

DECISION MEMORANDUM

Altar Valley High Priority Abandoned Mine Remediation
DOI-BLM-AZ-G020-2015-0003-CX
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Tucson Field Office

Project Description

The Bureau of Land Management - Tucson Field Office, with assistance from Arizona Game and Fish Department, would fence approximately 50 abandoned mine workings on public lands in the Altar Valley, Pima County, Arizona. The fences would be five-strand barbed wire and posted with "Danger - Hazardous Mine" warning signs. The project work would be completed in FY2015 by Arizona Game & Fish Department staff. All mine features are adjacent to existing roads, and no new roads to access the features would be necessary for the completion of this project. All mine workings identified for fencing have been surveyed by the AZGFD for potential wildlife habitat. Fencing off dangerous abandoned mine workings will eliminate hazards to the public, reduce liability of the Bureau of Land Management, and protect wildlife habitat.

Approval and Decision

Based on a review of the project described in the attached Categorical Exclusion documentation and field office staff recommendations, I have determined that the project is in conformance with the Phoenix Resource Management Plan (approved 1998) and is categorically excluded from further environmental analysis. It is my decision to approve the action as proposed.

Administrative Review or 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, Part 4 and the attached Form 1842-1. If an appeal is taken, your notice of appeal must be filed at Tucson Field Office, 3201 E Universal Way, Tucson AZ 85756 within 30 days from receipt of this decision. 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) (request) for a stay (suspension) 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. A petition for a stay is required to show sufficient justification based on the standards listed below. 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 (Department of the Interior, Office of the Field Solicitor, Sandra Day O'Connor U.S. Court House #404, 401 West Washington Street SPC44, Phoenix, AZ 85003-2151) (see 43 CFR 4.413) 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.

Except as otherwise provided by law or other pertinent regulation, a petition for a stay of a decision pending appeal shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

Standards for Obtaining a Stay

1. The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied,
2. The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits,
3. The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and
4. Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

/s/Karen Simms, Acting Field Office Manager 02/04/2015
Date

Attachment: Form 1842-1