



# STATE OF NEVADA

Department of Conservation & Natural Resources

Brian Sandoval, Governor

Leo M. Drozdoff, P.E., Director

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Colleen Cripps, Ph.D., Administrator

## Nevada Division of Environmental Protection FACTSHEET (Pursuant to NAC 445A.236)

PERMITTEE NAME:	<b>Robinson Nevada Mining Company</b> P. O. Box 382 Ruth, Nevada, 89319		
PERMIT NUMBER:	<b>NEV94013</b>		
LOCATION:	<b>Robinson Operation</b> 4232 W. White Pine County Road 44 Ruth, White Pine County, Nevada 89319		
COORDINATES:	Latitude 39° 16' 09" Township - 16N	Longitude. -115° 00' 23" Range - 62E	Section - 8
FLOW:	Onsite Sewage Disposal (OSDS) with a <b>15,000</b> gallon volume capacity.		
PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY:	There are no public supply wells within one (1) mile of this facility.		
CORRECTIVE ACTIONS SITES:	There is no Bureau of Corrective Actions remediation site located within a five-mile radius from the center-point of the mine's property, which would cover all of the individual septic systems covered under this discharge permit.		
WELLHEAD PROTECTION AREA:	OSDS systems permitted under this discharge permit are located outside of the 6,000 feet Drinking Water Protection Area (DWPA) and not within a delineated wellhead capture zone for any public supply well.		

**GENERAL:**

**Robinson Nevada Mining Company**, operates the Robinson Operation, a copper mine with associated processing facilities, near Ruth, White Pine County, Nevada. Domestic wastewater is collected from restrooms and showers located around the mine site. At the maximum workforce size of 460 persons, the maximum estimated wastewater flow from the sanitary facilities is 14,225 gallons per day (approximately 9.9 gallons per minute).

Collected effluent is routed to a **15,000 gallon** septic tank for primary settling/treatment. Settled effluent flows to a float-level controlled pumping chamber (wet well), from which it is pumped to a tailings impoundment via existing tailings slurry delivery pipelines. The effluent co-mingles with the liquid portion of the tailings (approximately 11,000 gallons per minute) within the tailings delivery system.

Once in the tailings impoundment, the tailings are deposited in such a manner that the solid and liquid phases of the slurry separate, and the liquid phase collects in a pooling area behind the impoundment dam. The collected supernatant, with its minor amount of sanitary wastewater effluent, is reclaimed and pumped back into the mill for reuse as makeup water within the milling operations.

Because the reclaimed water (of which less than 0.1% is sanitary wastewater effluent) is used in areas of the milling operation where personnel could have contact with it, NDEP requires monthly monitoring for Fecal Coliform Bacteria. To protect the health of the workforce, in the event that Fecal Coliform exceeds the Daily Maximum permit limit of 23 Colony Forming Units (CFU) or Most Probable Number (MPN) per 100 ml, the Permittee shall cease the use of reclaim water where human contact can be reasonably expected until the reclaim water meets permit limits.

**FLOW:**

Total OSDS tank volume for this operation is **15,000 gallons**. OSDS tank flows are not metered either individually or collectively. In order to ensure proper domestic wastewater treatment, the daily flow into the tank shall not exceed its volume capacity.

**PROPOSED OPERATIONAL CONDITIONS:**

**Table - 1 - Effluent Limitations & Special Conditions**

OSDS Parameter	Permit Limits		Monitoring Requirements	
	30-Day Average	Daily Maximum	Sample Location	Frequency
Flow (gpd)	15,000	Monitor & Report	Pump Timers	Monthly
Fecal Coliform	≤2.2	23	Mill Reclaimed Water	Monthly
Pumping Frequency	-	-	OSDS Tank	As per BSER

Biennial Septic System Evaluation Report (**BSER**) due every odd year of the permit cycle in appropriate form -

[http://ndep.nv.gov/bwpc/docs/osds\\_large\\_capacity\\_biennia\\_report\\_form\\_091.pdf](http://ndep.nv.gov/bwpc/docs/osds_large_capacity_biennia_report_form_091.pdf). Pumping of septic tank as established in **BSER**.

