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DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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October 26, 2005

FACT SHEET (pursuant to NAC 445A.236)

Permit Name: General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Industrial Activity from Metals Mining Activity to Waters of the U.S.

Permit Number: NVR300000

Description of Discharge: Stormwater runoff from wasterock piles, haul roads, milling facilities and other mine areas that have not mixed with process solutions or other contaminant sources. Typical pollutants include suspended and dissolved solids and minerals eroded from exposed surfaces.

Location: Currently, there are 63 separately permitted mines located statewide.

Flow: In response to rainfall and snowmelt.

Receiving Water Characteristics: Variable depending on mine location.

Permit Requirements: This permit is in response to requirements of the Federal Clean Water Act and implementing federal regulations, and is based on Best Management Practices (BMPs) such as education, diversion, detention, storage, spill response, and good housekeeping. BMPs selected by the facility are subject to Division approval. This is a continuation of a program begun in 1993 under the previous General Permits, GNV0022225 and NVR300000 respectively. Like the previous permit, this permit authorizes certain Stormwater Discharges Associated with Industrial Activity from Metals Mining Activity to Waters of the U.S. Water quality sampling is only required for stormwater discharges from wasterock and overburden piles to Waters of the U.S.

In addition to maintaining most of the language from the previous, this permit includes additional requirements that account for earth disturbing activities related to clearing, grading, and excavation associated with road building, as well as, construction of office

buildings and other facilities on the mine site. Incorporation of these additional requirements is consistent with Nevada requirements for construction activities at non-mining sites under General Permit NVR100000. Impacts to mine sites will include increased inspections and improved Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans and site BMP's.

In the previous 2000 mining permit, there were concerns regarding discharges from waste rock and overburden piles (which may not be subject to effluent guidelines) and the potential of such discharges to cause or contribute to exceedance of state water quality standards. The permit required (within 6 months of its effective date) either a monitoring plan for such discharges or the submittal of information showing that the discharges would not be expected to cause or contribute to an exceedance of standards. From a record review it appears that the submittal of information showing that the discharges would not be expected to cause or contribute to exceedance of standards was widely used. While the information was submitted as required, the program warranted continuation and additional information for continued evaluation by NDEP. In this permit, permittees are required to update and continue to implement monitoring plans for sampling stormwater discharges from waste rock dumps and overburden piles to Waters of The U.S. The updated monitoring plan shall be included as a separate section within the SWPPP. Also, each permittee shall include updated information, as a separate section within the SWPPP, indicating that the expected discharges from waste rock dumps and overburden piles would not have reasonable potential to cause or contribute to exceedances of applicable water quality standards. Such information shall include data on the nature of the rock or other material from which the runoff originates, runoff data from similar areas, BMPs to be implemented by the permittee, and other relevant information subject to approval by the Division.

Rationale for Permit Requirements: The conditions set in permit language are the minimum requirements to maintain and implement an effective stormwater program within the confines of U. S. EPA published rules (Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 122) for use in stormwater permits. BMP's are approved by the U.S. EPA for use in stormwater permits, and the existing program appears successful based on the past eleven years under the previous permits.

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