



# STATE OF NEVADA

Department of Conservation & Natural Resources

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

*Jim Gibbons, Governor*

*Allen Biaggi, Director*

*Leo M. Drozdoff, P.E., Administrator*

## Notice of Proposed Action

The Administrator of the Division of Environmental Protection gives notice that an application for a renewal of a Water Pollution Control Permit for the Esmeralda Project, a mining and beneficiation facility, has been properly filed with the Division of Environmental Protection in Carson City. The applicant for the renewal of Water Pollution Control Permit NEV0087072 is:

Metallic Ventures (US), Inc.  
Esmeralda Project  
5450 Riggins Court, Suite 2  
Reno, NV 89502

The facility is located on both public and private land in Mineral County, within Sections 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 29, 30, 31, and 32, Township 5 North, Range 28 East, Mount Diablo Baseline & Meridian (MDB&M), approximately 33 miles southwest of the town of Hawthorne and near the historic mining town of Aurora. The facility has been in temporary closure, pursuant to NAC 445A.444 and 445A.445, since March 16, 2005.

The Esmeralda Project consists of both underground and surface mining operations and a beneficiation facility designed to extract gold and minor amounts of silver, with a maximum permitted production rate of 127,700 tons of ore per year. The mining operation is comprised of two underground exploration declines, five open pits and their associated maintenance areas and waste rock disposal facilities in various states of reclamation. A lake has formed within one of the pits. The milling operation is comprised of crushing and grinding circuits, a carbon-in-leach (CIL) circuit utilizing sodium cyanide, electrowinning and Merrill-Crowe circuits for precious metal recovery, tailings impoundment, ponds, assay labs, monitoring and dewatering wells. 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 renewal of the Water Pollution Control Permit or to deny the application. The Administrator has made the tentative decision to issue the renewal permit.

Persons wishing to comment upon the proposed Water Pollution Control 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) Chapter 445A, must submit their written comments, objections, or requests no later than 5:00 PM on the 30<sup>th</sup> day following the date of

This Document is for Electronic Distribution

publication of this notice (Publication date Thursday, October 9, 2008; comment period closes on Friday, November 7, 2008) to:

Division of Environmental Protection  
Bureau of Mining Regulation and Reclamation  
901 South Stewart Street, Suite 4001  
Carson City, Nevada 89701-5249

All comments or objections received during the public notice period will be considered in the final determination regarding this Water Pollution Control 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 Water Pollution Control Permit and all application documents are on file at the Division and are available for public inspection and copying pursuant to NRS 445A.665. For more information, contact Rob Kuczynski, P.E. at (775) 687-9441 or visit the Bureau of Mining Regulation and Reclamation website at <http://ndep.nv.gov/bmrr/bmrr01.htm>

This Document is for Electronic Distribution