



STATE OF NEVADA

Department of Conservation & Natural Resources

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Jim Gibbons, Governor

Leo M. Drozdoff, P.E., Acting Director

Tom Porta, P.E., Acting Administrator

Web posting 7/14/2010

Deadline for comment 8/20/10

Notice of Proposed Action

Permit #NEV0000023

Cortez Gold Mine Project

Cortez Joint Venture dba Cortez Gold Mines

The Administrator of the Division of Environmental Protection gives notice that an application for renewal of a Water Pollution Control Permit for the Cortez Gold Mine Project, a mining and beneficiation facility, has been properly filed with the Division of Environmental Protection in Carson City. The applicant for renewal of Water Pollution Control Permit NEV0000023 is:

Cortez Joint Venture dba Cortez Gold Mines
HC66 Box 1250
Crescent Valley, Nevada 89821-1250

The facility is located on public and private land in east-central Lander County, within Sections 12, 13, and 24, Township 27 North, Range 47 East, Sections 18, 19, and 30, Township 27 North, Range 48 East, and Sections 9 and 10, Township 26 North, Range 48 East, Mount Diablo Baseline and Meridian, approximately 62 miles southwest of the town of Elko, Nevada.

The project, which is in planned temporary closure, consists of an open pit mining and beneficiation facility (NAC 445A.394) designed to extract gold, with a maximum permitted production rate of 2,000,000 tons of ore per year. The facility is comprised of inactive open pits, closed and reclaimed heap leach pads, closed and reclaimed tailings impoundments, draindown collection systems and ponds, monitoring wells, and remediation pumpback systems. Facilities are required to be designed, constructed, operated and closed without any discharge or release in excess of those standards established in regulation except for meteorological events which exceed the design storm event.

The Administrator is constrained to either issue the renewal Water Pollution Control Permit or to deny the application. The Administrator has made the tentative decision to issue the renewal permit.

Persons wishing to comment upon the proposed Water Pollution Control Permit, to recommend terms and conditions for consideration of incorporation into the permit, or who request a public

hearing pursuant to Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) Chapter 445A, must submit their written comments, objections, or requests by hand delivery, United States Postal Service, facsimile, or e-mail no later than 5:00 PM on the 30th day following the date of publication of this notice (submittal end date 20 August 2010) to:

Division of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Mining Regulation and Reclamation
901 South Stewart Street, Suite 4001
Carson City, Nevada 89701-5249

All comments, objections, or requests received during the public notice period will be considered in the final determination regarding this Water Pollution Control Permit. If the Division determines written comments or requests indicate a significant degree of public interest in this matter, the Administrator shall schedule a public hearing in accordance with the requirements of NAC 445A.405.

The draft Water Pollution Control Permit and all application documents are on file at the Division and are available for public inspection and copying pursuant to NRS 445A.665. For more information, contact Miles Shaw on (775) 687-9409 or visit the Bureau of Mining's website at <http://ndep.nv.gov/bmrr/bmrr01.htm>