Exhibit 1 shows the final reconstructed topography of areas requested for Phase I bond release. Bulldozers, scrapers and motor graders were used to grade the backfill (spoil) after initial placement by truck and shovel fleet.

19.8.14.1412 A(3) NMAC

A copy of the newspaper advertisement that will be used to provide public notification of the application for bond release.

Draft public notice for publication in the Farmington Daily Times once MMD has advised Westmoreland San Juan Mining LLC that the administratively complete is provided in **Appendix E Public Notice**. A copy of the full Phase I application will be placed at the Farmington Public Library in Farmington, New Mexico prior to sending out the notification letters and publication of the advertisement.

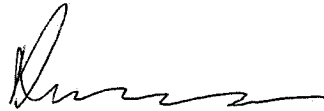
19.8.14.1412 A(2)

Statement of certification is provided in **Appendix D Statement of Certification**.

STATEMENT OF CERTIFICATION

WESTMORELAND SAN JUAN MINING LLC
LA PLATA MINE PERMIT 2016-01
SAN JUAN COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

I swear and affirm, under oath and in writing, that all backfilling, regrading, and establishment of drainage control applicable for Phase I bond release on 54.1 acres of the La Plata Mine has been completed. Westmoreland San Juan Mining LLC has accomplished all required work in accordance with the requirements of Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act and the approved reclamation plan for the La Plata Mine permit.

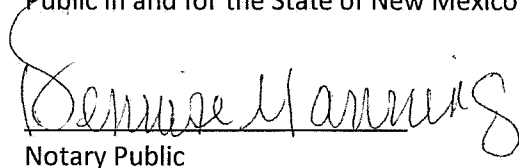


Derek Rawson
General Manager
Westmoreland San Juan Mining LLC

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

COUNTY OF SAN JUAN

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN before me, in my presence, this 8 day of August, 2023, a Notary Public in and for the State of New Mexico.


Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 10-1-25

**STATE OF NEW MEXICO
NOTARY PUBLIC
DENNISE MANNING
COMMISSION # 1094371
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES 10/01/2025**



WESTMORELAND SAN JUAN MINING LLC

A Subsidiary of WESTMORELAND MINING LLC

August 7, 2023

USA, Bureau of Land Management
P. O. Box 27115
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Re: La Plata Mine Permit #2016-01, Phase I Bond Release Application

Dear Sir or Madam,

1. Westmoreland San Juan Mining LLC (WSJM), San Juan Mine has made an application for a Phase I bond release of 54.1 acres to the New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) for a portion of the areas currently under Permit #2016-01, approved January 11, 2016. Application for bond release is submitted pursuant to 19.8.14 of New Mexico Administrative Code (NMAC).

Westmoreland San Juan Mining LLC
San Juan Mine
P.O. Box 561
Waterflow, NM 87421

2. The La Plata Mine permit area is located approximately 16 miles north of Farmington, New Mexico. The areas requested for Phase I Bond Release are located within the lands of San Juan County, New Mexico. The general legal description of the requested areas is listed below.

Township 32N, Range 12W, Section 7
- Section 7 – 17.8 acres

Township 32N, Range 13W, Sections 13, and 14
- Section 13 – 22.8 acres
- Section 14 – 13.5 acres

3. A surety bond of \$16,681,640 is filed with New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division to satisfy the reclamation bond requirement. The applicant is seeking a determination that the work necessary for Phase I bond release has been successfully completed. WSJM will not be seeking a bond reduction.
4. All lands within the requested bond release area have been graded to the designed post-mining topography consistent with approved mine plans. Bulldozers, scrapers, and graders were used to grade backfill materials after initial placement by the draglines and the truck/loader fleet. Drainage control was established according with 19.8.20 NMAC.

