



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Tucson Field Office
3201 East Universal Way
Tucson, Arizona 85756
www.blm.gov/az/



May 23, 2013

In Reply Refer To:
3809 (AZG020)
AZA 32948

Dear Reader,

Update: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Tucson Field Office announces that the public review and comment period for the Environmental Assessment (EA) and unsigned Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the proposed Andrada Quarry expansion has been extended until Monday, July 1, 2013. The Tucson Field Office will consider all substantive comments received or postmarked by July 1, 2013.

The Bureau of Land Management, Tucson Field Office originally announced the availability of the EA and unsigned FONSI for public review and comment pertaining to the proposed Andrada Marble Quarry Mine Plan of Operation (MPO) on April 30. The BLM had proposed to sign the FONSI and issue a decision whether or not to authorize the Andrada Quarry MPO.

Andrada Holding, PLC, had filed an MPO with the BLM for the quarrying of high-purity calcium carbonate on federal mining claims held in T17S, R16E, Sec 21, NW of the NW, approximately 25 miles southeast of Tucson in Pima County, Arizona. The mining claims are located on split-estate lands where the surface rights are on Arizona State Trust lands and the mineral rights are federal and managed by the United States, specifically the BLM.

The public comment period for the EA and unsigned FONSI, which was slated to end on May 30, will be extended for another 30 days, ending July 1, 2013. The Andrada Marble Quarry MPO, EA, and unsigned FONSI are available for public review at the BLM Tucson Field Office, 3201 E Universal Way, Tucson, AZ 85756 or on the web at <http://on.doi.gov/15MJgk4>.

The BLM will consider all substantive comments received during the public comment period. The BLM's National Environmental Policy Act Handbook provides guidance on formulating substantive comments.

Substantive comments do one or more of the following:

- question, with reasonable basis, the accuracy of information in the EIS or EA
- question, with reasonable basis, the adequacy of, methodology for, or assumptions used for the environmental analysis
- present new information relevant to the analysis
- present reasonable alternatives other than those analyzed in the EIS or EA
- cause changes or revisions in one or more of the alternatives

Comments that are not considered substantive include the following:

- comments in favor of or against the proposed action or alternatives without reasoning that meet the criteria listed above (such as “we disagree with Alternative Two and believe the BLM should select Alternative Three”)
- comments that only agree or disagree with BLM policy or resource decisions without justification or supporting data that meet the criteria listed above (such as “more grazing should be permitted”)
- comments that don’t pertain to the project area or the project (such as “the government should eliminate all dams,” when the project is about a grazing permit)
- comments that take the form of vague, open-ended questions

Questions may be directed to Mr. Brian Bellew, Tucson Field Manager, at bbellew@blm.gov, or Mr. Daniel Moore, Geologist, at d3moore@blm.gov, or by calling (520) 258-7200. Comments can be submitted via email, mailed to the BLM Tucson Field Office at 3201 E Universal Way, Tucson, AZ 85756 or faxed to (520) 258-7238.

Brian B. Bellew
Field Manager