

## 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.

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 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/>

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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