Guidance Document for Surface Mine Inspectors

This Guidance Document for Surface Mine Inspectors (Guidance Document) was developed by the Department of Conservation's Division of Mine Reclamation (DMR) in cooperation with the State Mining and Geology Board (SMGB). Considerable input was contributed by various stakeholders, including mine operators and owners, mining associations, consultants, public interest groups and representatives from lead agencies (mostly counties and cities) who are responsible for approving reclamation plans, administering permits and regulating surface mining operations.

Pursuant to Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 2774(e), DMR has established a training program for all surface mine inspectors that includes this Guidance Document and inspection workshops. The inspection workshops, which are offered by DMR in different regions of the state, are designed to provide surface mine inspector's tools and skills for practical application of the Guidance Document material. On or after July 1, 2020, all inspectors must have a certificate of completion of an inspection workshop on file with DMR and the lead agency. Additionally, surface mine inspectors must complete an inspection workshop within five years of their most recent certificate.

DMR and the SMGB recognize that those conducting surface mine inspections may have specialized professional expertise and may not be knowledgeable in all aspects of surface mine inspections and the associated requirements of the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA). In accordance with PRC Section 2774(e)(1), this Guidance Document provides instructions and recommendations to surface mine inspectors performing inspections pursuant to PRC Section 2774(b). Comprehensive mine inspections conducted by qualified inspectors help avoid or minimize adverse environmental effects from mined lands, encourage the production and conservation of minerals, reduce and eliminate residual hazards to public health and safety.

Mine inspectors shall use the Surface Mining Inspection Report (hereafter "IR") as adopted by the SMGB (Form MRRC-1) for documenting the inspection. The IR shall be completed pursuant to the instructions included on the form and shall include the professional licensing information of the person who conducted the inspection when a particular aspect or condition of an operation constitutes professional practice under California law. Inspectors shall carefully evaluate site conditions at each surface mining operation and should only perform work within their area of professional expertise in a manner consistent with applicable laws and regulations.

No requirement or recommendation contained in this Guidance Document is a limitation on any of the following:

- The power of the lead agency to inspect mining operations to enforce or administer any provision of law which it is specifically authorized or required to enforce or administer.

- The power of any state agency in the enforcement or administration of any provision of law which it is specifically authorized or required to enforce or administer.

- The police power of the permitting agency or on the power of the permitting agency to declare, prohibit, and abate nuisances.

Contents

Acronyms

AR	Annual Report
BMPs	Best Management Practices
CCR	California Code of Regulations
DMR	Division of Mine Reclamation
FACE	Financial Assurance Cost Estimate
FAM	Financial Assurance Mechanism
GPS	Global Positioning System
IR	Inspection Report
PRC	Public Resources Code
SMARA	Surface Mining and Reclamation Act
SMGB	State Mining and Geology Board

1 Mine Inspection Goals and Objectives

Comprehensive mine inspections conducted by qualified inspectors can promote reclamation of surface mining operations in accordance with their approved reclamation plans by identifying potential issues before they become Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) violations. Thorough mine inspections also provide details necessary for reviewing Financial Assurance Cost Estimates (FACE), thereby ensuring a sufficient Financial Assurance Mechanism (FAM), which protects the public's interest by setting aside adequate funds for reclamation in cases where the surface mining operation is abandoned or the operator is unable to reclaim in accordance with the approved reclamation plan. Finally, properly conducted inspections promote a "level playing field" amongst mine operators through consistent regulation and can reduce the lead agency's potential liability.

2 SMARA Inspection Requirements

The following list provides the inspector with SMARA requirements found in Public Resource Code (PRC) Section 2774 and the SMGB's regulatory requirements found in CCR Section 3504.5.

- Inspection Interval/Scheduling:
  - Surface mining operations shall be inspected by the lead agency in intervals of no more than 12 months; however, when calculating a 12 month inspection interval, the lead agency may use the full calendar month containing the last conducted annual inspection.
  - If an operator does not request an inspection date on the Annual Report (AR)(MRRC-2) pursuant to PRC Section 2207, or if the lead agency is unable to inspect the surface mining operation on the date requested by the operator, the lead agency shall provide the operator with a minimum of five (5) days' written notice of a pending inspection (unless a lesser time period is agreed to by the operator).
- Inspection Intent:
  - To determine the extent of "mined lands" subject to SMARA and whether the surface mining operation is in compliance with SMARA and the approved reclamation plan.
- Surface Mining Inspection Report (MRRC-1), hereafter IR:
  - Inspections shall be documented using a form developed by the Division of Mine Reclamation (DMR) and approved by the State Mining and Geology Board (SMGB).
  - The IR consists of ten sections (Blocks I-X):
    - Blocks I-VII are for background information on the mine
    - Block VIII includes four columns:
      - Column 1: potential reclamation plan requirements
      - Column 2: requirements from the approved reclamation plan
      - Column 3: description of site conditions and any compliance issues
      - Column 4: checkbox for observed SMARA violations.
    - Blocks IX-X are for listing comments to support observations of mine site conditions, including violations