5. Copies of the application for bond release are available for public review and/or inspection at the following locations:

Farmington Public Library
2101 Farmington Ave.
Farmington, NM 87401.
(505)-599-1270

New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, NM 87505
(505)-690-8071

The application is also available on the MMD website:
<https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/mmd/public-notices/>

6. Written comments on the Phase I bond release application can be submitted to the MMD Director at the following address:

Director
New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505
(505)-690-8071

7. The bond release request has been filed with MMD and will be acted upon pursuant to the 19.8 NMAC rules

Sincerely,

Derek Rawson
Engineering Manager
Westmoreland San Juan Mining LLC

Enc: Map of proposed Phase I bond release area

Surface and Adjoining Landowners Notification Mail List

Address

USA, Bureau of Land Management
P. O. Box 27115
Santa Fe, NM 87501

John H Thatcher Jr Trust Attn Westmore
9540 Maroon Circle Unit 300
Englewood, CO 80112

Public Notice – La Plata Mine Phase I Bond Release

Westmoreland San Juan Mining LLC (WSJM), La Plata Mine has submitted an application for the Phase I bond release of 54.1 acres to the New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) for a portion of the area currently under Permit #2016-01, approved January 11, 2016. Application for bond release is submitted pursuant to 19.8.14 of the New Mexico Administrative Code (NMAC).

1. The name and address of the applicant is:

Westmoreland San Juan Mining LLC
La Plata Mine
P.O.Box 561
Waterflow, NM 87421

2. The La Plata Mine permit area is located approximately 16 miles north of Farmington, New Mexico. The areas requested for Phase I Bond Release are located within the lands of San Juan County, New Mexico. The general legal description of the requested areas is listed below.

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3. A surety bond of \$16,681,640 is filed with New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division to satisfy the reclamation bond requirement. The applicant is seeking a determination that the work necessary for Phase I bond release has been successfully completed. WSJM will not be seeking a bond reduction.
4. All lands within the requested bond release area have been graded to the designed post-mining topography, consistent with the approved mine plans in La Plata Mine permit #2016-01, Subpart 906 Reclamation Plan. Bulldozers, scrapers, and graders were used to grade backfill materials after initial placement by the truck/loader fleet. Drainage control has been established in accordance with 19.8.20 NMAC.
5. Copies of the application for bond release are available for public review and/or inspection at the following locations:

Farmington Public Library
2101 Farmington Ave.
Farmington, NM 87401.
(505)-599-1270

New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, NM 87505
(505)-690-8071

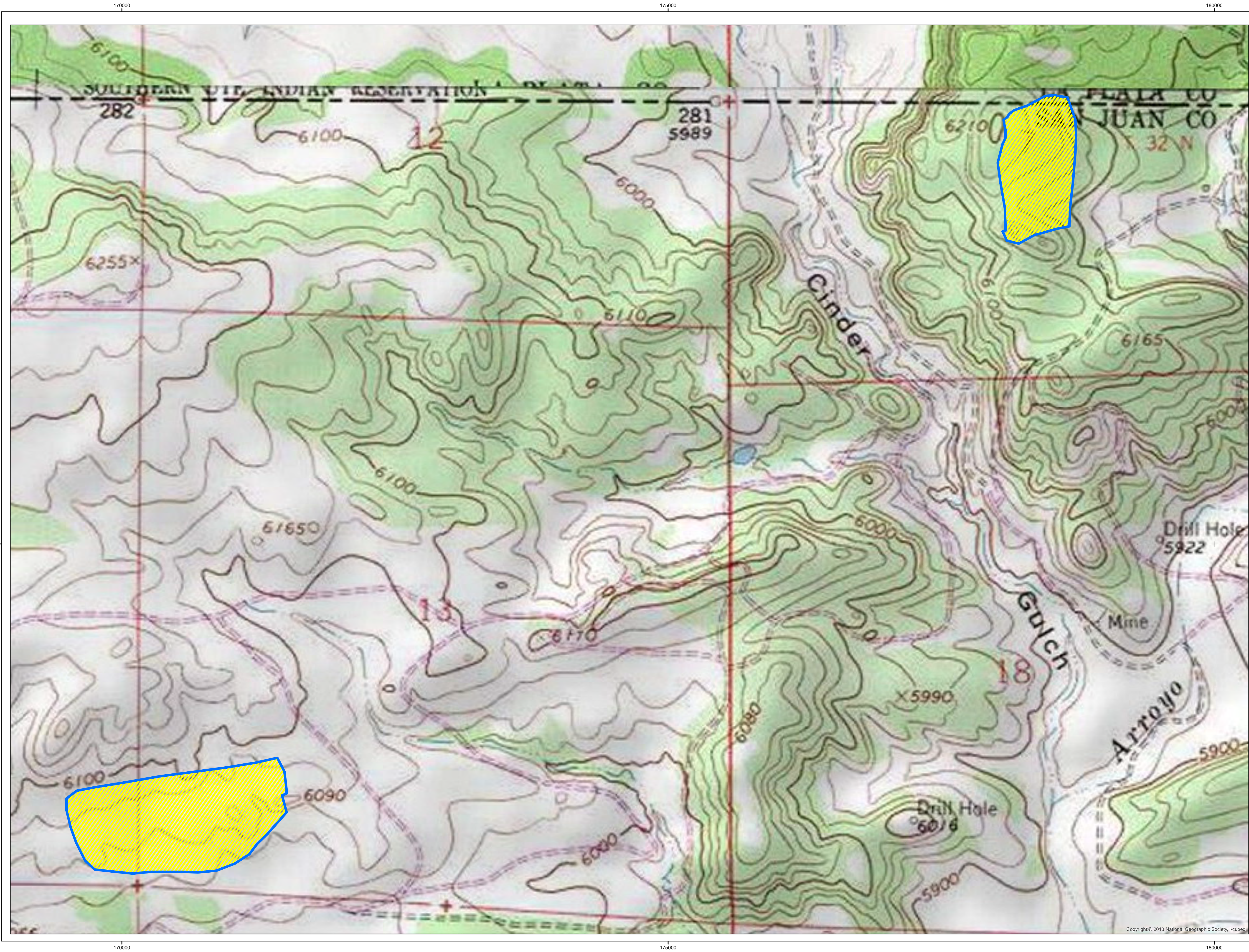
The application is also available on the MMD website: <https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/mmd/public-notices/>

