



OFFICE OF  
**INSPECTOR GENERAL**  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

SEP 18 2015

Memorandum

To: Kristen J. Sarri  
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget

From: Roy Mills *Roy W. Mills*  
Director, Financial Audits

Subject: Verification Review – Recommendation 4 for the Report, “Abandoned Mine Lands in the Department of the Interior” (C-IN-MOA-0004-2007)  
Report No. 2015-FIN-075

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) has completed a verification review of the recommendations presented in the subject report to determine whether the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) implemented Recommendation 4 as reported to the Office of Financial Management (PFM), Office of Policy, Management and Budget. PFM reported to OIG that it has closed the recommendation. Based on our review, we concur that the recommendation has been resolved and implemented.

### **Background**

Our July 2008 report, “Abandoned Mine Lands in the Department of the Interior,” made a recommendation to BLM that addressed the bureau’s trespassing issues in Virginia City, NV, and identified safety-hazard features and land boundaries to mitigate potential hazards and determine responsible jurisdiction.

In an August 2008 memorandum to OIG, BLM concurred with Recommendation 4 and outlined steps for implementation. In September 2008, we referred the recommendation to PFM for tracking and implementation; at that time, we considered the recommendation resolved but not implemented.

In August 2013, PFM reported to OIG that BLM completed the necessary steps for PFM to consider Recommendation 4 implemented and closed.

### **Scope and Methodology**

We limited the scope of this review to determining whether BLM implemented Recommendation 4. To accomplish our objective, we reviewed the supporting documentation that PFM obtained from BLM to recommend closure.

We did not perform site visits or conduct fieldwork to determine whether BLM had corrected the underlying deficiencies initially identified in the report. We did not conduct this

review in accordance with Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards or the Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation as put forth by the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency.

## **Results of Review**

We concluded that BLM implemented Recommendation 4 as indicated by PFM's closure notification.

**Recommendation 4:** The Director, Bureau of Land Management, should identify and resolve trespassing on abandoned mine sites and access and mitigate hazards associated with these sites.

**Actions Taken:** To implement Recommendation 4, BLM focused on the issues in Virginia City, NV, identified in our report. A cadastral survey for Virginia City was completed in July 2008 to help BLM determine land boundaries and to address issues of trespass and abandoned mine land (AML) hazards on BLM public land.

BLM's Nevada State Office and the State of Nevada Commission on Mineral Resources Division of Minerals (NDOM) have consolidated sampling and inventory information of physical safety hazards and other mining features in Virginia City. BLM continues to determine land status of any AML feature on BLM land while NDOM addresses non-BLM-managed land.

BLM provided a list of the AML features in Virginia City located on BLM land and stated that it has addressed all of the AML safety hazard features. According to BLM's response, the Carson City District Office, the Nevada State Office, and Storey County are working together to resolve many complex land-status issues related to AML and trespasses identified in the 2008 cadastral survey in Virginia City.

## **Conclusion**

We informed DOI officials of the results of this review on September 3, 2015.

cc: Patrick McHugh, Audit Liaison Officer, Office of Financial Management  
LaVanna Stevenson, Audit Liaison Officer, Bureau of Land Management