



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: 12/21/11

Deadline for Comment: 1/20/12

The Administrator of the Division of Environmental Protection gives notice that an application for renewal and major modification of a Water Pollution Control Permit for the **Pipeline Project**, a mining and beneficiation facility, has been properly filed with the Division of Environmental Protection in Carson City. The applicant for renewal and modification of Water Pollution Control Permit **NEV0093109** (Permit) is:

Barrick Cortez, Inc.
HC66 Box 1250
Crescent Valley, Nevada 89821-1250

The facility is located on public and private land in Lander County, within Sections 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, and 33, Township 28 North, Range 47 East, Sections 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9, Township 27 North, Range 47 East, and Sections 1 and 12, Township 27 North, Range 46 East, MDB&M, approximately 30 air-miles southeast of the town of Battle Mountain, Nevada.

The project consists of a large scale open pit mining and mill and heap leach beneficiation facility, designed to extract gold, with a maximum permitted production rate of 45,000,000 tons of ore per year. The facility is comprised of the mine, mill, heap leach pads, tailings impoundments, solution and stormwater ponds, dewatering and water quality monitoring wells, waste rock disposal facilities, and administrative, mechanical, and warehouse support facilities. The major modification is for a tailings impoundment expansion and construction of associated infrastructure and monitoring 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 renewal and modified Permit or to deny the application. The Administrator has made the tentative decision to issue the renewal and modified Permit.

Persons wishing to comment upon the proposed 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 30th day following the date of publication of this notice (submittal end date **20 January 2012**) 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 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 Miles Shaw on (775) 687-9409 or visit the Bureau of Mining Regulation and Reclamation's website at <http://ndep.nv.gov/bmrr/bmrr01.htm>