

Information Required
for
Plans of Operations Submitted under 43 CFR 3809

File plans of mining claim operations with the local BLM Field Office having jurisdiction over the lands involved. BLM does not require that the plan be on a particular form. A plan of operations must contain the following information and describe the proposed operations at a level of detail sufficient enough for BLM to determine if the plan would cause unnecessary or undue degradation of public lands (Refer to 43 CFR 3809.401):

Operator Information

The name, mailing address, phone number, taxpayer identification number of the operator(s), and the BLM serial number(s) of any unpatented mining claim(s) where disturbance would occur. If the operator is a corporation, you must identify one individual as the point of contact. You must notify BLM in writing within 30 calendar days of any change of operator or corporate point of contact or in the mailing address of the operator or corporate point of contact.

Description of Operations

A description of the equipment, devices, or practices you propose to use during operations including, where applicable:

1. Maps of the project area at an appropriate scale showing the location of exploration activities, drill sites, mining activities, processing facilities, waste rock and tailing disposal areas, support facilities, structures, buildings, and access routes.
2. Preliminary or conceptual designs, cross sections, and operating plans for mining areas, processing facilities, and waste rock and tailing disposal facilities.
3. Water management plans.
4. Rock characterization and handling plans.
5. Quality assurance plans.
6. Spill contingency plans.
7. A general schedule of operations from start through closure.
8. Plans for all access roads, water supply pipelines, and power or utility services.

Reclamation Plan

A plan for reclamation to meet the standards in Sec. 3809.420, with a description of the equipment, devices, or practices you propose to use including, where applicable, plans for the following activities:

1. Drill-hole plugging.
2. Regrading and reshaping.
3. Mine reclamation, including information on the feasibility of pit backfilling that details economic, environmental, and safety factors.
4. Riparian mitigation.
5. Wildlife habitat rehabilitation.
6. Topsoil handling.
7. Revegetation.
8. Isolation and control of acid-forming, toxic, or deleterious materials.
9. Removal or stabilization of buildings, structures and support facilities.
10. Post-closure management.

Monitoring Plan

A proposed plan for monitoring the effect of your operations. You must design monitoring plans to meet the following objectives:

1. To demonstrate compliance with Federal or State environmental laws and regulations.
2. To provide early detection of potential problems.
3. To supply information that will assist in directing corrective actions should they become necessary.

Where applicable, you must include in monitoring plans details on type and location of monitoring devices, sampling parameters and frequency, analytical methods, reporting procedures, and procedures to respond to adverse monitoring results. Monitoring plans may incorporate existing State or other Federal monitoring requirements to avoid duplication. Examples of monitoring programs which may be necessary include surface- and ground-water quality and quantity, air quality, revegetation, stability, noise levels, and wildlife mortality.

Interim Management Plan

A plan to manage the project area during periods of temporary closure (including periods of seasonal closure) to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation. The interim management plan must include, where applicable, the following:

1. Measures to stabilize excavations and workings.
2. Measures to isolate or control toxic or deleterious materials. Refer to 3809.420(b)(12)(vii).
3. Provisions for the storage or removal of equipment, supplies and structures.
4. Measures to maintain the project area in a safe and clean condition.
5. Plans for monitoring site conditions during periods of non-operation.

6. A schedule of anticipated periods of temporary closure during which you would implement the interim management plan, including provisions for notifying BLM of unplanned or extended temporary closures.

Reclamation Cost Estimate

At a time specified by BLM, you must submit an estimate of the cost to fully reclaim your operations as required by Sec. 3809.552. BLM will review your reclamation cost estimate and notify you of any deficiencies or additional information that must be submitted in order to determine a final reclamation cost. BLM will notify you when we have determined the final amount for which you must provide financial assurance.

Additional Information

BLM may require you to supply the following additional information:

1. Operational and baseline environmental information for BLM to analyze potential environmental impacts as required by the National Environmental Policy Act and to determine if your plan of operations will prevent unnecessary or undue degradation. This could include information on public and non-public lands needed to characterize the geology, paleontological resources, cave resources, hydrology, soils, vegetation, wildlife, air quality, cultural resources, and socioeconomic conditions in and around the project area, as well as information that may require you to conduct static and kinetic testing to characterize the potential for your operations to produce acid drainage or other leachate. BLM is available to advise you on the exact type of information and level of detail needed to meet these requirements.
2. Other information, if necessary to ensure that your operations will comply with this subpart.