- Inspection Reporting:
    - The lead agency shall provide the following to DMR within 90 days of conducting the inspection:
        - A signed and completed copy of the Notice of Completion of Inspection that includes the following:
            - A signed and completed copy of the IR
            - A narrative describing aspects of the surface mining operation not in compliance with SMARA that were:
                - Corrected before submission of the IR to DMR
                - Not corrected before submission of the IR to DMR
                - A statement describing the lead agency's intended response to any aspects of the surface mining operation not in compliance with SMARA that were not corrected before submission of the IR.
            - Information indicating whether or not the surface mining operation has:
                - A review of the following documents under subdivision (b) or (h) of PRC Section 2770:
                    - Reclamation plan
                    - Financial assurances
                    - An interim management plan.
                - An appeal pending before the SMGB or lead agency under subdivision (e) or (h) of PRC Section 2770.
    - The Lead agency shall also provide a copy of the Notice of Completion of Inspection and a copy of the IR and supporting documentation to the mine operator.

3 SMARA Inspectors

The following sections describe SMARA inspector qualifications, licensing requirements, where applicable, and the SMARA inspector training program.

3.1 SMARA Requirements

SMARA Section 2774(b)(1),requires a mine inspector to be either one of the following:

- A California state-licensed:
    - Geologist
    - Civil Engineer/Land Surveyor
    - Landscape Architect
    - Forester
- OR, a qualified lead agency employee.

Mine inspectors shall not inspect a mine if they have been employed by the surface mining operation being inspected in the last 12 months. Additional requirements and clarifications for mine inspector requirements are found in CCR Section 3504.5.

3.2 Licensing Requirements

Inspection of certain aspects or conditions of surface mining operations must be performed by or under the supervision of a licensed professional. Determining the appropriate licensed professional to evaluate a particular aspect or condition will be determined in large part on existing state licensure law.

Information, including applicable statutes and regulations, governing the use of California state-licensed professionals regarding the inspection of aspects or conditions of surface mining operations can be found in the following laws and regulations:

- Geologists and Geophysicists Act
  - Business and Professions Code (B&PC) Section 7800-7887; CCR Title 16, Division 29 Sections 3000-3067; http://www.bpelsg.ca.gov/laws/index.shtml
- Professional Engineers Act
  - B&PC Sections 6700-6799; CCR Title 16, Division 5 Sections 400-476; http://www.bpelsg.ca.gov/laws/index.shtml
- Landscape Architects Practice Act
  - B&PC Section 5615-5683; CCR Title 16, Division 26 Sections 2602-2680; http://www.latc.ca.gov/laws_regs/index.shtml
- Professional Foresters Law
  - Public Resources Code Sections 750-783 http://bofdata.fire.ca.gov/professional_foresters_registration/

It is important to note that State-licensed professionals are ethically obligated to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public and the environment. State-licensed professionals must practice within his/her area of expertise in accordance with their respective licensing Acts and associated regulations. For example, evaluation of engineering or geological conditions, when required during an inspection, must be performed by or under the supervision of a California-licensed professional engineer (civil) and a California-licensed professional geologist in accordance with the Professional Engineers Act, and/or the Geologist and Geophysicists Act, respectively.

All inspections must be conducted with these licensing requirements in mind. Some of the most commonly encountered conditions requiring evaluation by a State-licensed professional include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Mining outside of permitted or reclamation boundaries.
- Assessing ongoing excavations and mined area's impacts on final reclamation plan configurations.
- Slope failures, slope instability and geologic hazards that preclude reclamation of the site in accordance with the approved reclamation plan.

Where observed site aspects or conditions require evaluation outside the area of expertise of the mine inspector, he/she shall note on the inspection report that an appropriate California state-licensed

professional, technical expert or specialist be retained by the lead agency or mine operator to evaluate the aspect or condition in question.

