

Conversation Contents

Community Meeting Tonight on Kirkland Mine

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Sent: Thu May 14 2015 16:18:58 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Patrick Putnam <pputnam@blm.gov>
Subject: Community Meeting Tonight on Kirkland Mine

Partick:

Tonight is the community meeting in Skull Valley regarding a proposed mineral materials operation. On April 21, the Kirkland Mining Company proponent submitted to us a mineral materials plan of operations. Yesterday, a fairly balanced article came out about it in the Prescott Daily Courier. Tonight's meeting is not a BLM or NEPA-related meeting; it is organized by the 8 or 10 residents who live near the area and are opposed to mining. Reportedly, several local business owners and the grazing permittee who support the mine are attending. Yavapai County Supervisor Rowle Simmons and Courier reporter Joanna Dodder are also expected to attend. I was invited Monday to attend and will be there to listen to community members' interests and concerns, and to explain the BLM's process for handling mineral materials sales. Based on this meeting, I will gauge the level of public controversy and determine whether or not an EA is necessary. I'll let you know if anything out of the ordinary happens.

Background:

On April 21, 2015, Geologist Dave Eddy and I met with the General Manager of Kirkland Mining Company and their environmental contractors to receive their Stockpile Removal Plan of Operations and discuss the proposal. The company applied to mine and re-process volcanic tuff from the stockpiles of a kitty litter (clay) operation that mined the area until 1985.

The BLM Bradshaw-Harquahala RMP identifies the mine and surrounding area as open to mineral materials and locatable mineral production. (While not applicable to the proposed mineral materials operation, Kirkland Mining Company also holds all of the locatable mineral claims for the area.) The stockpile area is in a public land parcel that was identified for disposal in the RMP. The company plans to mine 2.6 acres under the plan of operations, which may be authorized with a CX. If this operation is successful, the company would apply to expand the operation.

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