



# STATE OF NEVADA

Department of Conservation & Natural Resources

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
June 1, 2009

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### *State Requires Jerritt Canyon Mine Mill To Halt Operations Until Required Mercury Emissions Equipment is Installed*

CARSON CITY – The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) directed Queenstake Resources, USA to discontinue operation of its roasters at the Jerritt Canyon Mine because the company could not meet a deadline to install mercury emission-control equipment.

Queenstake notified the NDEP both roasters at the Jerritt Canyon Mine ceased operation at 11 p.m. May 30.

The NDEP ordered Queenstake to install a calomel-based mercury control system by May 30 in order to continue ore-processing operations. According to the company, a delay in the fabrication of certain fiberglass ductwork materials caused Queenstake to miss the deadline.

The calomel-based mercury scrubbers are required by the NDEP to ensure the company complies with a state-mandated mercury emission limit, and to minimize the proportion of oxidized (reactive) mercury released to the air.

Queenstake has successfully complied with other requirements of operation per NDEP Order 2009-4.

#### **HISTORY:**

Following a year-long investigation into mercury emissions, in March 2008 the NDEP ordered Queenstake Resources to install new state-of-the-art emission control equipment at the Jerritt Canyon Mine by the end of that year. Before the NDEP's order was satisfied, Queenstake Resources, by its own action, stopped mining and processing ore at Jerritt Canyon Mine in August 2008. The facility remained shut down while the new emission control systems were designed. Staff from Queenstake Resources and the NDEP worked together to resolve several air emission issues related to the roasting operation.

NDEP issued an Order March 25, allowing Queenstake to restart ore processing operations after the mine's initial environmental compliance was satisfied.