Retention of a state-licensed professional shall be made in sufficient time following completion of the inspection so operators can evaluate potential violations of SMARA within 90 days of the inspection. For conditions that may take longer than 90 days to evaluate, the lead agency shall provide a timeline for submitting the required technical report(s). Adherence to this guidance regarding evaluations that require state-licensed professionals will allow lead agencies to comply with Public Resources Code section 2774(b)(1)(C). In cases where conditions are perceived to be an imminent and substantial endangerment to the environment or public safety, the lead agency shall involve the appropriate state-licensed professional immediately.

3.3 SMARA Inspector Training Program

In accordance with PRC Section 2774(e), DMR's training program is designed to provide instruction and recommendations to surface mine inspectors to ensure compliance with SMARA. The training program includes DMR-administered inspection workshops that are offered in different regions of the state to provide prospective surface mine inspectors with skills for practical application of this Guidance Document. PRC Section 2774(e)(3) requires all surface mine inspectors to have a certificate of completion of an inspection workshop on file with the Lead Agency and the DMR no later than July 1, 2020. Surface mine inspectors must renew their certificate of completion every five years. Information on how to register for upcoming inspection workshops can be found at DMR's website at www.conservation.ca.gov/dmr.

4 Recommended Pre-Mine Inspection Activities

The following sections provide recommendations to assist inspectors preparing for annual SMARA mine inspections.

4.1 Inspection Scheduling

The date of the annual inspection is requested by the mine operator on the AR. However, if the mine operator does not request an inspection date on the AR filed or if the lead agency is unable to inspect on the date requested by the operator, the lead agency must provide the operator with a minimum of five days' written notice of pending inspection (unless a shorter time period is agreed upon by the lead agency and mine operator). For purposes of complying with this subsection, correspondence through email is acceptable.

Factors such as weather, location of the mine, and availably of both the operator and inspector can be considered when scheduling the inspection. Specific meeting location and meeting time should be confirmed with the operator. It is highly recommended that the operator and lead agency coordinate mutually available dates before the operator requests the inspection date on the AR.

4.2 Mine File Review

Knowledge of the approved reclamation plan requirements and the surface mining is necessary for the conduct of an inspection.

Mine file review is especially critical if the approved reclamation plan requirements have not been summarized in Column 2 of Block VIII of the IR or if the reclamation plan and/or other reclamation requirements have been amended since the mine was last inspected.

Information gathered during review of the documents in the following sections shall be utilized by the inspector to fill out Block I through Block VII, and the applicable portions of Column 2 in Block VIII, of the IR.

The following documents, at a minimum, should be reviewed prior to conducting the inspection:

4.2.1 Approved Reclamation Plan

The inspector should review the approved reclamation plan and any amendments, as well as any other documents included by reference, including conditions of approval, other permit requirements and supplementary documents, such as environmental documents prepared for the project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act that relate to reclamation of the mine site. Conditions of approval that relate to facility operations solely of local concern, such as hours of operation, noise, and dust control are not subject to the SMARA annual inspection.

The inspector should review maps from the reclamation plan, specifically maps showing property/lease boundaries and reclamation boundaries. Obtain a recent base map, aerial imagery, and/or topographic map of the mine site showing the site's facilities at an appropriate scale for ease in mapping the conditions observed during the inspection. Historic maps and aerial images may reveal a hidden condition that was forgotten or masked by current mine site activities. It is recommended that the reclamation plan boundary be overlain on a recent or current aerial image to aid in inspection.

4.2.2 Financial Assurance

The inspector should review the most recently approved FACE. Determine if the current FAM amount is in agreement with (i.e. equals or exceeds) the most recent FACE amount. If the FACE is not adequate and/or the FAM is not adequate (i.e. has not been updated, is on incorrect forms, incorrectly completed, etc.), note the areas of inadequacy and include them as possible deficiencies or violations in the final inspection report. Information found in the current FACE/FAM shall be used to fill out Block VII of the IR.

More information about financial assurance review can be found on the SMGBs website, located here: http://www.conservation.ca.gov/smgb/Guidelines

4.2.3 Annual Reports

The inspector should review a copy of the most recent AR prior to conducting the inspection and note the reporting year for which it was filed with DMR in Block V of the IR. Note the reported mine status from the previous AR and compare with site conditions when conducting the inspection.