Public Notice – La Plata Mine Phase I Bond Release

6. Written comments on the Phase I bond release application can be submitted to the MMD director at the following address:

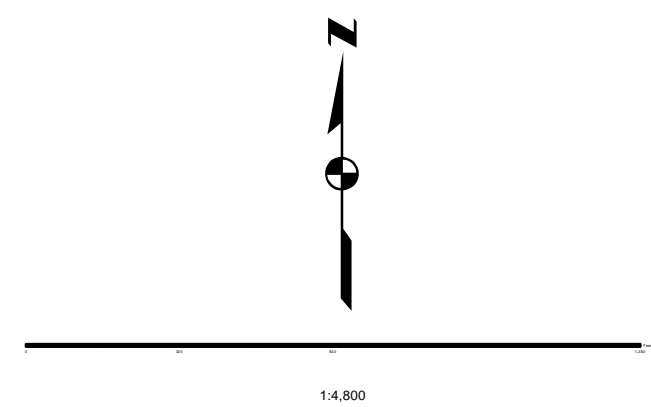
Director
New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505
(505)-690-8071

7. The MMD Director shall receive all written comments, objections, or requests within 30 days after the initial publication of this notice.
 - a. The bond release request has been filed with MMD and will be acted upon pursuant to the permanent regulatory program 19.8 NMAC.
 - b. Interested persons may obtain more information concerning the bond release request by contacting MMD at (505)-690-8071



