

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ACTION - Bureau of Mining Regulation and Reclamation

Web Posting: 02/10/2016

Deadline for Comment: 03/11/2016

The Administrator of the Division of Environmental Protection (the Division) gives notice that an application for a major modification of a Water Pollution Control Permit for the **Pipeline Infiltration Project**, a mine dewatering water management facility, has been properly filed with the Division of Environmental Protection in Carson City. The Applicant for modification to Water Pollution Control Permit **NEV0095111** (Permit) is:

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

The facility is located on public and private land in Lander and Eureka Counties, Sections 13, 14, 15, 21, 22, 27, 28, 32, 33, and 34, Township 28 North (T28N), Range 47 East (R47E); Sections 13, 23, 24, and 26, T27N, R46E; Sections 1, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18, T28N, R48E; unsurveyed Sections 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 11, 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, 24, and 25, T27N, R47E; Sections 3, 6, 7, 9, and 17, T28N, R49E; and Sections 11, 13, 25, 27, 29, and 35, T29N, R49E, Mount Diablo Baseline and Meridian, approximately 35 miles southeast of the town of Battle Mountain.

The Project consists of a dewatering water management facility, pursuant to Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 445A.232.2, designed to discharge dewatering water to groundwater via rapid infiltration basins (RIBs), with a maximum permitted discharge rate of 49,680,000 gallons per day. The dewatering water is obtained from dewatering wells at the Pipeline (NEV0093109) and Cortez Hills (NEV2007106) mine projects. The facility is comprised of dewatering wells, pumps, pipelines, ponds, RIBs, monitoring wells, piezometers, and associated components. The current major modification includes construction of the new Cottonwood II, III, and IV infiltration sites (12 RIBs total), a new lined pond, a new pump station, and pipelines to interconnect the components. Facilities are required to be designed, constructed, operated, and closed without degrading waters of the State or causing any surface discharges. Monitoring wells will be used to detect any changes in receiving groundwater quality.

The Administrator is constrained to either issue the modified Permit or to deny the application. The Administrator has made the tentative decision to issue the 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 NAC 445A.238, 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 30th day following the date of publication of this notice (submittal end date 11 March 2016) 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/index.htm>.