4.2.4 Previous Inspection Reports

The inspector should review the most recent IR and any attached sheets/documents, in order to identify any noted violations, corrective measures, and/or recommendations. Any items that were noted in the previous inspection report but not yet addressed should be discussed with the operator during the inspection in an effort to resolve the issue(s).

4.2.5 Other Agency Permit Requirements

Other public agencies that exercise jurisdiction may require separate permits for structures and regulated constituents at the mine site including, but not limited to, ponds, landfills, waste units, cleanup and abatement orders, etc. The other public agencies may have separate closure, maintenance and monitoring guarantee requirements including financial assurance mechanisms that do not list the lead agency as a beneficiary. The lead agency should become familiar with other agency requirements that affect the surface mining operation and how they could potentially delay the initiation or completion of reclamation.

5 Recommended Mine Inspection Activities

The following section contains recommendations for inspectors conducting annual SMARA mine inspections.

5.1 Materials and Equipment

The inspector should consider bringing the following materials and equipment to the mine in order to perform the inspection:

- Personal protective equipment as necessary
- Camera (or electronic device with a built-in camera)
- IR form, with Blocks I-VII filled out as well as Column 2 of Block VIII
- A copy of the approved reclamation plan, maps, permit conditions of approval that effect reclamation and other documents related to the approved reclamation
- Global Positioning System (GPS) device to record the locations of observations
- Recent and historical aerial/satellite imagery
- Topographic map(s)
- Clinometer (or pocket transit)
- Tape measure and/or rangefinder
- The previous year's IR
- Compass

5.2 Upon Arrival

Once on site, and prior to commencing the mine inspection, the inspector shall perform the following activities:

- Meet with the operator or the operator's representative at the designated meeting location and introduce all members of the inspection party.
- Explain the purpose, scope, and expectations for the inspection.
- Discuss safety requirements related to conduct of the mine inspection.
- Ask the operator for information on the mine's activities since the last inspection. Where has extraction most recently been occurring? What activities are anticipated during the upcoming year?

- Have areas of the mine been reclaimed or is reclamation currently in progress in a portion of the mine?
- Inquire about other public agency jurisdictional requirements that may affect the surface mining operation.

5.3 Recording Observations

Describe current site conditions and compliance issues noted for both operating and reclaimed surfaces of the mine site. Block IX of the IR is provided for additional space to describe site conditions and/or compliance issues. Attach additional sheets as necessary.

It is a good practice to get an overview of the mine by visiting the highest elevations on the site and/or points of interest that provide for the best panoramic views of the mine site. From these general overview locations the inspector should take notice of reclamation and property boundaries, slope configurations and conditions, vegetation, equipment and structures, and site drainage patterns.

It is important to take photographs and physical measurements at the mine site and its features whenever possible to document the condition/appearance of the mine site at the time of the inspection. Note the location and orientation of all photographs or other observations/physical measurements. We also recommend recording the latitude and longitude with a GPS unit (or a geotagged photo from a GPS-enabled camera or cell phone camera) so the area can easily be revisited during the next annual inspection. Describe the significance of the features appearing in each photograph.

5.3.1 Documenting Current Mine Site Conditions in the IR

Utilize the reclamation plan requirement information already filled out in Column 2 of Block VIII of the IR. Current conditions at the mine site shall be observed and described as applicable in Column 3 of Block VIII. Describe any aspects of the operation that are out of compliance with SMARA, such as those that might preclude reclamation of the site in accordance with the approved reclamation plan requirements. Such conditions shall be noted as a violation in Column 4 of Block VIII of the IR.

The numbered items below correspond to the numbering in Block VIII of the IR. Some reclamation plans may not address all items included in Block VIII of the IR. Conversely, some reclamation plans may have requirements that are not listed in Block VIII of the IR. As applicable, the inspector shall address the following aspects of the surface mining operation during the physical site inspection:

1) General Information:
   a) Observe and describe the current mining operation and mineral product(s) being extracted. Identify any unique or relevant ore extraction characteristics not described in the reclamation plan that may impact the reclamation of the site.
   b) Approved production amount in the reclamation plan or use permit
   c) End date of operations per the reclamation plan
   d) Permit end date
   e) End use described in the reclamation plan. Note whether the approved end use of the site will be achievable based on current site conditions

2) Boundaries
Verify mining operations are within permitted/approved reclamation plan boundaries. In accordance with the approved reclamation plan, list and/or describe the following:
   a) Property boundary area (in acres)
   b) Permit boundary (area in acres permitted for mining)
   c) Reclamation plan boundary area (in acres)
   d) Setback distances in feet required in the permit or approved reclamation plan