Additional monitoring requirements for all categories may be added at the Division's discretion. Surfacing of any substance from a system is strictly prohibited. The Permittee is required to implement an Operations & Maintenance (**O & M**) manual with operational policies that ensure proper equipment operation and compliance with the terms and conditions of this general permit.

#### **SCHEDULE OF COMPLIANCE:**

The Permittee shall implement and comply with the provisions of the schedule of compliance after approval by the Administrator, including in said implementation and compliance, any additions or modifications which the Administrator may make in approving the schedule of compliance.

- a. The Permittee shall achieve and/or maintain compliance with all effluent limitations upon issuance of the permit;
- b. By **MMM DD, 2012 (60 Days)**, the Permittee shall submit to **NDEP** an updated **Operations & Maintenance Manual (O & M)** for this facility; if the **O & M Manual** currently on file is up to date, please submit a letter stating so.

#### **RECEIVING WATER CHARACTERISTICS:**

Discharge of treated effluent will be to a tailings impoundment facility. Effluent is not expected to contact waters of the State of Nevada. Operation of the tailings impoundment is administered under NDEP Bureau of Mining Regulation and Reclamation Permit **NEV92105**.

#### **PERMIT REQUIREMENTS & RATIONALE:**

The permit requires routine monitoring, implementation of Best Management Practices (**BMP**), **O & M Manual** and reporting to ensure the site is performing at a level that minimizes water pollution and protects public health and the environment.

#### **OPERATION REQUIREMENTS:**

The Permittee shall operate the facility in compliance with permit provisions and requirements and in accordance with the Division-approved Operations and Maintenance Manual (**O & M Manual**). The **O & M Manual** shall contain information required to comply with this permit.

#### **PROPOSED DETERMINATION:**

The division has made the tentative determination to renew the proposed permit, under the provisions prescribed, for a 5-year period. Under **NAC 445A.232**, this permit is classified discharge of domestic wastewater of less than 50,000 gallons.

#### **PROCEDURES FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:**

The Notice of the Division's intent to renew this discharge permit to the applicant, subject to the conditions contained within the permit is being sent to the **Ely Daily Times** and the **Las Vegas Review Journal** for publication. The notice is being mailed to interested persons on our mailing list. Anyone wishing to comment on the proposed permit can do so in writing for a period of thirty (30)

days following the date of publication of the public notice in the newspaper. The comment period can be extended at the discretion of the Administrator. The deadline date and time by which all comments are to be submitted (via postmarked mail or time-stamped faxes, e-mails, or hand-delivered items) to the Division is **March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012 by 5:00 P.M.**

A public hearing on the proposed determination can be requested by the applicant, any affected State, any affected interstate agency, the Regional Administrator or any interested agency, person or group of persons. The request must be filed within the comment period and must indicate the interest of the person filing the request and the reasons why a hearing is warranted.

Any public hearing determined by the Administrator to be held must be conducted in the geographical area of the proposed discharge or any other area the Administrator determines to be appropriate. All public hearings must be conducted in accordance with **NAC 445A.238**. The final determination of the Administrator may be appealed to the State Environmental Commission pursuant to **NRS 445A.605**.

The application and proposed permit are on file and may be copied or copies may be obtained by writing or calling **Alexi Lanza, P.E.**, Bureau of Water Pollution Control at **(775)687-9468**; fax: **(775)687-4684**; or email: [alanza@ndep.nv.gov](mailto:alanza@ndep.nv.gov). This notice and the fact sheet can be viewed online at the following web address: <http://ndep.nv.gov/admin/public.htm>

Prepared by: **Alexi Lanza, P.E.**  
Nevada Division of Environmental Protection  
Bureau of Water Pollution Control - Permits Branch  
January - 2012