



**MEETING SUMMARY  
PROJECT COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
GRASSY MOUNTAIN MINE PROJECT**

**February 12, 2020  
1:00 pm (Mountain Time)  
Teleconference/Public Access at the Four Rivers Cultural Center**

**Attendance**

Committee Members

- Sarah Lewis, Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI)
- Andrea Bowen, Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- Calla Hagle, Burns Paiute Tribe
- Diane Teeman, Burns Paiute Tribe
- Dennis Griffin, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO; joined late)
- Bill Goss, Oregon Health Authority (OHA)
- Don Hodge, Malheur County
- Jackie Cupples, US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- Phil Marcy, Oregon Water Resources Department (WRD)
- Randy Jones, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
- Trevor Watson, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)

Others

- Jennifer Theisen, BLM
- Jon Westfall, BLM
- Steven Flock, BLM
- Todd Bowen, BLM
- Eric Evans, Malheur County
- Becky Johnson, DOGAMI
- Ian Madin, DOGAMI
- Bob Brinkmann, DOGAMI
- Jesse Ratcliff, Oregon Department of Justice (DOJ)
- Tom Segal, ODFW
- Andy Bentz, Bentz Solutions LLC
- Larry Meyer, Argus Observer
- Carlo Buffone, Paramount Nevada Gold Corp.
- Nancy Wolverson, Calico Resources
- Adam Bonin, Cardno
- Adele Pozzuto, Cardno
- Christine Whittaker, Henningson, Durham and Richardson, Inc. (HDR)
- Mike Murray, HDR
- Siera Watson, Senate District 30
- Charles Gray
- Rick Esplin
- Kevin Zemmer

**Meeting Summary**

The Project Coordinating Committee (PCC) met to receive an update on the Consolidated Permitting Process for the Grassy Mountain Project. During the meeting, a Public Hearing was conducted on application completeness. The meeting was chaired by Sarah Lewis (DOGAMI) with assistance from Adam Bonin (Cardno). Per requirements, the meeting was recorded to maintain a record under the Oregon Public Meetings Law. Materials shared at the meeting were accessible via AT&T web meeting. Public access was provided at the Four Rivers Cultural Center in Ontario. Topics covered during the meeting included:

- Overview of Consolidated Permitting for Chemical Process Mining in Oregon
- Calico/Grassy Mountain Project Update
- Coordination of State and Federal Permitting Requirements
- Public Hearing on Grassy Mountain Application Completeness
- Solicitation of Topics of Interest to the PCC
- Action items and next steps.

A summary of these topics is provided below.

### Opening

- Introduction of PCC members and the role of the PCC in this project.
- Introduction of non-PCC members.
- Request for proposed changes to the agenda (no changes).

### Overview of Consolidated Permitting for Chemical Process Mining in Oregon (Sarah Lewis)

Sarah Lewis provided an overview of the consolidated permit process – (State Consolidated Permitting Process handout; for a diagram of the steps described, see:

[https://www.oregongeology.org/mlrr/noi/Calico/DOGAMI\\_Process\\_Diagram\\_20180927.pdf](https://www.oregongeology.org/mlrr/noi/Calico/DOGAMI_Process_Diagram_20180927.pdf)).

- We are currently within the 90-day Consolidated Permit Application (CPA) completeness review period.
- A completeness determination is made at the end of the 90-day period:
  - Approval initiates the permitting process with a Notice to Proceed (NTP).
  - A determination of “not complete” results in DOGAMI providing comments to the applicant regarding what additional information is required for a complete CPA.
- Submission of additional information by the applicant initiates a new 90-day completeness review period.
  - A public hearing is required for the first completeness review period, but not for subsequent completeness review periods.
- Draft permits must be prepared within 225 days of an NTP.
- The State’s Environmental Evaluation and Socioeconomic Analysis will also be completed during that time, with opportunity for public comment.
- Draft permit issuance initiates a 60-day review phase.
- Final Permits must be issued or denied within 1 year of an NTP.

An opportunity to ask questions was provided. No questions were asked by PCC members about the Consolidated Permitting Process.

### Calico Grassy Mountain Mine Project Update (Adam Bonin)

CPA was submitted to DOGAMI on November 15, 2019.

- 19 Baseline Data Reports (BDRs) were approved prior to the CPA submittal, and four remained to be approved (Geochemistry, Groundwater, Wildlife, and Cultural Resources):
  - On January 14, 2020, three Technical Review Team (TRT) Subcommittee meetings were held to discuss review of the three BDRs (Geochemistry, Groundwater, and Wildlife):
  - The Cultural Resources BDR review and approval is coordinated by SHPO and the BLM, and had not been completed at the time of the meetings.

