



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR
Washington, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

JUL 29 2016

The Honorable Steve Knight
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Knight:

Thank you for your letters dated January 28, 2016 and March 29, 2016, to Deputy Secretary Connor, relating to a withdraw pending administrative appeal by CEMEX, Inc., of the decision by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to rescind and withdraw two contracts for CEMEX to develop sand and gravel in Soledad Canyon outside of Santa Clarita, California. In your letter, you requested assistance in working with the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA) to facilitate a final administrative determination at the earliest opportunity. Deputy Secretary Connor asked that I respond to your letter on his behalf.

As you note in your January 28 letter, the IBLA does employ a deliberative process in reviewing appeals of agency decisions, and the parties involved in this case are currently briefing the IBLA about the history of this matter and presenting their arguments in defense of their positions. The IBLA docketed CEMEX's appeal on September 29, 2015, and the BLM transmitted the administrative record to the IBLA on March 21, 2016. Counsel for CEMEX filed its opening brief on June 10, 2016, and the BLM is preparing its response, which is due on August 9. After the BLM files its response, the matter will then be ripe for IBLA's consideration.

As for the question in your letter of March 29, 2016, regarding the Department's intentions with respect to the future sale of the mineral resources at issue in the CEMEX case, the Department has not made a determination as to those resources. The BLM is not likely to make such a determination until after the conclusion of the IBLA appeals process.

Thank you for your interest in this matter. If you have further questions or concerns, please contact me or Ms. Linda Lance, Deputy Director, Bureau of Land Management, at (202) 208-3201.

Sincerely,

K. Jack Haugrud
Acting Principal Deputy Solicitor
Office of the Solicitor

