



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
California State Office
2800 Cottage Way, Room E-2845
Sacramento, California 95825-1889



IN REPLY REFER TO:

August 2, 1993

1703
CA-932.7

Mr. John C. Wise
Acting Regional Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

Re: Atlas Asbestos Mine Superfund Site

Dear John:

It was a pleasure meeting with you on July 12, 1993, to discuss issues concerning the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) proposed Clear Creek Management Plan amendment as well as BLM's past and prospective contributions to remediating the Atlas Mine Site. During our conversation, I outlined BLM's involvement with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) at the Atlas Mine Site beginning in 1983, as well as the long-term maintenance and monetary contributions BLM will provide to site remediation over the next 30 years.

You agreed that in light of BLM's past and prospective contributions to the Site, EPA would be open to negotiating appropriate recovery of the \$1.1 million in past costs EPA has requested from BLM. You requested that I provide you with a letter outlining BLM's expenditures at the Site for EPA's records. Accordingly, the following summary of BLM's past, current and future activities at the site is provided pursuant to your request.

BLM spent approximately \$800,000 at the Atlas Mine Site prior to entering into the long-term remediation agreement with Atlas Corporation (Atlas), and Vinnell Mining and Minerals Corporation (Vinnell). Most of these costs involved site monitoring, fence construction, contractor studies, patrolling, health and safety monitoring, and agency coordination activities.

We have obligated \$100,000 for the current year for the selection of a contractor to develop and implement a revegetation study plan.

We estimate we will spend nearly \$2,000,000 over the next 15 years at the Mine Site in carrying out our portion of the

agreement reached with Atlas and Vinnell. BLM is responsible for dust suppression on the main road through the site, conducting a revegetation study and implementing revegetation efforts on the site if the study determines revegetation is feasible, providing O&M on the sediment control facilities (up to \$25,000 per year), patrolling and monitoring of the site, fence repair and maintenance, and a portion of EPA's costs charged to Atlas and Vinnell.

In addition, within the Clear Creek Management Area, BLM has spent over \$100,000 in amending the Clear Creek Management Plan. Depending upon the outcome of the plan, we anticipate spending up to \$3,000,000 over the first five years in implementing the plan's proposed action items. After the fifth year, we estimate \$300,000 per year will be spent in the Clear Creek Management Area performing air monitoring, visitor oversight activities, O&M activities, and other actions necessary to maintain public health and safety.

As you can see, BLM's commitment to the restoration and management of this area, including the protection of the public health and safety, is a high priority. We have received EPA's comments and suggestions (June 29, 1993, letter) concerning BLM's Clear Creek EIS. We will seriously consider these comments in developing our final draft plan.

Sincerely,

*John
THANKS FOR
YOUR ATTENTION
TO THIS*

Ed

Ed Hastey
State Director

cc: BLM Director (100), Room 5660, MIB
Temi Berger, Assistant Regional Solicitor