



STATE OF NEVADA

Department of Conservation & Natural Resources

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Jim Gibbons, Governor

Allen Biaggi, Director

Leo M. