

## Section 17.24.318

### PROTECTION OF PUBLIC PARKS AND HISTORIC PLACES

SCM will comply with the provisions of this rule should any historic places or other significant cultural resources, identified in Section 17.24.304(2), that have the potential to be impacted by mining operations.

#### Blasting Plan for Cultural Resource Site 24BH404

The rock art site and prairie falcon eyrie, also referenced as Cultural Resource Site 24BH404, are located on the north side of Pit 4. SCM will implement a blasting plan that will protect Cultural Resource Site 24BH404 from any damage due to the effects of long term operational damage. An extensive blasting study, see Addendum 318A, was completed by Matheson Mining to develop a modified equation to determine the maximum weight of explosives per delay as allowed under 17.24.625(2). The blasting study resulting in determining a conservative peak vibration of 4 in/sec and corresponding scale distance factor of 14.23. Pursuant to ARM 17.24.624, SCM will use the scale distance equation from the study for determining the maximum weight of explosives that may be detonated within any 8 millisecond period using a scale distance factor of 14.23.

For blasts within 2,000 feet of Cultural Resource Site 24BH404, additional measures will be implemented to increase the conservativeness of blasting controls near this site. These include:

1. Total shot size will be limited to 1,400,000 pounds of explosives.
2. Design will limit 8 millisecond charge weight of explosives to 80% of the maximum charge weight calculated using a scale distance factor of 14.23.
3. Each blast will be initiated at the end nearer the cultural resource site and propagate away from the site.
4. Air blast effects will be further minimized by not blasting when atmospheric conditions such as prevailing wind or excessive cloud cover may present the possibility of degradation of the culturally historic site.

In addition, SCM will use a seismograph to monitor vibration and air blast levels at the site. A peak vibration action level of 4 in/sec will be used to trigger possible implementation of additional controls. Should the 4 in/sec vibration level be exceeded, even in cases where the above additional controls were in place, SCM will consult with MDEQ to review the blast data, review existing controls, and consider implementation of additional controls to prevent future exceedances.

#### Cultural Resource Requirements from LBM for MTM-069782

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The BLM decision record from the Lease by Modification for MTM-069782 requires the following mitigation/action associated with cultural resources. The mitigation plan found in Appendix D of the EA DOI-BLM-MT-020-2010-29 for Spring Creek Coal Lease Modification MTM-069782 for mitigating impacts to NRHP Cultural site (24BH3392) must be initiated and completed prior to surface disturbing activities occurring on the tracts.

Additionally, prior to surface disturbance, the information for archaeological sites 24BH2530, 24BH2531, 24BH3388, 24BH3396, and 24BH3401 will be updated. The purpose of the updating is to better refine the spatial extent and relationships between the sites, man-made disturbances, and Archaeological Site 24BH1589 on adjacent state lands.