- Motions were brought forward to the TRT meeting on January 16, 2020 that each of the remaining BDRs was lacking some information and was not recommended for approval.
- Completeness determination is due to the applicant on February 19, 2020:
  - All TRT-agency comments on completeness have been received
  - All public comments are due in writing by the end of today.

Comments and questions from each PCC member were requested by DOGAMI:

- **Malheur County:**
  - Question posed on the difference between the CPA completeness review and the permit drafting process.
  - Comment on timeline of the project, and what a minimum timeframe would be.
- **DEQ:**
  - Reiterated the purpose of the PCC and that this is a new, un-tried regulatory process.
- **BLM:**
  - Question on how cultural review processes factor into the 225-day timeframe.
  - SHPO is responsible for reviewing the Cultural Resources BDR.
  - Determination of effect on cultural resources is done under the Section 106 process.
- **Burns Paiute Tribe:**
  - Reminded the PCC that the tribe considers ecological resources to be cultural resources.
- **ODFW:**
  - No comments.
- **OHA:**
  - No comments.
- **WRD:**
  - No comments.
- **USFWS:**
  - No comments.
- Not in attendance:
  - City of Nyssa
  - City of Vale
  - Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD)
  - US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
  - Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA)
  - Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)
  - Department of State Lands (DSL)
- There was one question from a non-PCC member regarding how many permits would be issued:
  - One consolidated permit from DOGAMI with concurrence from cooperating agencies.

#### Coordination of State and Federal Permitting Requirements

- Purpose of coordination is to ensure there are not contradictory conclusions in the Environmental Evaluation (state) and Environmental Impact Statement (federal).
- Opportunities were identified for coordination, including:
  - Scoping, public meetings, identification of alternatives, collaboration by subject matter experts from BLM, the State, and their contractors.

- BLM expects 30-day completeness review period of the revised Plan of Operations to be completed by the end of March:
  - If deemed not complete, then no timeframe for Calico Resources to respond.
- Joint-bonding for reclamation with DOGAMI and BLM:
  - The bond allows reclamation to still occur even if a project is abandoned by the permittee.
  - BLM is drafting a joint bonding Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).
- BLM and DOGAMI have a signed MOU for coordinating on the Grassy Mountain Project, with DOGAMI identified as a cooperating agency in BLM's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process.
- BLM has developed a robust timeline for the process once a Notice of Intent (NOI) is published in the Federal Register.

Topics of Importance to the PCC identified during the meeting:

- State/federal coordination:
  - Minimize duplication of efforts.
  - Coordination of long-term monitoring plans.
  - Joint bonding.
  - Threatened and endangered (T&E) species.
- Cultural resources.
- Land use:
  - Malheur County reviewed the 62-acre patented claim.
  - How will state-wide land use goals apply to a project that exists on federal lands?
- Best, Available, Practicable, and Necessary Technology.
- Meeting frequency:
  - Currently set to meet during key milestones - no changes suggested.
  - There was a suggestion for the creation of an Alternatives Subcommittee, especially since some of the alternatives would be located on BLM land.
- There was a question regarding PCC membership and selection process:
  - DOGAMI invited local governments, stakeholders, tribes, and agencies to participate in the PCC. Each accepting entity then selected a representative.

Public Hearing

- Charles Gray oral comment:
  - Sage grouse: What are the impacts of transporting ore from additional claims?
  - Rehabilitation of the site: What will reclamation look like when the project is complete? Can this be clarified?
- Baker County Commission/Bill Harvey:
  - Submitted by email and read aloud by Sarah Lewis.
- Andy Bentz comment, also submitted in writing:
  - Section 3 – Was the applicant advised on what was required?
  - Section 2 – Information provided is what was required in the work plans and is complete.
  - Section 4 – Closure is detailed and consistent with other projects.
  - Appendix R, Land Use Compatibility Statement (LUCS) – the LUCS and Conditional Use Permit issued by Malheur County is a significant step in the CPA process, and should be accepted as complete.
- Public hearing was concluded once all who signed up to comment were heard:

- Written public comment period remained open until 5 pm Pacific Time on February 12, 2020.

#### Meeting Conclusion and Final Remarks

- Next action is a TRT meeting scheduled on February 14, 2020.
- Next PCC meeting will be convened when the next milestone has been reached, enough coordination has been completed, enough information has been received, or a PCC member requests a meeting.

#### Action Items

1. DOGAMI to re-solicit local governments, stakeholders, and agencies who may desire to engage as a member of the PCC.