

FACT SHEET

(Pursuant to Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 445A.401)

Permittee Name: **Barrick Gold Exploration Inc.**

Project Name: **North Monitor Exploration Project--Discharge Permit**

Permit Number: **NEV2014118 (New Permit 2014)**

A. Location and General Description

Location: Barrick Gold Exploration Inc. (the Permittee), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Barrick Goldstrike Mines Inc., operates an exploration project on the eastern edge of Bean Flat and north of the Twin Spring Hills in Eureka County, approximately 22 miles southwest of Eureka, Nevada. The exploration project is within portions of Sections 17, 20, and 32 through 34, Township 20 North, Range 49 East; Sections 2, 3, 4, 7, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 24, and 25, Township 19 North, Range 49 East; Section 30 and 31, Township 19 North, Range 50 East; and Section 1, Township 18 North, Range 49 East; Mount Diablo Baseline and Meridian (MDB&M).

General Description: Twenty-five locations have been identified for exploratory drilling at the North Monitor Exploration Project site. The drilling program requires the construction of drill pads and collection sumps to manage excess drilling fluid generated and as of this date not all of the sites have been developed. Following completion of drilling activities, the boreholes will be plugged and abandoned pursuant to Nevada Division of Water Resources regulatory requirements and the sumps backfilled and graded.

Site Access: From Carlin, proceed south on State Route-278 (S.R.-278) approximately 89 miles to the junction of U.S. Highway-50 (US-50). Proceed west on U.S.-50 approximately 25 miles to the junction of 3-Bars Road (Rd.). Proceed north on 3-Bars Rd. to access the eastern portion of the project area. Access to each borehole site is via a network of existing exploration drilling roads.

From Eureka, proceed west on U.S.-50 approximately 28 miles to the junction of 3-Bars Rd. Proceed north on 3-Bars Rd. to access the western portion of the project area. Access to each borehole site is via a network of existing exploration drilling roads.

B. Description of Discharge

Background: In an effort to manage drilling fluid generated as a result of the Permittee's North Monitor Exploration Program, Temporary Water Pollution Control Permit TNEV2014107 (issued 10 March 2014) authorizes the discharge

of up to 6,000 gallons per day (gpd) of drilling fluid into constructed collection sumps located adjacent to each drill pad.

The 180-day Temporary Permit will expire on 6 September 2014. Since the Division has no regulatory authority to renew and reissue Temporary Discharge Permits, the Permittee formally applied for a 5-year Groundwater Discharge Permit on 7 July 2014 for the North Monitor Exploration Project.

Currently, 25 locations are proposed for are proposed for the Project. At each borehole, excess drill water will be discharged to one or two sumps, each approximately 15 feet long by 20 feet wide by 15 feet deep (total volume at crest approximately 67,000 gallons). Each sump is divided into two chambers, “A” and “B” separated with a weed-free hay bale for trapping silt.

The drill cuttings are initially captured in Sump A and the overflow water will filtrate through the hay bales to Sump B. Once sump B reaches capacity, the water will be monitored, characterized, and flow estimated for reporting. Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be utilized to limit erosion from the discharge from Sump B. This process is active only when Sump B has reached overflow capacity. When the water level has declined and stabilized below the overflow status in Sump B, the water discharge process is not necessary. Overflow will not be discharged into or a near a current drainage.

Following completion of drilling activities, the boreholes will be plugged and abandoned pursuant to Nevada Division of Water Resources regulatory requirements and the sumps backfilled and graded.

C. Proposed Determination

The Division has made the tentative determination to issue the Permit.

D. Receiving Water Characteristics

Based on borehole data, the average depth to groundwater in the North Monitor Exploration Project Area is 340 feet below ground surface. Groundwater beneath the project area is generally southward to Kobeh Valley.

The Permittee has not collected groundwater characterization data for the Project area, but historical data indicates arsenic, antimony and total nitrogen slightly above the Profile I reference values. The Permittee is required to monitor flow discharge to Sump “B” daily and water quality monthly. This is unchanged from the Temporary Discharge Permit TNEV2014107.

E. Proposed Effluent Limitations, Schedule of Compliance, Special Conditions

See Section I of the Permit.

F. Rationale for Permit Requirements

The facility is located in an area where annual evaporation is greater than annual precipitation. Therefore, it must operate under a standard of performance which authorizes no discharge(s) except for those accumulations resulting from a storm event beyond that required by design for containment.

The primary method for identification of escaping drilling fluids will be placed on required routine monitoring and sampling of flow discharged to the collection sumps. Specific monitoring requirements can be found in the Water Pollution Control Permit.

G. Procedures for Public Comment

The Notice of the Division's intent to issue a Permit authorizing the facility to construct, operate and close, subject to the conditions within the Permit, is being sent to the **Eureka Sentinel** for publication. The Notice is being mailed to interested persons on the Bureau of Mining Regulation and Reclamation mailing list. Anyone wishing to comment on the proposed Permit can do so in writing within a period of 30 days following the date of public notice. The comment period can be extended at the discretion of the Administrator. All written comments received during the comment period will be retained and considered in the final determination.

A public hearing on the proposed determination can be requested by the applicant, any affected State, any affected intrastate agency, 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.403 through NAC 445A.406.

H. Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act

Under the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act, 16 United States Code (U.S. Code) 701-718, it is unlawful to kill migratory birds without license or permit, and no permits are issued to take migratory birds using toxic ponds. The Federal list of migratory birds (50 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 10, 15 April 1985)

includes nearly every bird species found in the State of Nevada. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is authorized to enforce the prevention of migratory bird mortalities at ponds and tailings impoundments. Compliance with State permits may not be adequate to ensure protection of migratory birds for compliance with provisions of Federal statutes to protect wildlife.

Open waters attract migratory waterfowl and other avian species. High mortality rates of birds have resulted from contact with toxic ponds at operations utilizing toxic substances. The Service is aware of two approaches that are available to prevent migratory bird mortality: 1) physical isolation of toxic water bodies through barriers (e.g., by covering with netting), and 2) chemical detoxification. These approaches may be facilitated by minimizing the extent of the toxic water. Methods which attempt to make uncovered ponds unattractive to wildlife are not always effective. Contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at 1340 Financial Boulevard, Suite 234, Reno, Nevada 89502-7147, (775) 861-6300, for additional information.

<i>Prepared by:</i>	<i>Rob Kuczynski, P.E.</i>
<i>Date:</i>	<i>XX Month 2014</i>
<i>Fact Sheet Revision 00: (Permit Revision 00)</i>	<i>New Permit and Fact Sheet Supersedes Temporary Discharge Permit TNEV 2014107.</i>