AGENCY COORDINATION IS KEY

Following the Nevada Mining MOU

It’s no secret: logistics is fundamental to well-managed mining and exploration projects. The many facets of mine regulation — whether a geochemical study or closure plan — need coordinated among many specialists so agencies can fulfill their distinct public duties. The Nevada mining MOU supports such coordination among the Bureau of Land Management, the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, and the U.S. Forest Service. This factsheet condenses the MOU into actionable practices so you can help your agency meet these commitments and make Nevada a model of efficient and effective regulation.

4 Main Agency Personnel Duties

1. Share Information
   Ensure everyone gets duplicate copies of relevant documents. This includes your correspondences with applicants and items applicants submit to your agency (see “What You Need to Share”).

2. Coordinate
   Work closely with all parties to avoid delays or discrepancies. Encourage joint inspections, coordinating on comments, or holding meetings with applicants and partner agencies before a mine plan is formally submitted.

3. Copy Agencies on Decisions
   Cc partner agencies when you make a final decision. For example, make sure they are aware of final cost estimates for reclamation or long-term site management (see “Coordinating on Cost Estimates”).

4. Send Updates
   Promptly update agencies on new developments so they can plan accordingly. For example, report new mineral-related projects, changes in cost estimates, or amended mine plans or reports.

Contact information

Use the following links for points of contact in each agency:

- Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Forest Service
- Nevada Division of Environmental Protection

Read the MOU
What You Need to Share

People outside your office and agency may use your work to make informed decisions that concern their own regulatory responsibilities. If you contribute to the following, confirm that partner agencies have the most up-to-date draft:

- Plan of operations
- Hydrological and geochemical studies
- Water and waste rock management plans
- Design and monitoring plans for all mining facilities
- Interim management plans
- Reclamation plans and cost estimates
- Tentative and final plans for permanent closure
- Enforcement actions
- Changes in law, regulation, or policy that might affect this MOU

This isn't a complete list. If you're working on something that you're not sure another agency needs, contact the other parties of the MOU to find out.

Coordinating on Cost Estimates

To account for the laws and regulations of each agency, it’s essential to review and determine cost estimates in tandem. Here are a few reminders when working on cost estimates for reclamation or long-term site management:

1. Work early and closely with partner agencies when reviewing plans that will lead to cost estimates. To do this, you may need to resolve complications with partner agencies before providing comments to applicants.
2. Coordinate your comments and approvals of cost estimates. This allows applicants to make revisions all at once, preventing discrepancies or duplicative comments.
3. If an estimate or funding amount changes, promptly notify partner agencies. Make sure you share why the change is needed.
4. Coordinate on cost estimates for long-term site management, not just reclamation bonds. Past MOUs only described coordination on reclamation cost estimates. Moving forward, be sure to also share information relating to cost estimates for long-term site management.

This publication aims to faithfully reflect the content of the MOU for Mining and Mineral Related Activities within the State of Nevada, though the exact wording has been changed for readability.