

NOTICE OF DECISION - Bureau of Mining Regulation and Reclamation

Web Posting: 11/30/2016

Deadline for Appeal: 12/10/2016

**WPC. Permit No. NEV0095111
Pipeline Infiltration Project
Cortez Joint Venture dba Barrick Cortez Inc.**

The Administrator of the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (the Division) has decided to issue renewed Water Pollution Control Permit NEV0095111 to Barrick Cortez Inc. This Permit authorizes the construction, operation, and closure of approved mining facilities in Lander and Eureka County, Nevada. The Division has been provided with sufficient information, in accordance with Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 445A.350 through 445A.447, to assure that the waters of the State will not be degraded by this operation, and that public safety and health will be protected.

The Permit will become effective 15 December 2016. The final determination of the Administrator may be appealed to the State Environmental Commission pursuant to Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 445A.605 and NAC 445A.407. All requests for appeals must be filed by 5:00 PM, 10 December 2016, on Form 3, with the State Environmental Commission, 901 South Stewart Street, Suite 4001, Carson City, Nevada 89701-5249. For more information, contact Natasha Zittel at (775) 687-9413 or visit the Bureau of Mining Regulation and Reclamation website at <http://ndep.nv.gov/bmrr/index.htm>.

One comment was received during the public comment period, J.J. Goicoechea, Chairman, Eureka County Board of Commissioners. The text of all comments, in some cases excerpted, and the Division responses (in *italics*) are included below as part of this Notice of Decision.

Eureka County Board of Commissioners, Written Comment:

“Eureka County has reviewed the Notice of Proposed Action for the renewal of Barrick’s Water Pollution Control Permit (WPCP) NEV0095111 and the supporting fact sheet...” “Our primary interest is whether or not the project may result in degradation of the groundwater resource of the alluvial aquifer and negatively affect residents in Crescent Valley.” “We believe the facilities are designed in such a way that degradation is unlikely”. “...Extensive monitoring of existing infiltration facilities has documented that the public and the resource have not been negatively affected to date.” “...It is our opinion the permit is protecting water resources in Eureka County from being degraded to the fullest extent practicable. It does not guarantee against a release of harmful substances, but if a release does occur it should be detected in time to allow remedial measures to be actively implemented.” “...We believe granting of the WPCP is warranted and request you do so.”

Division Response:

Comment noted.