3) Slopes—Grading (CCR Sections 3502(b)(3), 3704, 3704.1)
Observe the current condition of slopes and compare to requirements within the approved reclamation plan:
   a) Fill slopes—note the condition of:
      i) Note the active slope configuration and conditions (e.g. are slopes clean or vegetated, do they have erosion rills or gullies, are slumps or slides apparent, etc.)
      ii) Note the reclaimed slope configuration and conditions (e.g. are slopes clean or vegetated, do they have erosion rills or gullies, are slumps or slides apparent, etc.)
      iii) Are fill slopes being compacted as required by the reclamation plan? Determine if any backfilling of an excavation has occurred. Are grading activities following engineered designs or specifications?
   b) Cut slopes—note the condition of:
      i) Do active slopes meet angle and height requirements; if steeper than required, can current slopes be graded and stay within property/reclamation plan boundaries? Are benches required? What is the condition of the inter-bench slopes? Based on the observed condition of the slopes, should a licensed geologist or engineer be consulted to assess whether or not a mine can be reclaimed in accordance with the approved reclamation plan?
      ii) Do reclaimed slopes meet angle and height requirements; if steeper than required, can current slopes be graded and stay within property/reclamation plan boundaries? Are benches required? What is the condition of the inter-bench slopes? Based on the observed condition of the mine slopes, should a licensed geologist or engineer be consulted to assess whether or not the slopes are reclaimed in accordance with the approved reclamation plan?

4) Erosion Control (CCR Sections 3503, 3706):
Observe any sediment and erosion control structures at the surface mining operation. Are required erosion control facilities properly constructed? Determine whether such measures appear to be functioning as designed in compliance with the approved reclamation plan. Note whether there is an existing Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan and whether requirements of such plan are being followed. Are contaminants being controlled? Is there evidence of chemical staining or leaching?
   a) Note the presence and condition of sediment and erosion control best management practices (BMPs)
   b) Are BMPs such as basins, diversion structures, and culverts constructed and maintained where necessary to control erosion?

c) Note the presence of vegetation meant to control erosion
d) Note any head cutting erosion that may have migrated or has the potential to migrate off site
e) Note if any discharge or sediment from the mine has migrated off site.

5) Ponds (basins) (CCR Sections 3503, 3706):
   a) Note the condition of basins and water retention structures on the site. Are existing basins properly designed for their intended use and do they meet requirements of the approved reclamation plan?
   b) Are basin capacities sufficient to prevent offsite sedimentation?
   c) Are basins maintained and free of excess sediment?

6) Stream & Wetland Protection (CCR Sections 3706, 3710):
   Describe and verify whether stream and wetland protections are installed and functioning in accordance with the approved reclamation plan. Note the following as applicable:
   a) Buffer distances to stream channels
   b) Berm dimensions
   c) BMPs properly installed at appropriate locations
   d) Surface runoff and drainage control structures
   e) Grading and other water conveyance measures directing runoff to natural drainage courses or interior basins
   f) Stockpiles managed to prevent erosion from wind or rain
   g) Stream diversions or channel flow impediments

7) Sensitive Wildlife & Plant Protection (CCR Section 3703):
   Observe and describe the occurrence and condition of any sensitive wildlife or plants identified in the approved reclamation plan.
   a) List species present
   b) Protection measures, as applicable

8) Soil/Overburden Stockpile Management (CCR Section 3704):
   Observe and describe the condition, configuration, and characteristics of any topsoil, overburden, mine waste and/or tailings piles.
   a) Observe and describe the activities for soil salvaging and stockpiling for future reclamation operations. Note the location and stability of existing topsoil stockpiles, and whether such stockpiles are in conformance with the approved reclamation plan. Are signs marking topsoil piles present?
   b) Note whether mine waste and/or overburden piles are in approved locations and being properly managed. Are BMPs in place to prevent erosion?
   c) Is topsoil being applied in accordance with the approved reclamation plan?

