



# STATE OF NEVADA

Department of Conservation & Natural Resources

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Brian Sandoval, Governor

Leo M. Drozdoff, P.E., Director

Colleen Cripps, Ph.D., Administrator

## Notice of Proposed Action – Bureau of Mining Regulation and Reclamation

Web posting: 10/07/2011

Deadline for Comment: 11/12/2011

The Administrator of the Division of Environmental Protection gives notice that an application for a Major Modification of a Water Pollution Control Permit for the **Esmeralda Project**, a mining and beneficiation facility, has been properly filed with the Division of Environmental Protection in Carson City. The applicant for the Major Modification of Water Pollution Control Permit **NEV0087072** is:

**Antler Peak Gold Inc. / Great Basin Gold Limited**  
**Esmeralda Project**  
**4000 Winnemucca Blvd.**  
**Winnemucca, NV 89446**

The facility is located on both public and private land in Mineral County, within Sections 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 29, 30, 31, and 32, Township 5 North, Range 28 East, Mount Diablo Baseline & Meridian (MDB&M), approximately 33 miles southwest of the town of Hawthorne.

The Esmeralda Project consists of both underground and surface mining operations and a beneficiation facility designed to extract gold and minor amounts of silver, with a maximum permitted production rate of 127,700 tons of ore per year obtained on-site and/or from off-site sources. The mining operation, which is currently inactive, is comprised of two underground exploration declines, five open pits and their associated maintenance areas, and several waste rock disposal facilities in various states of reclamation. The milling operation is comprised of crushing and grinding circuits, a carbon-in-leach (CIL) circuit utilizing sodium cyanide, electrowinning and Merrill-Crowe circuits for precious metal recovery, tailings impoundment, ponds, assay labs, monitoring and dewatering wells.

The Major Modification adds a second, lined tailings storage facility and other associated components. 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 Major Modification of the Water Pollution Control Permit or to deny the application. The Administrator has made the tentative decision to issue the modified permit.

Persons wishing to comment upon the proposed Major Modification of the 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 or US Postal Service, or by facsimile or e-mail transmittal (with the original to be received within five (5) days of transmittal date), no later than 5:00 PM on the 30<sup>th</sup> day following the date of publication of this notice **(submittal end date November 12, 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 regarding only the Major Modification will be considered in the final determination regarding the 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 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>