



Public Service Commission

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Mr. Miroslav Zvyagelskiy
Operations Manager
Leonardite Products, LLC
PO Box 548
Williston, ND 58802-0548
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Dear Mr. Zvyagelskiy:

The Reclamation Division has conducted a technical review of Leonardite Products, LLC's application of Revision No. 12 for Renewal No. 4 to Permit GRGR-0501 at the Stony Creek Mine. The following items must be adequately addressed prior to Commission approval of the revision and the corresponding renewal.

General

Please separate the permit PDF into bookmarked sections to simplify navigation of the permit. Currently, the only bookmarked section of the permit is the Legal Description of the Permit Area. (JAR)

IV - Environmental Resources

1. The mining year data for sub-areas F-2, E-2, D-3, and H-2 presented in Table E-1 on page E-1 of Section IV (Environmental Resources) are inconsistent with the mining year data shown in Table O-1 on page O-2A of Section V (Operations Plan). Please review both tables and revise as necessary to ensure that the mining years (old and projected) for these sub-areas are consistent between Table E-1 and Table O-1. (BSM)

VI - Reclamation Plan

2. At the top of page R-7 of Section VI (Reclamation Plan), the worst-case bond period is described as occurring during the third quarter of 2030, with sub-area G-1 (4 acres) identified as the final cell requiring rough grading. However, Table E-1 on page E-1 of Section IV (Environmental Resources) and Table O-1 on page O-2A of Section V (Operations Plan) indicate that during the third quarter of 2030, sub-area H-2 will be mined, G-3 will be rough graded (spoil), G-2 will have subsoil respread, and G-1 will have topsoil respread. Please review and revise page R-7 accordingly to ensure all disturbed sub-areas are accurately accounted for in the worst-case bond period. Furthermore, please verify that any resulting adjustments are reflected in the associated reclamation cost calculations. (BSM)

3. The narrative on top of page R-7 of Section VI (Reclamation Plan) does not currently reference Table O-1 on page O-2A of Section V (Operations Plan), which outlines the schedule of reclamation activities. To improve clarity, please revise the narrative on top of page R-7 to reference Table O-1, and specify the sub-areas requiring reclamation and the type of activity scheduled during the worst-case bond period (3rd quarter of 2030). (BSM)
4. Please consider reordering the line items for reclamation costs on page R-7 of Section VI (Reclamation Plan) to follow the typical sequence of reclamation operations. It is recommended that the order begin with "Spoil Replacement," followed by "Subsoil Replacement," and then "Topsoil Replacement." This order was used in Revision 10 and provides a more logical and consistent flow. (BSM)
5. The two line items that state "Associated disturbed area (2.18 acres; includes roads and buffers)*" on page R-7 of Section VI (Reclamation Plan) include an asterisk, implying that a corresponding footnote or explanation is provided. However, no such information is present. Please review and confirm whether additional information is missing. If not, the asterisk should be removed to avoid confusion. (BSM/AAC)
6. The top subsection on page R-8 of Section VI (Reclamation Plan), which details calculations for replacement quantities of topsoil, subsoil, spoil, and drainage tapering and grading, currently lacks a title. Please consider adding a title such as "Total Earthmoving Costs" for improved clarity and consistency. Additionally, please update the corresponding reference in the following "Total Reclamation Costs" subsection by revising the label "Overburden Handling and Tapering" to "Total Earthmoving Costs." (BSM)
7. The formatting of the calculations on page R-8 of Section VI (Reclamation Plan) makes it difficult to visually track subsection totals. Please consider improving readability by applying consistent indentation to subsection calculations and removing the internal line markings within each subsection - while retaining the line above each subsection total. These formatting adjustments would enhance clarity and the visual flow of the cost breakdown. (BSM)

IX – Maps

8. Please place the section number on Map B (Permit Location Map) as required by NDAC 69-05.2-05-02(5)(a). (JAR)

Please contact this office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Emmer
Director
Reclamation Division

cc via email only: Cherie Harms (cherie@leonarditeproducts.com)