



**Hillsborough
County Florida**

A report presented to the
Board of County Commissioners
on April 12, 2022
from

Public Utilities Administration
Environmental Services Division

Regarding

BIG FOUR MINE DRI #80
2020-2021
ANNUAL REPORT OF OPERATIONS
AND
STAFF REVIEW OF COMPLIANCE

Sign-Off Approvals	
Kevin Moran	3/22/2022
Department Director	Date
Kevin Brickey	3/23/22
Management and Budget – Approved as to	Date
Financial Impact Accuracy	
Nancy Takemori	3/23/2022
County Attorney – Approved as to Legal	Date
Sufficiency	
Assistant County Administrator	Date

- ☒ Consent Section – Informational purposes only. (*No discussion anticipated*)
☐ Consent Section – Board requested report. (*No discussion anticipated*)
☐ Staff Reports Section

ANNUAL REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENT ORDER COMPLIANCE ASSESSMENT

The Big Four Mine Development of Regional Impact #80 was approved by the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners on April 14, 1982. The development encompasses 5,940 acres and is located in southeastern Hillsborough County, extending 5 miles north of CR 674 and 2 miles west of the Polk-Hillsborough County Line. The project was approved for Phosphate Mining. The project's build out date was May 4, 2011.

Pursuant to the LDC Section 8.02.09, the phosphate mining permittee is required to submit an Annual Report of Operations containing a general review of mining operations and reclamation during the preceding reporting year and identify expected activities for the subsequent reporting year. The Annual Report of Operations submitted for the Big Four Mine project has been reviewed by the County and other applicable agencies for compliance with the terms and conditions of the Development Order, Operating Permit, and approved plans. The review generated no comments or recommendations and resulted in a finding that the Big Four Mine project is operating in compliance with all applicable requirements.

Project Status

The developer of record is Mosaic Fertilizer, LLC, (Mosaic). The authorized agent is Russell T. Schweiss. The Development Order and Operating Permit have been amended four times.

Development this Reporting Year:

During this reporting year, the following development was reported:

Each year, Mosaic is required to furnish to the BOCC evidence of financial responsibility. Mosaic's current year 2021/2022 proposed comprehensive (Hillsborough Consolidated Mines, Big Four Mine, and Hopewell Mine) financial responsibility agreement was reviewed, negotiated, and approved by Hillsborough County's Office of Management and Budget. This comprehensive financial responsibility agreement includes the following: (1) a Reclamation Surety Bond equal or greater than \$83,689,546.20 (2) an Environmental Liability Insurance Policy in the minimum amount of \$43,000,000, and (3) a Corporate Guarantee from the Mosaic Company of Delaware in the amount of \$9,658,080.00 to cover EPC wetland mitigation constructed but not yet released at \$6,354 per acre. The total amount of \$136,347,626.20 reported is based on the current level of the Reclamation Bond and Corporate Guarantee.

Phosphate mining was completed in the Big Four Mine during the report years 2007/2008. All mine cut contouring and re-vegetation for the Big Four Mine has been completed. Maintenance of the reclamation in establishment will continue in all areas as required by the County, Hillsborough County Environmental Protection Commission (HCEPC), Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and Army Corp of Engineers (ACOE). Only routine maintenance and supplemental plantings where required is proposed when required.

Since 1982, Mosaic and its predecessors, Mosaic Phosphates Company and IMC Phosphates Company have requested and obtained written reclamation release letters from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) for certain FDEP Logical Reclamation Units LRUs in the Big Four Mine. The 2020-2021 County total cumulative released acreage remained 4,122 acres at the DRI-80, Big Four Mine.

Projected Development:

There is no mining in the Big Four Mine. Reclamation activities expected during the reporting year 2021/2022 include maintenance of reclamation as required by the County, Hillsborough County Environmental Protection Commission, Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Army Corps of Engineers.

Project History

1. On May 19, 1976, the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) approved and issued Development Order No. 75-13-DRI (the "DRI"), Mine Operating Permit No. 75-MINE-3 (the "Operating Permit"), and Rezoning Petition No. 75-189 (the "Zoning") for the Big Four Mine to the Smith-Douglas Division of Borden Chemical, Borden, Inc. The DRI, Operating Permit and Zoning approvals authorized mining and mining related activities at the Big Four Mine.
2. On July 16, 1980, the BOCC adopted Resolution No. 80-554 which transferred the DRI and the Operating Permit from Borden to AMAX Chemical Corporation (AMAX).
3. On April 14, 1982, the BOCC adopted Resolution No.82-315, amending the DO to include approximately 200 additional acres.
4. On January 28, 1987, the BOCC adopted Resolution No. R87-0024, which transferred the DRI and Operating Permit, as amended, from AMAX to Mobil, with Mobil Corporation and Mobil Oil Corporation jointly providing a Corporate Guarantee to the BOCC to cover financial responsibility of the Big Four Mine.
5. On September 23, 1992, the BOCC determined that certain amendments were not a substantial deviation and adopted Resolutions No.R92-0243 and No.R92-0244; amending the Development Order 75-13-DRI and Operating Permit 75-Mine-3 respectively.
6. On October 8, 1996, the BOCC adopted Resolution No. 96-256, which among other things, approved and recognized IMC Agrico as the owner and developer of the Big Four Mine with all the rights and responsibility under the DRI, but maintained that all financial responsibility requirements for the Big Four Mine shall remain the responsibility of Mobil Corporation and Mobil Oil Corporation, until the transfer of the Operating Permit for the Big Four Mine.
7. On May 22, 2001, the BOCC adopted Resolution No. R01-104, which transferred the Development Order and Operating Permit from Exxon/Mobil (formerly known as Mobil Corporation) to IMC Phosphates Company (formerly known as IMC Agrico), with IMC

Phosphates Company providing an acceptable financial security agreement, and absolving Mobil of all financial responsibility for the Big Four Mine.

8. On May 22, 2001, the BOCC adopted Resolution No. R01-089, which extended the life of the Development Order to May 4, 2008, and provided that this effective period may be extended by the BOCC upon a finding of excusable delay in any proposed development activity.
9. On October 25, 2004, IMC Phosphates Company merged with Cargill Crop Nutrition and was renamed Mosaic Phosphates Company.
10. On July 29, 2005, Mosaic Phosphates Company merged with and into Mosaic Fertilizer, LLC.
11. On October 21, 2008, the BOCC adopted Resolution No.R08-173, which extended the life of the Development Order (DO) from May 4, 2008 to May 4, 2011, an extension of 3 years to correspond with the Florida Statue 380.06(19)(c) authorizing the build out / completion date. A previous amendment in 1992, application #392.10P, extended the DO from May 19, 1996 to May 4, 2001, an extension of four years, 11 months, and 15 days. A second previous amendment in 2000, application #1200.14P, extended the DO from May 4, 2001 to May 4, 2008, an additional extension of seven years.