

NPDES authorization to discharge to waters of the United States, Permit No. NM0029505

The applicant's mailing address is:

Westmoreland San Juan Mining LLC
La Plata Mine
P.O. Box 561
Waterflow, NM 87421

La Plata mine is located 15 miles north of Farmington in San Juan County, New Mexico. Under the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) Code 1221, the applicant operates coal mining. Based on information provided in the application, the facility is engaged in the reclamation of previous western alkaline surface coal mining operation. La Plata mine is a remote, inactive, unstaffed, and fully reclaimed mine site. The requirements found in 40 CFR 434, Subpart H (reclamation activities in western alkaline coal mining) have been applied to discharges from reclamation areas. Mine drainages discharge due to precipitation events from reclamation areas to unnamed intermittent streams in Waterbody Segment 20.6.4.98 NMAC and thence to the La Plata River. Designated uses of the receiving water are stated in the Fact Sheet.

A change from the permit issued July 30, 2020, with an effective date of September 1, 2020, an expiration date of August 31, 2025, and currently administratively continued under 5 U.S.C. 558(c), includes:

- Revised aluminum (total) effluent limits for Outfalls 015, 016 and 028.

A fact sheet is available.

State Certification

This Notice also serves as Public Notice of the intent of the New Mexico Environment Department, Surface Water Quality Bureau to consider issuing Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 401 Certification. The purpose of such certification is to reasonably ensure that the permitted activities will be conducted in a manner that will comply with applicable New Mexico water quality standards, including the anti-degradation policy, and the statewide water quality management plan. The NPDES permit will not be issued until the certification requirements of Section 401 have been met.

If you want to comment on State Certification submit written comments within the 30-day period to:

Susan A. Lucas Kamat
Program Manager, Point Source Regulation Section
New Mexico Environment Department
Surface Water Quality Bureau
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Santa Fe, NM 87502-5469
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