



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Anchorage Field Office
4700 BLM Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99507-2591
<http://www.blm.gov/ak>

Silver Dome Mining Company Camp Cleanup Categorical Exclusion, DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2014-0015-CX

Case File, AA-13358 / AA-029406

DECISION RECORD

Decision

It is my decision to implement the proposed action on BLM-managed lands as described in the attached Categorical Exclusion documentation, DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2014-0015-CX.

Specifically, the BLM will remove hazardous and non-hazardous solid waste from an ½ acre (approximately) abandoned/unauthorized mining camp located approximately two miles north of confluence of Portage Creek and the Susitna River within the Talkeetna Mountains, approximately 45 miles northeast of Talkeetna, Alaska. All removed materials will be properly disposed. There will be little or no ground disturbance; materials removed are all on ground surface or inside a cabin.

Rationale for the Decision

The proposed action is in conformance with the Ring Of Fire Management Plan (2008) management goals and decisions pertaining to Abandoned Mining Sites and Hazardous Materials. The cleanup of this property is necessary so that the BLM can convey the land to Alaska Native Corporations under authority of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

The proposed action has been reviewed by Anchorage Field Office staff and appropriate Project Design Features, as specified, will be incorporated during project implementation. Based on the attached Categorical Exclusion review, I have determined that the proposed action involves no significant impact to the human environment and no further analysis is required.

Appeal Opportunities

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR § 4. To appeal you must file a notice of appeal at the BLM Anchorage Field Office, 4700 BLM Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99507, within 30 days from receipt of this decision. The appeal must be in writing and delivered in person, via the United States Postal Service mail system, or other common carrier, to the Anchorage Field Office as noted above. *The BLM does not accept appeals by facsimile or email.* The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error.

If you wish to file a petition pursuant to regulation 43 CFR § 4.21 (58 FR 4939, January 19, 1993) for a stay of the effectiveness of this decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the Board, the petition for a stay must accompany your notice of appeal. Except as otherwise provided by law or other pertinent regulation, a petition for a stay of decision pending appeal shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards: (a) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied, (b) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits, (c) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and (d) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Copies of the notice of appeal and petition for a stay must also be submitted to each party named in this decision and to the Interior Board of Land Appeals and to the Office of the Solicitor (see 43 CFR § 4.413); Office of the Regional Solicitor, Alaska Region, U.S. Department of the Interior, 4230 University Drive, Suite 300, Anchorage, Alaska 99508; at the same time the original documents are filed with this office. If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.

/s/ Alan Bittner

August 8, 2014

Alan Bittner
Anchorage Field Manager

Date

Attachments

Silver Dome Mining Company Camp Cleanup, Categorical Exclusion, DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2014-0015-CX



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CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX)

A. BACKGROUND

Project Name / Type: Silver Dome Mining Company Camp Cleanup

NEPA Register Number: DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2014-0015-CX

Case File Number: AA-13358 / AA-029406

Location / Legal Description: SW ¼ SW ¼ Section 07, Township 32N, Range 01E, Seward Meridian, Alaska

Applicant (if any): n/a (internal action)

Description of Proposed Action:

The BLM would remove hazardous and non-hazardous solid waste from the ½ acre (approximate) Silver Dome Mining Company Camp located at N62° 52' 16.9" W149° 21' 30.0". The removal of solid waste from the site would allow conveyance of the surface estate to an Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) Village Corporation and sub-surface estate to Cook Inlet Region Incorporated (CIRI).

The Mining Claim Location Notice for "Silver Dome #3" (AA-029406) was filed 27 July, 1968. The mine camp was established at that time. The camp has been deserted and is falling into disrepair since BLM determined the claim to be Abandoned/Void and Closed in 1994. The BLM inspected the site on July 5, 2014. On July 30, 2014 CIRI agreed to accept the land conveyance contingent upon BLM conducting a limited removal action. The materials to be removed include several packaged hazmats and a volume of non-hazardous solid waste such as empty drums, cans, and household items. No spills of oil or other hazardous substances were discovered during the July 2014 inspection. A 45- x 20-foot two-story cabin, and two trucks with trailers would remain in place. There would be little or no surface disturbance; all materials to be removed are at ground surface or within the cabin.

B. LAND USE PLAN CONFORMANCE

Applicable Land Use Plan: Ring of Fire Management Plan & Record of Decision, March 2008

This abandoned mine lands site is not specifically identified in the plan. However, the proposed action is clearly consistent with the following land use plan decision:

G. Hazardous Materials Management

G-1: Goal

Ensure that all activities occurring on BLM-managed lands within the planning area comply with Federal and State hazardous materials standards and that all Federal and State mandates, laws, regulations, Executive Orders and policies are met.

C. CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with United States Department of the Interior 43 CFR 46.210 or United States Department of the Interior Manual, Part 516, Chapter 11, which provides:

J. Other

10. Removal of structures and materials of no historic value, such as abandoned automobiles, fences, and buildings, including those built in trespass and reclamation of the site when little or no surface disturbance is involved.

D. EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES

The proposed action must be screened against the Extraordinary Circumstances found in 43 CFR § 46.215 (listed below). Any “yes” finding requires that an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement be prepared for the Proposed Action.

EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES	YES/NO
1. Have significant adverse impacts on public health or safety.	No
2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.	No
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].	No

4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	No
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.	No
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.	No
7. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.	No
8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.	No
9. Violate Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.	No
10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).	No
11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).	No
12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).	No

E. SIGNATURE

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable land use plan and is an action that can be categorically excluded. The Proposed Action does not trigger any of the Extraordinary Circumstances found in 516 FM Chapter 2, Appendix 2. I recommend that the Proposed Action be allowed and that no further environmental analysis is required.

/s/ Alan Bittner

August 8, 2014

Alan Bittner
Anchorage Field Manager

Date