



STATE MINING AND GEOLOGY BOARD

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

For Meeting Date: March 10, 2011

Agenda Item No. 12: Presentation of Select 2010 SMARA Surface Mine Inspection Reports for Eleven 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-two (42) individual surface mining operations, including operations located in two counties (El Dorado County and Yuba County), nine (9) San Francisco Bay marine dredging operations, and seven (7) cities that do not have mining ordinances. SMARA inspection reports for eleven (11) 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 March 10, 2011, regular business meeting for acceptance consideration are as follows:

- Richmond (Chevron) Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-07-0006), City of Richmond.
- Pt. Richmond (Canal) Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-07-0007), City of Richmond.
- Weber Creek Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-09-0002), County of El Dorado.
- Diamond Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-09-0003), County of El Dorado.
- Chile Bar Slate Mine (CA Mine ID #91-09-0004), County of El Dorado.
- Timm Mine (CA Mine ID #91-09-0006), County of El Dorado.
- Lapis Sand Plant (CA Mine ID #91-27-0006), City of Marina.
- Big Gun Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-31-0013), City of Rocklin.
- Western Aggregates (CA Mine ID #91-58-0001), County of Yuba.
- Cal Sierra Development (CA Mine ID #91-58-0003), County of Yuba.
- Sperbeck Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-58-0004), County of Yuba.

A summary of violations, corrective measures and inspector's recommendations per surface mining operation is presented below.

Richmond (Chevron) Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-07-0006), City of Richmond:

The following violations, originally noted in 2005, were ongoing at time of inspection on December 17, 2010:

- The west-southwest facing quarry cut slope shows evidence of failure and is considered to be unstable.



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- Mining-related activities (slope instability features) are beyond the footprint of the approved reclamation plan.

The following corrective measures are noted:

- The operator should develop an Amended Reclamation Plan that includes a strategy for stabilization of the failed quarry cut slope.
- Slope stability monitoring on the west-southwest facing cut slope should continue until a stabilization strategy is implemented. Such slope stability monitoring should continue to be performed by a California licensed geotechnical engineer and/or certified engineering geologist.
- Until an Amended Reclamation Plan is approved, revegetation success monitoring should remain ongoing in order to ensure that criteria set forth in the currently approved 1981 Reclamation Plan continue to be met.

The following recommendation is offered:

- The financial assurance amount should be adjusted, as appropriate, to reflect stabilization of the quarry cut slope, reclamation of all remaining mining-related disturbance-including reclamation of remaining portions of the quarry floor, potential additional revegetation efforts, monitoring requirements, and current labor, fuel, and equipment rates.

Pt. Richmond (Canal) Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-07-0007), City of Richmond:

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

Weber Creek Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-09-0002), County of El Dorado:

The following on-going violations were noted at time of inspection on December 15, 2010:

- Over-excavation of the highwall has occurred in at least two locations.
- Encroachment upon the established property line setback of 30 feet has occurred.
- The main ½-inch minus material stockpile exceeds the maximum height of 50 feet and lacks erosion control measures.
- No re-vegetation test plot program is currently established.
- No topsoil management program is currently established.
- Reclamation of the Greenstone Country Development parcel has not been completed.

One new violation was noted at time of inspection:

- Inadequate drainage control measures have resulted in direct discharge of surface flows to the Weber Creek drainage.

The following required corrective measures were noted:

- Implement grade controls for the highwall and revise quarry cutslope configuration in an amended reclamation plan.
- Improve sediment erosion control and winterizing measures for all product stockpiles.
- Continue with soil erosion control efforts throughout the quarry.
- Lower the main ½”-minus stockpile to a height no greater than 50 feet per criteria set forth in the 1997 Reclamation Plan and provide for material erosion preventive measures around the perimeter of this stockpile, or propose alternatives (e.g., construction of an intervening bench and adequate soil erosion and drainage control measures).
- Establish topsoil management program.
- Initiate a revegetation test plot program.
- Reclaim the Greenstone Country Development parcel.
- Develop an amended reclamation plan that meets CVRWQCB and DFG requirements.

Diamond Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-09-0003), County of El Dorado:

One violation was noted at time of inspection on December 15, 2010, as it is apparent that monitoring and reporting requirements of the revegetation test plot program within the 2007 Reclamation Plan have not been completed.

