

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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Mining and Minerals Division



January 6, 2020

Mr. Ed Dvorak, Vice President
CR Minerals Company, LLC
P.O. Box 708
Ohkay Owingeh, New Mexico 87566

**RE: Comments on Application for Permit Modification 19-1 to Permit No. RA004RE,
Rocky Mountain Mine**

Dear Mr. Dvorak:

The New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division (“MMD”) received a request from CR Minerals Company, LLC (“CR Minerals”) for Modification 19-1 to Permit No. RA004RE (“Application”); for the mining and reclamation plan/cost estimate for the Mining Block E3 of the Bureau of Land Management (“BLM”) East tract at the Rocky Mountain Mine. MMD has reviewed the Application and provides the following comments on the proposed closeout (reclamation) plan and cost estimate:

Reclamation Plan:

- 1 The approved reclamation seed mix is found on Table 6, Reclamation Seed Mix for the Rocky Mountain Pumice Mine in Rio Arriba County, New Mexico of the CR Minerals Company Rocky Mountain Mine Mining Permit Application and Close Out Plan, June 1999. Condition 9.I of Revision 11-1 to Permit No. RA004RE requires that CR Minerals provide an updated reclamation seed mix including two additional shrub species to the seed mix. Please provide an updated seed mix that includes the two additional shrub species.

Cost Estimate:

1. Please explain how the costs are determined on Tab 2 “Derno”.
2. In Tab 13 “EarthSum” there is a note stating the cost for a D9 is \$267.50/hour, but the hourly rate used for calculating the cost is \$133.50/hour. This should be changed to \$267.50/hour. In addition, the cost for the 657G scraper should be changed to \$599.41/hour from \$258.43/hour in accordance with the cost currently in Equipment Watch.

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3. Please explain what components, and their costs, are considered in the unit cost of \$800/acre for revegetation in Tab 14 "Reveg".
4. In Tab 15 "Other" there is a labor cost for rip rap and check dam channels but there are no costs for the material or equipment. Please explain why the costs are excluded or include them in the cost estimate.
5. Please include Operation and Maintenance costs in the cost estimate (for example: post-reclamation vegetation and erosion monitoring, reseeding, erosion maintenance, etc.).
6. Please include costs for post-reclamation fencing and fence maintenance or explain why these costs are excluded.

Please provide a response to the MMD comments within 30-days of receipt.

If you have any questions in this matter, please feel free to contact me at 505-476-3432 or at David.Ohori@state.nm.us.

Sincerely,



David R. Ohori, Permit Lead
Mining Act Reclamation Program ("MARF")
Mining and Minerals Division

cc: Joe Griego, Manager, Rocky Mountain Mine
Robyn Tierney, Permits West
Holland Shepherd, Program Manager, MARF
Mine File (RA004RE)