

## **BLM Proposed Mitigation Measures**

The following mitigation measures are proposed to become conditions of approval of the Cecil R – Jackson Exploration Plan of Operations, in the event the BLM would approve the Project Proposal.

1. Solid waste including oil, grease, and plastic containers will be legally disposed offsite. All drill sites will be free of trash & litter during and upon completion of drilling.

2. Drill cuttings will not be discarded in drainages but will be repacked into the drill hole or contoured into the drill road around the drill site.

3. Topsoil will be stockpiled at the edge/berm/toe of roads or at the switch-back of all newly constructed drill and access roads. Topsoil stockpiles will be treated as soon as they are stripped to reduce erosion. On steep slopes where substantial cut-and-fill would be needed, the available topsoil materials will be salvaged. Topsoil will be stored adjacent to the newly constructed exploration roads or any drill pads that would be required. However, in some areas topsoil may be transported to stockpiles, which will be stabilized by interim seeding measures against wind and water erosion. In some locations, the presence of rocky areas or rock outcrops will prevent the removal of topsoil. On ridge tops and flatter slopes where cut-and-fill volumes would be minimal or nonexistent, topsoil will not be removed from the road surface.

Upon road or pad closure, the topsoil will be replaced in areas where it had been removed after first ripping the compacted surface. In areas where topsoil had not been removed, the surface will be ripped, if necessary, to eliminate compaction caused by vehicular use.

4. CR Briggs will avoid all known cultural resources.

5. If any previously unknown paleontological or cultural resources are discovered during ground disturbing activities, activities will immediately cease in that area and BLM will be notified of the discovery. BLM will, as appropriate, evaluate the significance of the site and determine the need for mitigation. Operations will not resume in the area of the find until authorized by the BLM.

6. The BLM authorized officer will determine the seed mix to be used for reclamation. The seed mix will include only native species. The authorized officer may alter the mix across the exploration area due to variations in ecological site as a result of differing aspects, elevations, soils, precipitation and other pertinent factors.

7. The main method of drainage and sediment control on the disturbed road areas will be design and construction of the roads and timely rehabilitation. Where reclaimed road grades are steep, water bars/dips will be constructed to convey runoff across the road surface rather than down it.

8. Drainage crossings will be restored, as closely as practicable, to their pre-disturbed configurations. This will involve removal of fill and placement of coarse rock as needed.

9. No employees will be allowed to camp on site.

10. No open fires will be allowed on site.

11. CR Briggs will use the currently disturbed area to the greatest extent practicable to minimize unnecessarily creating additional disturbance.

12. CR Briggs will use overland access techniques wherever practical to minimize ground disturbance.

13. The BLM authorized officer will inspect all existing drill disturbance used by CR Briggs in the course of this program and will designate which existing disturbances are to be reclaimed. CR Briggs will reclaim those disturbances to the same standards as used for new disturbance created under this exploration program.

14. No ground disturbing activities will be conducted until CR Briggs posts a financial assurance instrument in amount and form acceptable to the BLM.

15. All site reclamation will be complete within 18 months following completion of the exploration except for areas proposed for future mine development. CR Briggs will identify all areas proposed for future mine development. BLM will determine whether these areas also require reclamation and notify CR Briggs. If development is not forthcoming, BLM may decide that these areas will require interim reclamation.

16. CR Briggs will obtain all necessary state, local and regional permits prior to commencing exploration activities. All necessary permits will be maintained in good standing for the duration of the exploration and reclamation activity.

17. Consistent with BLM Ridgecrest Field Office practice, the authorize officer will require annual inspections of the reclamation for a period of up to 10 years following revegetation. Target non-native species will be removed during this period as directed by the authorized officer.

18. The BLM will require that the Project Proponent submit activity reports to the BLM on a regular basis. Reports are to be submitted at the end of each month or at any time prior to any significant change in exploration direction that was not anticipated in the previous monthly report. The reports will include a map of the disturbance to date, and a summary table of the exploration disturbance. The map will depict constructed roads, overland travel routes, and drill hole locations. The activity report will also identify the expected drilling pattern for the ensuing month. During inactive months the report will be a letter stating that no new disturbance was created during the prior month and identifying new disturbance (if any) expected during the upcoming month. In

addition, the Project Proponent will submit an annual report summarizing yearly activity. The annual report will cover the period from July first through June 30 of each year.

Upon receipt of this information, the BLM will determine, in an administrative procedure, (1) whether the Project Proponent has proceeded in accordance with the approved Plan of Operations, and (2) whether the ensuing stage would be consistent with the approved Plan of Operations. If the BLM determines that either the past stages or the planned stage are not in compliance with the approved Plan of Operations it will so notify the Project Proponent. If the BLM determines that the Project is not in compliance with the approved Plan of Operations, the Project Proponent will have the option of modifying the Project or the Project submittal, as appropriate, to bring the project into compliance. If the Project Proponent elects to modify the project, it would be obligated to resubmit documentation to the BLM for determination of compliance. This procedure would be an administrative procedure only. It would serve as a periodic check to determine whether the Project is being operated consistent with the approved Plan of Operations. This procedure would make no new decisions and no new commitments of environmental resources and would not be subject to NEPA review.