One corrective measure is noted with regards to possible Reclamation Plan boundary line encroachment in the northeastern quarry area. The inspector recommends that the northern Reclamation Plan boundary be clearly and accurately defined on the ground in order to determine the proximity of recent surface mining activities.

Chile Bar Slate Mine (CA Mine ID #91-09-0004), County of El Dorado:

Two violations were noted at time of inspection on December 21, 2010:

- A current financial assurance cost estimate is lacking for the site.
- The site is considered idle as defined by PRC Section 2727.1, and may be considered abandoned per PRC Section 2770(h)(6), as no Interim Management Plan (IMP) has been provided to the SMGB for review and approval consideration per PRC Section 2770(h).

The following recommendations are offered:

- A revised financial assurance cost estimate should be provided to the SMGB for review and approval consideration per CCR Section 3804(c).
- An IMP should be completed and provided to the SMGB for review and approval consideration per PRC Section 2770(h).

Timm Mine (CA Mine ID #91-09-0006), County of El Dorado:

No violations were noted at time of inspection on December 21, 2010.

One corrective measure is noted regarding the need to establish positive drainage from the road surface in the vicinity of the stream crossing at the southern end of the site.

The following recommendations are offered:

- It is recommended that the operator re-establish positive drainage of the road surface on the southern end of the stream crossing in the southern portion of the site in order to prevent future erosion and/or saturation of the stream crossing fill material.
- The operator should submit a revised financial assurance cost estimate to the SMGB for review and approval consideration as required by CCR Section 3804(c).

Lapis Sand Plant (CA Mine ID #91-27-0006), City of Marina:

No violations or corrective measures were noted at time of inspection on December 22, 2010.

It is recommended that the operator submit a revised financial assurance cost estimate to the SMGB for review and approval consideration per CCR Section 3804(c).

Big Gun Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-31-0013), City of Rocklin:

The following violations were noted at time of inspection on December 14, 2010:

- Annual slope stability inspections by a qualified professional have not been conducted as required in Section 1.8 of the Management Plan included as part of the Interim Management Plan.
- Erosion control monitoring has not been performed by a qualified professional as required in Section 2.0 of the Management Plan included as part of the Interim Management Plan.
- The existing financial assurance mechanism is deemed inadequate, and a revised financial assurance cost estimate has not been submitted to the SMGB during the past year.

The following corrective measures are offered:

- A slope stability inspection by a qualified professional should be conducted as required in Section 1.8 of the Management Plan included as part of the Interim Management Plan.

- Erosion control monitoring should be performed by a qualified professional as required in Section 2.0 of the Management Plan included as part of the Interim Management Plan.
- A revised financial assurance cost estimate should be submitted to the SMGB for review and approval, followed by an acceptable financial assurance mechanism.

Western Aggregates (CA Mine ID #91-58-0001), County of Yuba:

No violations or corrective measures were noted at time of inspection on December 16, 2010.

It is anticipated that a revised Amended Reclamation Plan for the Western Aggregates Yuba Goldfields Operation will be submitted to the SMGB for review and subsequent approval consideration in early 2011.

Cal Sierra Development (CA Mine ID #91-58-0003), County of Yuba:

One violation is noted at this time as the financial assurance cost estimate for the Cal Sierra surface mining operation has not been revised since 2008.

The following recommendation is offered:

- A revised financial assurance cost estimate should be prepared and submitted to the SMGB for review and approval per CCR Section 3804(c).

Sperbeck Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-58-0004), County of Yuba:

No violations were noted at time of inspection on December 10, 2010.

One corrective measure was noted as it has been over one year since the financial assurance cost estimate for the Sperbeck Quarry has been updated.

The following recommendation is offered:

- A revised financial assurance cost estimate should be prepared and submitted to the SMGB for review and approval per CCR Section 3804(c).

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

SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE:

To accept eleven 2010 SMARA surface mine inspection reports:

Mr. Chairman, in light of the information before the SMGB today, I move that the SMGB accept the eleven 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 Richmond (Chevron) Quarry, Pt. Richmond (Canal) Quarry, Weber Creek Quarry, Diamond Quarry, Chili Bar Slate Mine, Timm Mine, Lapis Sand Mine, Big Gun Quarry, Western Aggregates, Cal Sierra Development and Sperbeck Quarry.

Respectfully submitted:

Stephen M. Testa
Executive Officer