



# STATE OF NEVADA

Department of Conservation & Natural Resources

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Jim Gibbons, Governor

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

Colleen Cripps, Ph.D., Acting Administrator

Web posting 12/15/2010

Deadline for comment 1/14/2011

## Notice of Proposed Action

Permit #NEV0091045

Baker Hughes Drilling Fluids

Argenta Mine and Mill

The Administrator of the Division of Environmental Protection gives notice that an application for renewal of Water Pollution Control Permit (WPCP) NEV0091045 for the Argenta Mine and Mill has been properly filed with the Division of Environmental Protection in Carson City. The applicant for the renewal of WPCP NEV0091045 is:

Baker Hughes Drilling Fluids  
P.O. Box 277  
Battle Mountain, Nevada 89820

The facility is located in Lander County, within Sections 6, 18, and 19, T32N, R47E; and within Sections 13 and 24, T32N, R46E MDB&M; approximately 11 miles northeast of the town of Battle Mountain, Nevada.

The Argenta Mine and Mill include open pits for the extraction of barite ore, waste rock and tailings impoundment facilities, a process plant for concentrating barite and a packaging facility. The project consists of open pit mines and a physical separation facility, designed to extract barite, with a maximum permitted production rate of up to 315,360 tons of ore per year. The facility is comprised of surface mines, waste rock and tailings impoundment facilities, barite ore stockpile areas, an evaporation pond, monitoring wells, a process plant for concentrating barite and a packaging facility. 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 renew the water pollution control permit, or to deny the application. The Administrator has made the tentative determination to renew the 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 30<sup>th</sup> day following the date of publication of this notice (submittal end date January 14, 2011) 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 Rob Kuczynski, P.E. at (775) 687-9441 or visit the Bureau of Mining's website at <http://ndep.nv.gov/bmrr/bmrr01.htm>