

# Conversation Contents

## Interview Regarding Kirkland Mining Proposal

### Attachments:

/183. Interview Regarding Kirkland Mining Proposal/1.1 Kirkland-Mining\_T13N-R4W-Sec 28\_a-b.pdf  
/183. Interview Regarding Kirkland Mining Proposal/2.1 Kirkland-Mining\_T13N-R4W-Sec 28\_a-b.pdf  
/183. Interview Regarding Kirkland Mining Proposal/3.1 Kirkland-Mining\_T13N-R4W-Sec 28\_a-b.pdf

**"Hawes, David" <rhawes@blm.gov>**

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**From:** "Hawes, David" <rhawes@blm.gov>  
**Sent:** Mon May 11 2015 19:42:27 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** "Mathis, Pamela A" <pmathis@blm.gov>, Michael Abalos <mabalos@blm.gov>  
**CC:** Patrick Putnam <pputnam@blm.gov>, David Eddy <deddy@blm.gov>  
**Subject:** Interview Regarding Kirkland Mining Proposal  
**Attachments:** Kirkland-Mining\_T13N-R4W-Sec 28\_a-b.pdf

Pamela, Michael:

### Media Inquiry:

This is to let you know that this afternoon I did an interview with Joanna Dodder with the Prescott Daily Courier. I expect the article to run tomorrow, May 12, 2015, and to be balanced regarding a proposed mineral materials operation near Skull Valley, Arizona. Dodder was contacted by Allison Dixon, a resident of Skull Valley, regarding a proposed mineral materials operation that has been proposed on public land nearby. It appears that Ms. Dixon and the approximately ten nearby residents wish to stop the mining proposal. Last week, mining company representatives held a community meeting and went door to door to talk about the plan.

Dodder wanted to know the background and history of the mine (see below). I told her that the proposal was to reprocess tailings from an old kitty litter mine and she was familiar with the location. Dodder had been told that there would be a public meeting on the mine proposal May 14 (to which I was invited this morning and will attend), and that Yavapai County Supervisor Rowle Simmons would attend.

Dodder wanted to know why BLM was considering a CX for the proposal. I explained why (see Background), and said that I would wait until after the public meeting to make a determination about the level of NEPA analysis. I said that if the company wants to do anything beyond removing and processing the less than 4 acres of stockpiled tailings/material, it would require a new application and consideration, which would include public scoping, meetings, and additional environmental analysis.

### 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 tailings stockpiles of a kitty litter (clay) operation that heavily mined the area until about 1980.

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 in the shape of a backward "L" (see attached maps); this entire parcel was identified for disposal in the RMP.

I had determined that the level of NEPA analysis required is a CX (Categorical Exclusion) based on BLM's Departmental Manual, which lists actions only requiring a CX and states in section 516 DM 11.5F(10), "Disposal of mineral materials such as sand, stone, gravel, pumice, pumicite, cinders, and clay, in amounts not exceeding 50,000 cubic yards or disturbing more than 5 acres." The current proposal for mining the previously mined volcanic tuff stockpile covers less than four acres and is for 21,000-28,000 cubic yards (42,000 tons). I will wait and make a final determination until after the May 14 meeting. If the proponent wants to do anything beyond removing the stockpiles, it would require a new application and consideration, which would include public scoping, meetings, and additional environmental analysis.

— Rem

**"Hawes, David" <rhawes@blm.gov>**

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**From:** "Hawes, David" <rhawes@blm.gov>  
**Sent:** Mon May 11 2015 19:44:22 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** Amanda James <ajames@blm.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Interview Regarding Kirkland Mining Proposal  
**Attachments:** Kirkland-Mining\_T13N-R4W-Sec 28\_a-b.pdf

FYI.

— Rem

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Hawes, David** <[rhawes@blm.gov](mailto:rhawes@blm.gov)>  
Date: Mon, May 11, 2015 at 6:42 PM  
Subject: Interview Regarding Kirkland Mining Proposal  
To: "Mathis, Pamela A", Michael Abalos  
Cc: Patrick Putnam, David Eddy

Pamela, Michael:

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— Rem

**"Abalos, Michael" <mabalos@blm.gov>**

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**From:** "Abalos, Michael" <mabalos@blm.gov>  
**Sent:** Tue May 12 2015 18:55:35 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** Amber Cargile <acargile@blm.gov>  
**CC:** Pamela Mathis <pmathis@blm.gov>, David Hawes <rhawes@blm.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Interview Regarding Kirkland Mining Proposal  
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Hey Amber,

not sure if I brought this up in today's PAO call. It was on my list but I may have gotten side tracked with the other items I mentioned. To begin with, I searched the Prescott Daily Courier and didn't see it published yet (Maybe in the next week or two) but the gist of it is that some residents living by a proposed mineral materials operation near Skull Valley, Arizona aren't happy with the proposal. Joanna Dodder got word of it from a local resident and contacted Rem, whom she interviewed yesterday. Rem described the proposal to her and confirmed the next public meeting on May 14 (Thursday) for the residents to talk it over in detail with the mining company reps. Rem will attend as well with the Yavapai County Supervisor Rowle Simmons. The logistics involving NEPA and the possibility of a CX is in greater detail below in Rem's email.

Thanks

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