Legend

 Release Areas



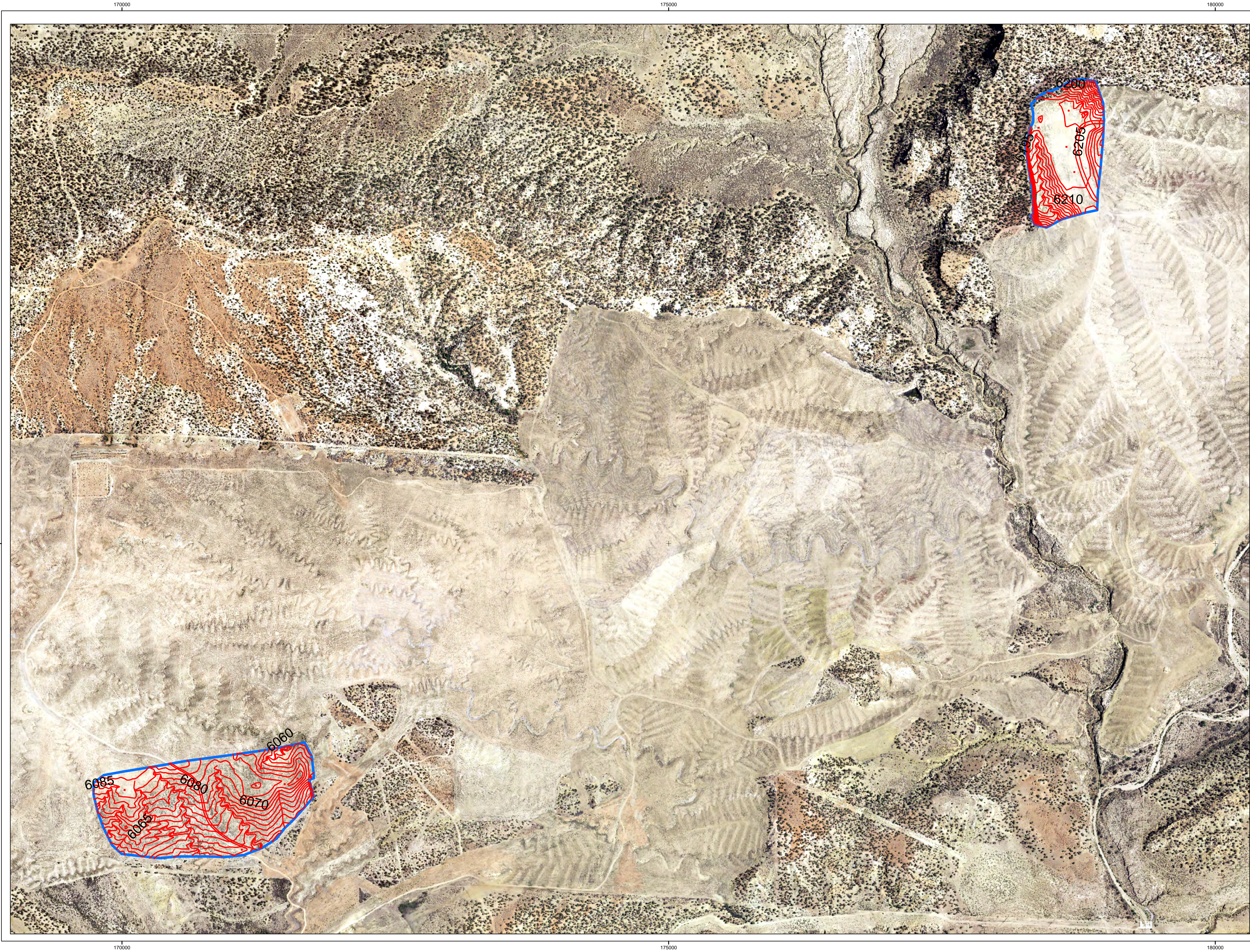
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Westmoreland San Juan Mining LLC



La Plata Mine
2023 Phase I Bond Release Areas
USGS Quads
(Sheet 1 of 1)

