



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

VALE DISTRICT OFFICE

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Vale, Oregon 97918

<http://www.blm.gov/Vale/>



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To: All Employees, Notice-Level Mining Operators, and Interested Public

From: District Manager

Subject: Vale District Policy for Notice-Level Operations and Reclamation Cost Estimates.

Objective: Provide guidance and clarify the Notice application and reclamation cost estimation processes for anyone intending to develop mineral resources on public lands within the Vale District.

Background: The Vale District, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is required by 43 CFR 3809 Surface Management Regulations to review new Notice-level exploration/development plans within a 15 day time period. The review process includes a determination that the Notice is complete as defined in the regulations and accurately describes the proposed operations and associated land use or disturbance.

To be considered complete, a Notice must include an activity description, a reclamation plan and a reclamation cost estimate. The activity description must have the appropriate detail to determine the exact size and scale of the operation and description of measures that will be used to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation. The reclamation plan must contain sufficient detail to determine compliance with Surface Management Regulation performance standards. The reclamation cost estimate must include the costs to fully reclaim the operations as if the BLM were to contract with a third party to reclaim the operations according to the reclamation plan.

Effective immediately the attached policy and guidelines will be followed for the Vale District when evaluating a Notice-Level operations submittal:

- The attached Vale District Policy for Notice-level Operations and Reclamation Cost Estimates will be used as guidance by the BLM in determining the completeness of Notice-level operation submittals.
- This guidance provides the Vale District requirements for anyone intending to develop mineral resources on the public lands requiring the application for Notice-level operations.
- This policy clarifies the components of a reclamation cost estimate.
- This policy defines the financial guarantee process within the Vale District.
- The policy describes the information required when submitting a request for release of a financial guarantee from the BLM.
- Included with this policy are Contractor Equipment and Labor Rates and examples of Earthwork Production Estimation to be used when developing a reclamation cost estimate.
- Information within this policy should be interpreted and used within the framework of all applicable Federal and State regulations.

If you have questions or need clarification of this policy contact Baker, Jordan, or Malheur Resource Area Mineral Specialists.

Signed By
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Vale District Manager

Authenticated By
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