

LISBON VALLEY COPPER MINE EXPANSION

Lisbon Valley Mining Company LLC (LVMC), plans to expand their Lisbon Valley Copper Mine, a large open-pit and heap leach mine on Lisbon Valley Road in eastern portion of San Juan County, south of La Sal. In October 2019, LVMC submitted a Plan of Operations (POO) to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Moab Office for a new pit and an in-situ leach (ISL) copper recovery operation in Lower Lisbon Valley. ISL would involve the injection of water and sulfuric acid into the aquifer to dissolve the copper. However, according to the Utah Division of Oil, Gas & Mining (DOGM), LVMC now plans to only pursue ISL in the Lower Valley and the removal of additional ore from existing open pits.

The 2019 ISL proposal will require approvals from the BLM (including an Environmental Impact Statement) and DOGM. Other permits will need to be amended. LVMC must apply to the Utah Division of Water Quality (DWQ) for an Aquifer Exemption and Underground Injection Control (UIC) Class III Permit for the ISL operation. The various application and approval processes, which include opportunities for public comment, will take several years. An important issue is the extent of the impacted aquifer and contamination of the aquifer.

DOGM is currently reviewing LVMC Notice of Intent (NOI) for the expansion of pit boundaries, expansion of a waste dump, and additions to the mining infrastructure. By February 28, LVMC must respond to the Directive to Increase Surety by about \$2 million and to DOGM staff's Seventh Review of the NOI. The BLM issued the final EA for the expansion in 2018, but has not issued the Record of Decision, because LVMC has not signed the Memorandum of Understanding for off-site mitigation of cultural resources. The NOI DOGM is reviewing includes the Reclamation Plan for the remediation of the existing mine. The Plan includes the filling of the open pits.

In 2019 LVMC employed an average of 80 workers at the mine.

If anyone is interested in further information or submitting comments to the BLM, DOGM, DWQ, or other agencies, please contact me.

DOG MINE ID: M/037/0088

BLM MINE ID: UTU-72499

MSHA ID: 4204206

DOG MINE LISBON VALLEY COPPER MINE DOCUMENTS:

<https://fs.ogm.utah.gov/FILES/MINERALS/PERMITS/037/M0370088/2019/Outgoing/12312019.pdf>

LOWER LISBON VALLEY PLAN OF OPERATIONS, OCTOBER 2019:

<https://fs.ogm.utah.gov/FILES/MINERALS/PERMITS/037/M0370088/2019/Incoming/10242019.pdf>

DOG MINE 7TH REVIEW OF NOI LETTER, DECEMBER 31, 2019:

<https://fs.ogm.utah.gov/FILES/MINERALS/PERMITS/037/M0370088/2019/Outgoing/12312019.pdf>

BLM EA for Pit Expansion:

<https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/projectSummary.do?methodName=renderDefaultProjectSummary&projectId=110435>

BLM Lower Lisbon Valley Hydrologic Study:

<https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/projectSummary.do?methodName=renderDefaultProjectSummary&projectId=71960>

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