



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Santa Clara/Mojave
Rivers Ranger District

30800 Bouquet Canyon Rd.
Saugus, CA 91350
661-296-9710 Voice
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File Code: 2800

Date: April 23, 2007

Dear Interested Party,

The US Forest Service, Angeles National Forest, Santa Clara/Mojave River Ranger District, proposes to approve a twenty year Plan of Operations ("POO") submitted by North Star Minerals, Inc. with respect to its Acton Clay Quarries operation, which consists of two clay quarries located on the north flank of the San Gabriel mountains near the town of Acton, California. The Plan proposed by North Star would provide for the continued development of its existing quarries and associated activities until the year 2027. Total acreage to be mined over this twenty-year period is 23.9 acres.

Background Information. The Acton Clay Quarries are existing clay mines, originally permitted by the Forest Service in 1991 and is currently operating under a Plan of Operations originally approved in 1995. The mining claims are located on portions of Township 4 North, Range 13 West, Sections 24 and 25, and Range 12 West, Sections 19 and 30, SBBM, which is in the Angeles National Forest about 4 miles south of the town of Acton, Los Angeles County, California. The site is accessed from Aliso Canyon via road 4N32. See attached map.

Purpose and Need. The current POO for Acton Clay Quarries is due to expire at the end of the year. A new Plan would enable North Star Minerals to continue to extract the mineral resource from their existing claims as provided for by the Act of May, 10 1872 code and Federal Regulations 228 sub part A. The current Plan provides for mining of only 5 acres of North Star's 2,260 acres of claims. Operations over the years have seen development reach the limit of the area available. Under the Plan being considered, mining will be permitted on 24 acres of North Star's claims, although not all permitted acreage would be mined at any give time. The market for the materials mined at Acton Clay Quarries remains good, and appears to be economical for the term of operations envisioned by the Plan submitted. The decision to be made by the USFS is whether to approve the Plan as submitted by North Star Minerals.



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Proposed Action. The Plan that is the subject of the proposed decision provides for the continuation of current mining operations and the extension of the area on which mining is permitted by approximately 17 additional acres, with up to five acres being actively mined at each quarry at any one time. Activities at the operation will continue to consist of crushing and screening the ore, and hauling of the ore out road 4N32 onto Aliso Canyon Road. The proposed POO provides for maintenance of 4N32, dust control on the road and at the quarries, restrictions on hours of operations depending on conditions, and concurrent reclamation of areas as they are mined, together with planned and bonded final reclamation. Reclamation plans have already been submitted and approved under California's Surface Mining and Reclamation Act ("SMARA").

For additional information about this project, you may review materials at the Santa Clara / Mojave River District office located at: 30800 Bouquet Canyon Road, Saugus, CA. 91390.

All interested parties are encouraged to participate in the scoping process. Issues identified during scoping will help determine the range of issues to be considered in the environmental analysis and will help determine whether alternatives to the proposed action should be developed and analyzed. Please provide specific rationale for your comments and opinions to assist us in the analysis for the project.

Please submit in writing your comments regarding this project to: project leader Jonathan Yonni Schwartz, Resource Staff Officer SC/MRRD, to the above address or to jonathanschwartz@fs.fed.us, by May 23, 2007.

Sincerely,



John Capell
District Ranger

Attachments:
Vicinity Map