

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Tuscarora Field Office
3900 E. Idaho St.
Elko, NV 89801

DECISION RECORD
for Coyote Mine Expansion Environmental Assessment
DOI-BLM-NV-E020-2025-0016-EA
November 2025

I. DECISION

I have reviewed the attached Environmental Assessment (EA), DOI-BLM-NV-E020-2025-0016-EA, and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), and it is my decision to select the Proposed Action (described in detail in the EA Chapter 2 Section 2.1). I hereby approve the proposed modification to the Coyote Mine Plan of Operations (Project) submitted by Progressive Contracting Inc. (PCI) under 43 CFR Subpart 3809. Based on my review of the modification to the Coyote Mine Plan of Operations and the analysis disclosed in the EA, I conclude that operations conducted under the plan modification will not result in unnecessary or undue degradation of the public lands.

The Project consists of mining the barite ore from PCI's mining claims that occupy approximately 65 acres of public land, travel to and from the mine site, and hauling the ore from the mine to the processing facility located 15 miles away on private land. PCI has been mining the Coyote Mine since 2015. The Proposed Action is to continue mining the barite ore at the Coyote Mine focused on a 47-acre area within PCI's 65-acre claim block with the provision that at any time only approximately 20 acres would be disturbed by active mining. Mining would be conducted anywhere throughout the entire claim block dependent upon the location of the barite ore. The existing access/haul road would continue to be used to transport the ore from the mine to the processing facility. Road maintenance would continue to be conducted on the access/haul road. PCI also proposes reopening an existing old road that extends from the south of the pit to the pit area for use by mine equipment to access the pit area. The Proposed Action is anticipated to extend the mine life by seven to ten years, depending on the economic value and size of the deposit.

The President issued Executive Order (EO) 14156, "Declaring a National Energy Emergency," on January 20, 2025, which directed the heads of executive departments and agencies to identify and exercise lawful authorities to "facilitate the identification, leasing, siting, production, transportation, refining, and generation of domestic energy resources... on Federal lands." On April 23, 2025, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) authorized the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to use alternative arrangements to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) before deciding whether to take urgently needed actions (43 CFR § 46.150) for projects that respond to the national energy emergency. On August 6, 2025, PCI submitted in

writing that it requests the alternative arrangements for compliance with NEPA, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, and Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act be used. On October 21, 2025, the request was confirmed by the Assistant Secretary – Land and Minerals Management.

II. COMPLIANCE AND CONFORMANCE

The Coyote Mine Plan of Operations modification has been reviewed for compliance with BLM policies, plans and programs, and the Mining Law and its implementing regulations. The Proposed Action is in conformance with the Elko Resource Management Plan (RMP), Issue-Minerals, Management Prescription-1, page 3. The Elko RMP 1987 Record of Decision (ROD) objectives for locatable mineral resources are specifically stated on pages 35 and 37. The BLM has the responsibility and authority to manage the surface for locatable mineral resources on public lands located within the BLM’s jurisdiction under the 43 CFR Subpart 3809 Surface Management Regulations, 43 CFR 3715 Regulations for Use and Occupancy Under the Mining Laws, and Section 302(b) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA). Further details regarding land use plan conformance are found in Section 1.5 of the EA.

III. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

On April 23, 2025, CEQ authorized the use of alternative arrangements to comply with NEPA before taking urgently needed actions (43 CFR §46.150) for projects that respond to the national energy emergency. Under these alternative arrangements for NEPA compliance, the Responsible Official is not required to seek public comment before finalizing an EA. The BLM published the Coyote Mine Plan of Operations modification on ePlanning on September 4, 2025.

Chapter 4 Section 4.1 of the EA provides the details on the consultation and coordination that has been completed on this Project.

IV. RATIONALE FOR DECISION

The BLM’s approval of the Project will allow PCI to continue to extract valuable mineral deposits on public lands that are open to the operation of the Mining Law of 1872, as amended, in a manner that will prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of the public lands, as defined at 43 CFR § 3809.5. The authorities under which I am making this decision are 43 CFR Subpart 3809; the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (43 U.S.C. §§ 1701 *et seq.*), and the Mining Law of 1872, as amended (30 U.S.C. §§ 22 *et seq.*).

The authorized and proposed operations provide for environmental protection measures and best management practices that are reasonable to avoid or minimize environmental harm created by the Project and will not result in unnecessary or undue degradation of the public lands. Under the Department’s alternative arrangements to comply with NEPA, the BLM prepared a rigorous and thorough EA, which considered the relevant potential environmental impacts, and which concluded with a FONSI.

In addition, the Project will contribute to addressing the national energy emergency declared in EO 14156, which notes the “unusual and extraordinary threat to our Nation’s economy, national security, and foreign policy” posed by “[t]he United States’ insufficient energy production, transportation, refining, and generation.” As the national energy emergency declaration notes, “Our Nation’s current inadequate development of domestic energy resources leaves us vulnerable

to hostile foreign actors and poses an imminent and growing threat to the United States' prosperity and national security." In conclusion, the Department considered the relevant factors and hereby determines that the Coyote Mine Project is appropriate to approve using emergency procedures because it will help the United States address the national energy emergency.

V. FINAL AGENCY ACTION

Coyote Mine Plan of Operations Expansion Modification Approval

Approved by:

Jared Bybee
Elko District Manager

Date

Secretarial Approval

I hereby approve the decision to authorize the Coyote Mine Plan of Operations Expansion Modification. Because I am exercising the delegated authority of the Secretary, my approval constitutes the final decision of the Department of the Interior and is not subject to appeal under Departmental regulations at 43 CFR Part 4. Any challenges to this decision must be brought in federal district court.

Approved by:

Leslie Shockley Beyer
Assistant Secretary,
Land and Minerals Management

Date