9) Revegetation (Section 3705):
Evaluate ongoing revegetation efforts or conduct revegetation monitoring to determine whether revegetation performance standards have been achieved, especially for final reclamation and closure. Note the presence of dead or distressed vegetation and possible causes. Note the presence, location, and status of test plots.
   a) Note the species present in revegetated areas and whether they match those listed in the reclamation plan
   b) Density is a performance standard for a certain number of plants per unit area and will require measurement to decide whether the average of several samples matches the performance standard for density provided in the reclamation plan
   c) Percent cover is a performance standard referring to the percent of ground covered by plants in the revegetated area. Visually estimate percent cover and decide whether it matches the performance standard for percent cover provided in the reclamation plan.
   d) Species richness is a performance standard for the average number of species present in samples of the revegetated area. Observe different species present and compare to the performance standards in the reclamation plan
   e) Note the presence of structures designed to protect vegetation
   f) If monitoring is occurring, request copies of any monitoring data if it has not already been provided
   g) Note the presence and location(s) of any invasive species and the efforts undertaken by the mine operator to control them

10) Structures (CCR Section 3709):
Note the disposition of existing structures at the surface mining operation. Are existing structures related to mining? Do any existing structures preclude completion of reclamation activities at the site as required by the approved reclamation plan? What will be the final disposition of the foundations? Are there regulated structures or substances (such as, hazardous materials containment areas, fuel tanks, septic tanks, venting structures, etc.)?

11) Equipment (CCR Section 3709):
Observe and describe permanent and mobile mining equipment in use or stored at the site. Will any equipment remain on site at the completion of surface mining operations? Note the general condition of the equipment and if other equipment is required to aid in the removal of equipment in disrepair.

12) Closure of Adits (CCR Section 3713):
Are there any openings to underground workings such as shafts or adits, or any abandoned wells associated with the facility? Do any of these features present an imminent risk to public health and safety? Are observed features addressed in the approved reclamation plan for the site?

13) Other Reclamation Plan Requirements:
Observe and describe the status of any other reclamation plan requirements that are not included in Column 1 of Block VIII of the IR. Such requirements may include specific permit conditions and/or mitigation measures within environmental documents that affect reclamation of the surface mining operation.

5.3.2 Violations

In column 4 of Block VIII enter a number for all site conditions determined to be out of compliance with the requirements of the approved reclamation plan. The lead agency may issue a notice of violation to the operator, per PRC Section 2774.1.

5.3.3 Other Considerations

In addition to the above items, during the physical site inspection, the inspector shall make note of current weather conditions, shall record the start time and end time of the inspection, and shall record the names and affiliations of all inspection attendees. This information shall be entered into Block IX of the IR.

The inspector shall consider whether the current physical condition of the mine site allows for reclamation in accordance with the approved reclamation plan. The inspector shall also determine if previously cited deficiencies or violations have been corrected, partially corrected, or not addressed by the operator. In cases where the reclamation plan is not specific on a certain site condition, determine if that condition is compatible with the proposed end use of the surface mining operation.

5.4 Discussion of Observations

Following the completion of the inspection, the inspector shall discuss the preliminary findings of the inspection with the operator or the operator's representative, and any other lead agency personnel in attendance. Anything observed during the inspection that appears to be inconsistent with SMARA and/or the approved reclamation plan should be documented and shared with the operator during or immediately following the inspection. Discuss whether any preventative measures are being implemented to maintain compliance with the approved reclamation plan. Discuss any aspects or conditions found to be inconsistent with SMARA and an estimate of the time required address the aspect or condition. The operator should be informed of the inspector's preliminary determination regarding the status of previously cited deficiencies or violations.

6 Post Mine Inspection

The IR should include a detailed description of mine site conditions, findings, and conclusions regarding compliance with SMARA. Violations, preventative and/or corrective measures and recommendations to correct deficiencies should be noted. The recommendations may include retaining a California licensed geologist or engineer to more thoroughly evaluate concerns with slope stability and drainage issues or other geological or engineering issues; the use of a landscape architect, forester, or botanist to investigate revegetation for aesthetic and erosion control issues; and the use of any other specialists where the scope of concern may be outside the Inspector's particular expertise. Additionally, documentation such as photographs should be included in Block IX of the IR.

6.1 Inspection Report and Notice of Completion Submittal

The finalized IR and any attachments shall be distributed by the lead agency as follows:

Submit one copy of the notice of completion and the IR within 90-days of completing of the inspection, to:

Department of Conservation
Division of Mine Reclamation
801 K St MS 09-06
Sacramento, CA 95814-3529

Submit one copy of the notice of completion and the IR to the mine operator and the operator's designated agent. If any part of the operation inspected is on federal Bureau of Land Management or United States Forest Service lands, one copy of final IR shall be forwarded to the appropriate office.

The lead agency must retain the original copy of the IR in accordance with CCR Section 3504(a).