



STATE MINING AND GEOLOGY BOARD

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT



ARNOLD
SCHWARZENEGGER
GOVERNOR

For Meeting Date: December 9, 2010

Agenda Item No. 15: Presentation of Select 2010 SMARA Surface Mine Inspection Reports for Three Surface Mining Operations for Acceptance Consideration by the State Mining and Geology Board.

INTRODUCTION: The State Mining and Geology Board (SMGB) serves as the lead agency under SMARA for forty-four (44) individual surface mining operations, including operations located in two counties (El Dorado County and Yuba County), twelve (12) San Francisco Bay marine dredging operations, and ten (10) cities that do not have mining ordinances. SMARA inspection reports for three (3) surface mining operations are being presented for acceptance consideration.

MINE INSPECTION REPORTS FOR THE SMGB'S ACCEPTANCE CONSIDERATION:

The 2010 SMARA mine inspection reports to be presented at the SMGB's December 9, 2010, regular business meeting for acceptance consideration by the SMGB are as follows:

- Atkinson Pit I (CA Mine ID #91-19-0004), City of Compton.
- Super Creek Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-33-0003), City of Desert Hot Springs.
- Garnet Pit (CA Mine ID #91-33-0031), City of Palm Springs.

A summary of violations and corrective measures per surface mining operation is presented below.

Atkinson Pit No. I (CA Mine ID #91-19-0004), City of Compton:

No violations or corrective measures were noted at time of inspection on November 17, 2010.

Super Creek Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-33-0003), City of Desert Hot Springs:

It should be noted that the following violations and corrective measures are based on the currently approved reclamation plan for the Super Creek site, and have been noted as ongoing since the 2007 annual inspection. Since early 2007 the operator has undertaken significant efforts to provide an amended reclamation plan that will both allow for an expansion of mining operations, and will bring the existing operations into full compliance with SMARA. Most recently, the operator's geotechnical consultant has conducted detailed direct shear field testing of soils comprising the existing tailings slopes at the quarry. On November 24, 2010, the SMGB received a Status Report and Interim Slope Stability Report for the Super Creek Quarry (see Exhibit C attached to this report). It is expected that a complete report presenting the results of this recent field testing will be submitted to the SMGB in January of 2011.



Executive Officer's Report

Agenda Item No. 15 – Select 2010 SMARA Surface Mine Inspection Reports

December 9, 2010

Page 2 of 4

Four ongoing violations were noted at time of inspection on November 18, 2010:

- Slope instability: Existing tailings slopes are over steepened in some areas and have not been demonstrated to be stable.
- Inadequate soil erosion control measures: Fine material continues to erode from the tailings slopes in amounts that could potentially impact Super Creek if aggressive monitoring and maintenance of the recently installed sediment catchment structures is not adhered to.
- Off-site encroachment: Surface mining activities have occurred beyond the boundary of the approved reclamation plan. Inadequate implementation of soil erosion control measures during past mining activities has resulted in impacts to the Super Creek drainage outside of the approved reclamation plan boundary.
- Inadequate revegetation efforts: The revegetation program has not been implemented in accordance with the approved reclamation plan.

The following corrective measure is offered:

- An amended reclamation plan that adequately addresses the above violations should be completed.

The following recommendations are offered:

- The financial assurance amount should be recalculated based upon further direction from the SMGB pertaining to tailings slope stability alternatives and subsequent SMGB and OMR staff reviews of an adequately revised amended reclamation plan.

Garnet Pit (CA Mine ID #91-33-0031), City of Palm Springs:

No violations were noted at time of inspection on November 18, 2010.

One corrective measure is noted regarding the large erosional gully that has formed on the southern property line. It is recommended that the operator and the Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) immediately agree to, and implement, temporary mitigation measures in order to prevent further erosion and expansion of the gully on the southern property line.

It is also recommended that the next annual revision of the financial assurance cost estimate should account for any increased costs associated with backfilling the large gully formed along the southern property line.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION: The Executive Officer recommends that the SMGB accept the three 2010 SMARA mine inspection reports, and transmit the findings contained therein to their respective local lead agency and each mine operator.



Executive Officer's Report

SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE:

To accept three 2010 SMARA surface mine inspection reports:

Mr. Chairman, in light of the information before the SMGB today, I move that the SMGB accept the three 2010 SMARA mine inspection reports as complete, and transmit the findings to the respective local lead agencies and each mine operator. These surface mining operations are the Atkinson Pit No. 1, Super Creek Quarry, and Garnet Pit.

Respectfully submitted:

Stephen M. Testa
Executive Officer



EXHIBITS

**Exhibit A Atkinson Pit I 2010 SMARA Annual
Inspection Report**

**Exhibit B Super Creek 2010 SMARA Annual Inspection
Report**

**Exhibit C Super Creek Quarry Status Update and
Interim Slope Stability Report**

**Exhibit D Garnet Pit 2010 SMARA Annual Inspection
Report**

