

Alternative in the ROD based on concerns for impacts on water quality from acid generating material. The Board further recognized that while concerns regarding impacts from alkaline conditions may be legitimate, those concerns were not sufficiently stated in the ROD or the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) so as to serve as the principal basis for complete rejection of the alternative (145 IBLA at 374). The Board remanded that portion of the ROD and directed BLM to reconsider the backfill alternative.

The BLM has conducted the analysis directed by the Board, summarized in a memorandum dated January 25, 1999, from the Moab Field Office to the Utah State Director. While the FEIS and ROD contained analyses of multiple complex geochemical and geohydrologic technical issues, the re-analysis of data summarized in this memorandum confirmed BLM's concerns expressed in the FEIS and ROD that potential alkaline conditions in the post-mining pit lakes could mobilize and transport metal oxyanions from mine waste material utilized as pit backfill material into underlying groundwater at the mine site. The data indicates that such mobilization and transport has a significant likelihood of adversely impacting groundwater quality and violating acceptable water quality standards.

As reflected in the FEIS and ROD, the BLM retains the authority to further analyze backfilling if the results of required life-of-the-mine waste rock sampling and hydrologic testing reveals additional adverse impacts not foreseen or predicted in the EIS, and/or indicates that the potential impact of metal oxyanion mobilization and transport associated with backfilling is overestimated. Any additional consideration of backfilling, and potential changes in environmental consequences resulting from such action, would be subject to additional analysis under provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act.

Based on the re-analysis of data as directed by IBLA and the conclusion that BLM's rationale for rejecting the backfill alternative was sound and reasoned, BLM has determined that no modifications or changes are required in the ROD. Furthermore, since none of the data or additional analyses performed to date identify environmental impacts not previously identified in the FEIS, no additional analysis is warranted under provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act.

This Notice of Final Decision is BLM's final decision regarding the

approval of the Lisbon Valley Copper Project pursuant to direction given by the Board in its September 23, 1998, decision, to reconsider the Backfill Alternative. The Moab Field Office memorandum of January 25, 1999, is available at the Moab Field Office of the BLM at 82 East Dogwood, Moab, Utah 84532, (435-259-6111).

**DATES:** Parties adversely affected by this Notice of Final Decision have until March 10, 1999, to file a Notice of Appeal (43 CFR 4.411 and 4.413). The decision to approve the mining operation in relation to the original decision regarding rejection of the Open Pit Backfill Alternative is in full force and effect, effective on the date of this publication of the Notice of Availability of the Record of Decision (43 CFR 3809.4(f)). A petition for a stay of the decision may be filed in accordance with the above cited regulations.

**ADDRESSES:** A Notice of Appeal should be addressed to: Bill Lamb, Utah State Director, Bureau of Land Management, PO Box 45155, 324 South State Street, Room 301, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84111.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Lynn Jackson, Project Coordinator, Moab Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, 82 East Dogwood Avenue, Moab, Utah, 84532, (435) 259-6111.

Dated: February 1, 1999.

**Brad Palmer,**

*Associate Moab Field Office Manager, Bureau of Land Management.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[CO-030-09-1010-00-1784]

#### Southwest Resource Advisory Council Meeting

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice; Resource Advisory Council meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the Southwest Resource Advisory Council (Southwest RAC) will meet at Ridgway State Park, Colorado.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Thursday, March 11, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** For additional information, contact Roger Alexander, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Southwest Center, 2465 South Townsend Avenue, Montrose, Colorado 81401; telephone 970-240-5335; TDD 970-240-5366; e-mail r2alexan@co.blm.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The March 11, 1999, meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. at Ridgway State Park Headquarters (Dutch Charlie entrance) approximately 21 miles south of Montrose or five miles north of Ridgway on U.S. Highway 550. The agenda will include discussions on Colorado water rights and the Black Canyon National Monument's reserved water right, and an update on the North Fork Coal EIS. Public comment is scheduled for 1:00 p.m.

All Resource Advisory Council meetings are open to the public. Interested persons may make oral statements to the Council, or written statements may be submitted for the Council's consideration. If necessary, a per-person time limit may be established by the Southwest Center Manager.

Summary minutes for Council meetings are maintained in the Southwest Center Office and on the Internet at [http://www.co.blm.gov/mdo/mdo\\_sw\\_rac.htm](http://www.co.blm.gov/mdo/mdo_sw_rac.htm) and are available for public inspection and reproduction within thirty (30) days following each meeting.

Dated: January 29, 1999.

**Roger Alexander,**

*Public Affairs Specialist.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[WO-200-09-1020-00]

#### Science Advisory Board; Public Meeting

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces a public meeting of the Science Advisory Board to examine the use of science for improving the management of the Nation's public land and resources. Topics of discussion will include the BLM's National Applied Resource Sciences Center, research needs for integrated weed management, and research associated with population management of wild horses and burros.

**DATES:** BLM will hold the public meeting on Thursday, March 4, 1999, from 11 am to 5 pm, local time.

**ADDRESSES:** BLM will hold the public meeting in the Nevada Room C-204 of the Bureau of Land Management's National Training Center (NTC), 9828 N