



# 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 renewal of a Water Pollution Control Permit for the North Block Project, a mining and beneficiation facility, has been properly filed with the Division of Environmental Protection in Carson City. The applicant for renewal of Permit NEV0091029 is:

Barrick Goldstrike Mines, Inc.  
P.O. Box 29  
Elko, Nevada 89803

The facility is located in the Little Boulder Basin adjacent to the Tuscarora Mountain Range on the county line between Elko and Eureka Counties, approximately 27 miles northwest of Carlin, Nevada. The North Block facilities are located in Sections 12-15, and 22-25, Township 36 North, Range 49 East, and Sections 7, 8, 17-20, 29 and 30, Township 36 North, Range 50 East, Mount Diablo Baseline and Meridian (MDB&M). The Barrick Goldstrike Mines North Block Project is a mining and beneficiation facility producing mainly gold. Ore and waste rock are mined from underground mine operations at Meikle and Rodeo as well as the Betz Post open pit. Milling and processing of the ore take place at the Autoclave facilities and at the Roaster. Waste rock is presently deposited at the Bazza waste rock facility but future operations will use the Clydesdale waste rock facility once it is completed and opened, at which time the Bazza facility will be placed in closure. The North Block Tailings Facility continues to receive material from the Autoclave and Roaster processes. The facility also includes all ponds, storm diversion channels, pipelines, vehicle fueling and maintenance facilities, and monitoring sites associated with the mine operations. 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.

This permit renewal includes a reorganization of the North Block (NEV0091029) and AA Block (NEV0090060) permits such that active areas were consolidated into NEV0091029 while areas in closure or projected to be in closure in the near future were left in NEV0090060. The following components were transferred to NEV0091029 during this process:

- Betze Post Open Pit
- AA and West Side Fuel Bays
- Truck Wash and Recycle Pond
- Wet Mill/Autoclave Process Facilities
- Valdez Pond
- Autoclave Stockpile Pads

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- Southwest Energy Vehicle Facility

The appropriate revision of NEV0090060 will take place at some future date.

The Administrator is constrained to either issue the renewed Water Pollution Control Permit or to deny the application. The Administrator has made the tentative decision to issue the renewed 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 January 19, 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 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 Paul Eckert at (775) 687-9401 or visit the Bureau of Mining website at <http://ndep.nv.gov/bmrr/bmrr01.htm>.

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