

24-1 Application for Modifying the Harding Mine Shaft closure & notice of reclamation activities

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

Harding Mine SI025MN received 12/02/2024

From: michael@sawni.net
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2024 11:17 AM
To: Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Harding Mine SI025MN Modification request

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Ms Rynas

Please accept this email as a formal request for a modification to our mining reclamation plan. And as formal request to terminate our existing permit.

Due to the extensive damages incurred to the shaft opening, by repeated cases of theft and vandalism, we would like to reclaim and close the existing shaft. The shaft opening is currently surrounded by a concrete pad. Our original plan for reclamation was to tear down our building and break up all of the surrounding concrete pad. The remains of which we would back fill into the existing shaft opening. We would then install a PUFF plug.

Vandals broke into the building and shaft, removing the ½" Solid steel lid, and stole the 2" x 12" solid oak planks that made up our shaft opening side walls. They also stole \$10,000 in equipment and personal items. They broke in by tearing off a section of roofing material and then simply unbolted the door locks from the inside. I repaired the building, bolted the damaged doors shut and welded the metal lid onto the shaft opening for safety reasons.

The metal building was heavily damaged during a Haboob wind storm a couple of months later. The Building is non-repairable. The damages are too great.

I will be tearing down the remains of the metal building and cleaning up the scattered debris during the next few weeks.

The modification to our reclamation plan that I am seeking is as follows.

Remove the skeletal remains of our metal building.

Clean up the wind strewn debris field.

Cut the metal lid off of the shaft opening.

Shove all remaining debris, Railroad timbers, metal sheeting, ventilation pipe, and various trash, into the abandoned shaft.

Puff plug the shaft to spec.

Install a concrete cap at the shaft opening.

For safety reasons, we would like to leave the concrete pad and rebar in place. The vandalism has made the opening and surrounding area structurally weakened. Therefore we would like to leave the concrete pad to reinforce the safety of the surrounding area.

The remainder of our footprint will be removed.

The decision has been made to abandon the shaft on a permanent basis. As the cost of mineral recovery from the shaft is nonviable.

Please feel free to contact me by phone and email as needed regarding the next steps.

Thank you for your time and support.

Respectfully
Michael Rutland
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