



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

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ACTION

Web posting 7/28/10

The Administrator, Division of Environmental Protection, Carson City, Nevada is issuing the following notice of proposed action under the Nevada Revised Statutes and the Federal Clean Water Act. The Administrator has received an application for renewal of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit, NV0023345, from the following applicant:

**Antler Peak Gold, Inc.
4000 W. Winnemucca Blvd.
Winnemucca, NV 89446**

The Esmeralda Project, formerly operated by Metallic Ventures (US), Inc., Nevada Goldfields, Inc., and the Aurora Partnership and known during that time as the Aurora Project, is a gold mining and milling operation located near the historic mining town of Aurora in Mineral County. Dewatering is necessary to fully develop the mine and to maintain production. The Applicant proposes to discharge a daily maximum of 4.32 million gallons per day of treated water produced by mine dewatering wells, mine decline sumps, and the dewatering of the Humboldt Pit Lake to the East Walker River via Rough Creek, Bodie Creek, and Days Creek, an ephemeral drainage. Treatment will consist of sediment removal through flocculent addition and retention in the three unlined settling ponds. Monitoring of the discharge will be conducted to ensure that surface and ground waters are not degraded as a result of the discharge.

On the basis of preliminary review of the requirements of the Nevada Revised Statutes, as amended, and implementing regulations, the Administrator proposes to issue the permit to discharge for a five (5) year period, subject to certain effluent limitations.

Persons wishing to comment upon or object to the proposed determinations by the Administrator regarding the issuance of the permit, or to request a hearing pursuant to the Nevada Administrative Code, Water Pollution Control, should submit their comments or request, in writing, within thirty (30) days of the date of newspaper publication, hand-delivered or postmarked no later than **5:00 P.M. on August 30, 2010**, either in person or by mail to:

**Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Division of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Water Pollution Control
901 S. Stewart Street, Suite 4001
Carson City, Nevada 89701**

Comments and/or hearing requests received via facsimile or e-mail before **5:00 P.M. August 30, 2010** will also be accepted. All requests for hearings must indicate the interest of the person filing the request and the reason(s) why a hearing is warranted. All comments or objections received within the thirty (30) day comment period will be considered in the formulation of final determinations regarding the application. If written comments indicate a significant degree of public interest in the proposed permit, the Administrator shall hold a public hearing. The public notice of such hearings will be issued not less than thirty (30) days prior to the public hearing date.

If no hearing is held and the determinations of the Administrator are substantially changed from the tentative determinations, the Administrator will give public notice of the revised determinations. Additional comments and

objections will be considered at that time.

The application, proposed permit, comments received, and other information are on file and may be copied or copies may be obtained by writing to the above address or by contacting Janine Hartley, P.E., Bureau of Water Pollution Control at (775) 687-9458, or at jhartley@ndep.nv.gov. The office facsimile number is (775) 687-4684. This notice and the Fact Sheets for these facilities are also available on the NDEP website at www.ndep.nv.gov/admin/public.htm.

Please bring the foregoing notice to the attention of all persons whom you know would be interested in this matter.