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Legend

Release Areas

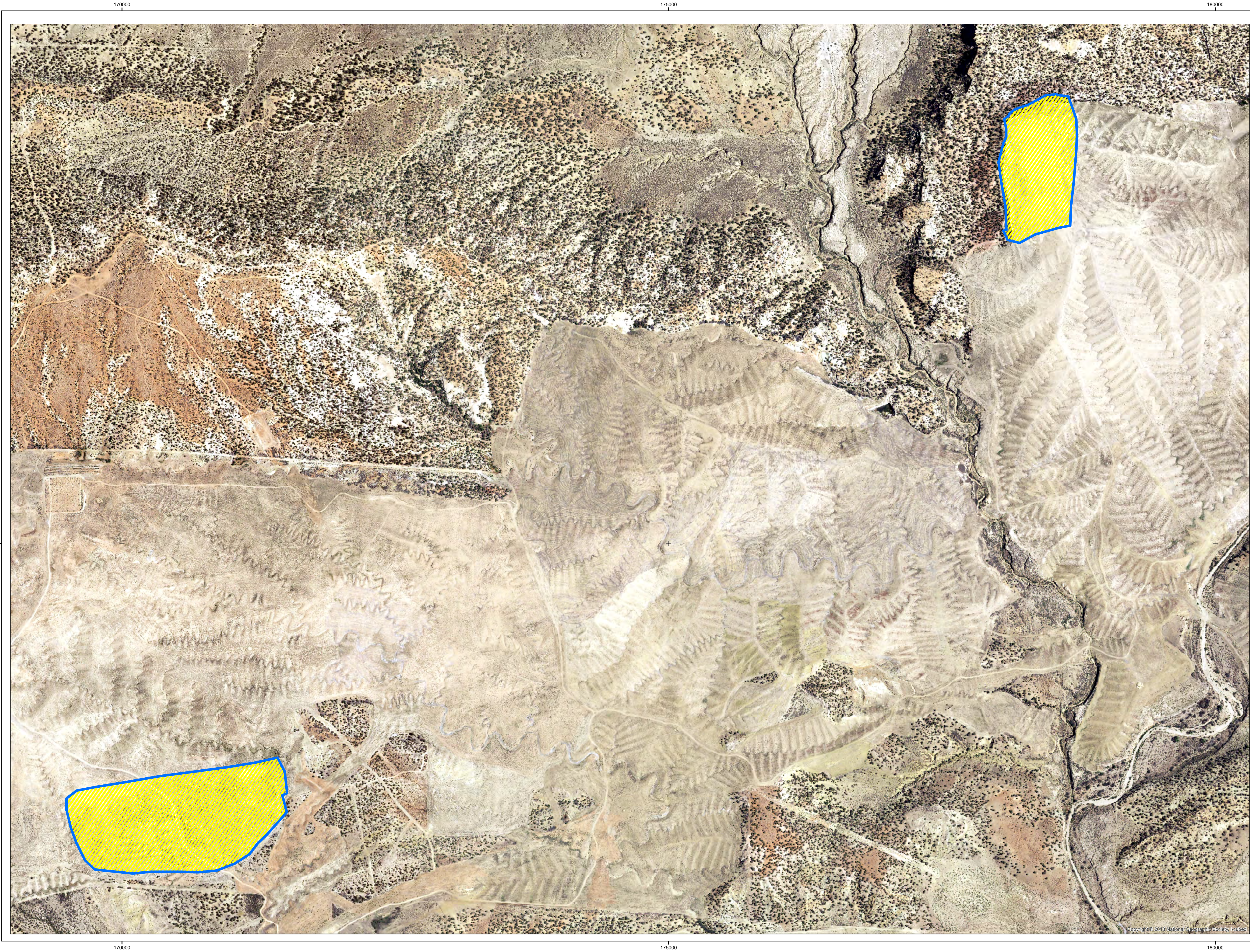
1"=400'

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Westmoreland San Juan Mining LLC

P.O. BOX 561 WATERFLOW, NEW MEXICO 87421 | PHONE: 505-598-2000 | FAX: 505-598-2025
La Plata Mine
2023 Phase I Bond Release Areas
Exhibit 1
(Sheet 1 of 1)

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APPROVED BY:	DATE: Aug 7, 2023	



Legend

Release Areas

1"=4,000'

REV.	DATE	DRAWN BY	REVISION DESCRIPTION	CHK.	DATE	FILE

Westmoreland San Juan Mining LLC

P.O. BOX 561 WATERFLOW, NEW MEXICO 87421 PHONE 505-598-2000 FAX 505-598-2020
La Plata Mine
2023 Phase I Bond Release Areas
Aerial
(Sheet 1 of 1)

PREPARED BY: CA	DRAWN BY: CA	PAPER SIZE: ARCH D
APPROVED BY:	DATE: Aug 7, 2023	