



STATE MINING AND GEOLOGY BOARD

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

For Meeting Date: September 12, 2013

Agenda Item No. 8: Presentation of 2013 SMARA Surface Mine Inspection Reports for Six 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 six surface mining operations are being presented for acceptance consideration.

MINE INSPECTION REPORTS FOR THE SMGB'S ACCEPTANCE CONSIDERATION:

The 2013 SMARA mine inspection reports to be presented at the SMGB's September 12, 2013 regular business meeting for acceptance consideration are as follows:

- Merrill Borrow Pit (CA Mine ID #91-02-0001), County of Alpine.
- Gansberg Sand (CA Mine ID #91-02-0002), County of Alpine.
- Diamond Valley Borrow Site (CA Mine ID #91-02-0004), County of Alpine.
- Fredericksburg Gravel Pit (CA Mine ID #91-02-0005), County of Alpine.
- Chile Bar Slate Mine (CA Mine ID #91-09-0004), County of El Dorado.
- Marin Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-09-0013), County of El Dorado.

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.

Merrill Borrow Pit (CA Mine ID #91-02-0001), County of Alpine:

No operational violations or corrective measures were noted based on inspection of the Merrill Borrow Pit on August 16, 2013. However, it has been over one year since the operator has provided the SMGB with a revised financial assurance cost estimate, which is a violation of PRC Section 2773.1 and CCR Section 3804(c). In addition, the approved reclamation plan for the site is antiquated and provides very little specific information pertaining to required reclamation activities. As such, the following recommendations are offered:

1. It is recommended that the reclamation plan be updated to include a reclamation plan map, performance standards for slope stability, and a revegetation plan appropriate for the site.



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2. It is recommended that the operator prepare a revised financial assurance cost estimate for submittal to the SMGB per CCR Section 3804(c).

Gansberg Sand (CA Mine ID #91-02-0002), County of Alpine:

The following violations are noted based on observations made at time of inspection on August 21, 2013, and based on review of pertinent documents:

1. The operator has failed to provide an increased financial assurance to match the most recent revised financial assurance cost estimate as approved by the SMGB on December 13, 2012.
2. The operation is in violation of Use Permit Condition No. 4, which requires revegetation activities to occur every five years, as it does not appear that any active revegetation efforts have been commenced by the operator.

One corrective measure is noted:

1. The operator should provide notification to the Alpine County Planning Director in order to comply with Use Permit Condition No. 10 which allows for expansion of the working area to 10 acres.

The following recommendations are offered:

1. The operator should provide an increased or replacement financial assurance to the SMGB that matches the most recently approved financial assurance cost estimate.
2. The operator should commence revegetation activities on portions of the Gansberg Sand site that will no longer be disturbed by mining activities in order to comply with Use Permit Condition No. 4. Alternatively, the operator may wish to amend the Reclamation Plan and Alpine County Use Permit Conditions such that all revegetation activities would not be required to commence until mining activities are complete.

Diamond Valley Borrow Site (CA Mine ID #91-02-0004), County of Alpine:

No violations were noted at time of inspection on August 16, 2013. One corrective measure regarding maintenance of the silt fences installed in the southeast corner of the site is noted.

It is recommended that the operator provide a revised financial assurance cost estimate to the SMGB that accounts for reclamation activities that have occurred during the past year.

Fredericksburg Gravel Pit (CA Mine ID #91-02-0005), County of Alpine:

No violations or corrective measures were noted at time of inspection on August 21, 2013.

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

No violations or corrective measures were noted at time of inspection on August 28, 2013.

Marin Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-09-0013), County of El Dorado:

No violations or corrective measures were noted at time of inspection on August 19, 2013.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION: The Executive Officer recommends that the SMGB accept the six 2013 SMARA surface mining inspection reports as complete, and direct staff to transmit the findings contained therein to the SMARA lead agencies, the mine operators and the Department of Conservation.

SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE:

To accept six 2013 SMARA surface mine inspection reports as presented:

Mr. Chair, in light of the information before the State Mining and Geology Board today, I move that the SMGB accept the six 2013 SMARA mine inspection reports as presented, and direct the Executive Officer to transmit the findings to the respective SMARA lead agencies, mine operators and the Department of Conservation.

Respectfully submitted:



Stephen M. Testa
Executive Officer