

MM
09/20/91



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240



IN REPLY REFER TO:
1703 (750)

Honorable Leon E. Panetta
Member, United States House
of Representatives
380 Alvarado Street
Monterey, California 93940

SEP 11 1991

Dear Mr. Panetta:

Thank you for your letter of August 5, 1991, on behalf of your constituent, Mr. Bill Russell, regarding the closing of the Clear Creek Management Area.

The Clear Creek Management Area was included in the Atlas Asbestos Mine Superfund Site by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The EPA issued a record of decision for the cleanup of the Atlas Superfund Site in January 1991. As part of that decision, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has been directed to review its land use plan for the Clear Creek Management Area in view of EPA's finding of asbestos in the area and the possible health risk to the public.

The BLM has initiated an amendment to its land use plan that includes the Clear Creek Management Area near Coalinga, California. It is proposed that a portion of the Clear Creek Management Area be closed due to the presence of asbestos, a known carcinogen.

As a portion of the amendment process, public scoping meetings were held in three cities. It is anticipated that a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) will be issued for public review and comment in the spring of 1992. In conjunction with the land use plan amendment, a risk assessment related to asbestos exposure from recreational use in the area will be prepared with the assistance of the EPA and will be part of the EIS analysis.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Sincerely,

s/cy Jamison

Director

cc:
Your Washington Office

cc: AS/LM (2)-MIB Rm 6628, ES-MIB Rm 6217, CL-MIB Rm 6242, 150-
MIB Rm 5555, SD, California, AM/Hollister Resource Area (CA),
700-MIB Rm 5617, 750/Hyde-MIB Rm 3529, 750 cf, 750 rf,
750/Sulenski-MIB Rm 3529, ES46396, FN Atlas.MM, Rec. No. 643
750: MMusialkiewicz (2 cpys w/incoming), Room 3529, MIB: 08/26/91