



# 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: 01/21/2015**

**Deadline for Comment: 02/20/2015**

The Administrator of the Division of Environmental Protection (the Division) gives notice that an application for renewal of a Water Pollution Control Permit for the **Cortez Hills Project**, a mining and beneficiation facility, has been properly filed with the Division of Environmental Protection in Carson City. The Applicant for renewal of Water Pollution Control Permit **NEV2007106** (Permit) is:

**Cortez Joint Venture dba Barrick Cortez Inc.  
HC66 Box 1250  
Crescent Valley, NV 89821-1250**

The facility is located on public and private land in Lander and Eureka Counties, within Sections 1, 2, 12, 13, and 24, Township 26 North, Range 47 East (T26N, R47E); Sections 6, 7, 8, 17, 18, 19, and 20, T26N, R48E; Sections 12, 13, 24, 25, 26, 35, and 36, T27N, R47E; and Sections 18, 19, 30, 31, and 32, T27N, R48E, Mount Diablo Baseline and Meridian, approximately 37 miles southeast of the town of Battle Mountain.

The Project consists of a mining operation and heap leach beneficiation facility, designed to extract gold, with a maximum permitted production rate of 20,000,000 tons of ore per year. The facility is comprised of open pit and underground mines, a primary crusher and cross-valley mill-grade ore conveyor system, engineered waste rock disposal facilities and ore stockpiles, a lined heap leach pad, a pregnant solution process tank, lined process and stormwater ponds, a plant for processing heap leach solution, a tailings storage facility, dewatering wells and portions of a cross-valley water conveyance system, groundwater monitoring wells, a water supply well, and associated administrative and operational support infrastructure. 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 renewed Permit or to deny the application. The Administrator has made the tentative decision to issue the renewed 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) 445A.403, must submit their written comments,

objections, or requests by hand delivery or US Postal Service, or by facsimile or e-mail transmittal, no later than 5:00 PM on the 30<sup>th</sup> day following the date of publication of this notice (publication date 21 January 2015, comment submittal end date 20 February 2015) to:

Division of Environmental Protection  
Bureau of Mining Regulation and Reclamation  
901 South Stewart Street, Suite 4001  
Carson City, NV 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 Nevada Revised Statute 445A.665. For more information, contact Tom Gray at (775) 687-9403 or visit the Bureau of Mining Regulation and Reclamation website at <http://ndep.nv.gov/bmrr/bmrr01.htm>.