



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 Mooney Basin 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 NEV0098100 is:

Barrick Gold U.S., Inc.
Bald Mountain Mine
P.O. Box 2706
Elko, Nevada 89803

The project is located in White Pine County, Township 23N, Range 58E, Sections 6 and 7; Township 24N, Range 57E, Sections 25 and 36; Township 24N, Range 58E, Sections 19, 29, 30, 31 and 32; and, Township 23N, Range 57E, Sections 1 and 12, MDB&M, approximately 80 miles northwest of Ely, Nevada.

The Mooney Basin Project consists of open pit mining and heap leach recovery and associated waste rock dumps with ore processing by conventional cyanide heap leaching technology and precious metal recovery via carbon adsorption. The facility is permitted to process ore at a rate of 12,000,000 tons per year. Loaded carbon is transported to the Bald Mountain Mine for storage prior to shipment to the Bald Mountain Mine Process 2 facility for precious metal (mainly gold) recovery. The facility is 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 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 November 21, 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

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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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