

Introduction

1. Hello and welcome to Course 3800-15, Tunnel and Mill Sites.
2. I'm Matt Shumaker and I'm the Solid Minerals coordinator here at the National Training Center in Phoenix, AZ...
3. You're about to begin a small but important course in your career with the BLM dealing with Mill Sites and Tunnel Sites.
4. **.Now, tunnel sites are pretty unusual these days. They were a sort of an exploration right of way that the United States Congress came up with to give the explorers the rights to underground deposits before the advent of diamond drilling. So it's pretty unlikely that you'll ever encounter a tunnel site during your career. But just in case you do, and I've encountered a few, it's important that you know what tunnel sites are, what to do with them, and how to answer questions from members of the public about them.**
5. Mill sites are a lot more common than tunnel sites, and there's been a lot of general misinformation spread around about them. Just as two examples, no, you can't locate a mill site claim just as a place to live, and yes, mill site claims most definitely are subject to the regulations at 43 CFR 3715 and 43 CFR 3809. Now mill site policies from the top are often the source of a lot of controversy. We're going to avoid the controversial parts in this course, and we're just going to stick to the basic information that'll be useful to you in your job, and to help you answer questions from members of the public. If the policies from headquarters change, the certified review mineral examiners in your office will usually know what to do.

People or managers will often ask you if a given tunnel site or their mill site is valid. That's not an easy question to answer. Making a validity determination of a mill site or tunnel site is a deliberative process that has to take into account a number of factors that include land status, current or planned use of the site and matters of law. To make an actual determination of validity requires undertaking a formal validity examination, writing a report of findings that must undergo a technical review and possibly a court hearing. So the best we can do in this course is to introduce you to the basic factors that we look at when evaluating a tunnel site or a mill site. Having said that...

6. The goal of this course is for each student to be able to:

Make initial estimates of validity at mill and tunnel sites.

7. In order to achieve that goal, we have 4 primary course objectives that you should also be able to perform when making initial validity determinations of mill and tunnel sites, and they are...

- 1) **identify the characteristics of the tunnel or mill site,**
- 2) **reference the applicable laws and regulations,**
- 3) **determine what non-mineral and use or occupancy for mining or milling purposes are present for a mill site only and**
- 4) **report your findings to management.**

8. Now that you know what our course goal and objectives are, let's take a look at what we will be covering. This course has 2 Modules that are comprised of video lectures, exercises, and resources that are designed to prepare you for the job you'll perform in the field as well as serve as a reference for you once you are doing the job. These modules are:

Module 1 will cover Tunnel sites

Module 2 will cover Mill sites

9. When you are finished with both modules you will be directed to complete the post-test. The post-test is comprised of a case study type scenario. The scenario has multiple resources for you to access and review if you so choose. You will find all of these resources after the course conclusion attached to the topic button entitled "post test resources". There you will find the test scenario, pictures, attachments, and statutory guidance to help you answer the post test questions. There's a total of 20 multiple-choice test items in the test. In order to receive credit for this course, you will need a score of 80% on the post-test, that is, 16 of the 20 questions must be answered correctly. Once you have passed the posttest, don't forget to print out your certificate for your personal records.
10. Before taking the course (or post test) you should know how to evaluate acreage from legal land descriptions (LLDs), how to transcribe LLD's onto a map and how to measure acreage off a map. If you do not, then you should take the Legal Land Descriptions Course 2000-01 DL or 2000-01 SS (self-study course). Both are available through DOI Learn.
11. Both modules in this course are presented by Pete Sokolosky. Pete is a geologist at the Wyoming State Office. Pete has presented these topics to the mineral examiner training classes at the National Training Center for many years
12. Now before you get started, I have one more thing. If at any time you have a question, feel free to use the "**Ask the Instructor a question**" resource button. Once you begin the course you'll see what I mean. Just simply type in your question and a certified mineral examiner will answer your question.

13. All that's left now is for you to begin. So good luck on your learning journey. I will talk to you again soon, at the end of the course!