



STATE MINING AND GEOLOGY BOARD

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

For Meeting Date: March 14, 2013

Agenda Item No. 8: Presentation of 2012 SMARA Surface Mine Inspection Reports for Seven 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-nine (49) individual surface mining operations, including operations located in three counties (Alpine County, El Dorado County and Yuba County), eight San Francisco Bay marine dredging operations, and eight cities that do not have SMGB certified mining ordinances. SMGB staff also conducts annual SMARA inspections at individual sites within other jurisdictions where it has been determined that a potential conflict of financial interest exists per California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 3504.5(c). SMARA inspection reports for seven surface mining operations are being presented for acceptance consideration.

MINE INSPECTION REPORTS FOR THE SMGB'S ACCEPTANCE CONSIDERATION: The 2012 SMARA mine inspection reports to be presented at the SMGB's March 14, 2013 regular business meeting for acceptance consideration are as follows:

- Richmond (Chevron) Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-07-0006), 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.
- Somerset Sand Mine (CA Mine ID #91-09-0009), County of El Dorado.
- Lawyer Pit (CA Mine ID #91-09-0010), 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.

A summary of violations, corrective measures and inspector's recommendations noted in the annual inspection reports for the above surface mining operations are 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 28, 2012:

1. The west-southwest facing quarry cut slope shows evidence of failure and is considered to be unstable.
2. Mining-related activities (slope instability features) are beyond the footprint of the approved reclamation plan.



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The following corrective measures are noted:

1. The operator should develop an Amended Reclamation Plan that includes a strategy for stabilization of the failed quarry cut slope.
2. 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.
3. 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:

1. 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.

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

Based on observations made at time of inspection on November 27, 2012, and on issues addressed in previous annual inspection reports, the following conclusions regarding violations and corrective measures are offered;

The following on-going violations were noted:

- 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.

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:

The following two violations are noted:

1. Monitoring and reporting requirements of the revegetation test plot program included within the 2007 Reclamation Plan have not been completed.
2. The operator is in violation of CCR Section 3804(c), as it has been over one year since a revised financial assurance cost estimate has been provided to the SMGB.

Somerset Sand Mine (CA Mine ID #91-09-0009), County of El Dorado:

No violations or corrective measures were noted at time of inspection on November 20, 2012.

Lawyer Pit (CA Mine ID #91-09-0010), County of El Dorado:

No violations or corrective measures were noted at time of inspection on November 21, 2012.

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

No violations or corrective measures were noted at time of inspection on January 17, 2013. It is recommended that the operator continue to monitor and control ice plant across the site, and to eradicate any occurrences of pampas grass and European beach grass.

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

No violations of the approved reclamation plan were noted at time of inspection on December 10, 2012. However, it has been over five years since a revised financial assurance cost estimate has been provided to the SMGB by the operator, which is a violation of SMARA.

One corrective measure is noted regarding the need for the operator to clarify which existing structures will remain on the site.

Considering the above items, the inspector offers the following recommendations:

- The operator should provide the SMGB with a revised map or figure to clearly show which existing structures will remain on the Big Gun site following completion of reclamation activities. It is anticipated that such clarification may be processed as a non-substantial deviation from the approved reclamation plan.

- The operator should provide a revised financial assurance cost estimate to the SMGB per CCR Section 3804.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION: The Executive Officer recommends that the SMGB accept the seven 2012 SMARA surface mining inspection reports as complete, and transmit the findings contained therein to the SMARA lead agencies and mine operators.

SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE:

To accept seven 2012 SMARA surface mine inspection reports as presented:

Mr. Chairman, in light of the information before the State Mining and Geology Board today, I move that the SMGB accept the seven 2012 SMARA mine inspection reports as presented, and direct the Executive Officer to transmit the findings to the respective SMARA lead agencies and mine operators.

Respectfully submitted:



Stephen M. Testa
Executive Officer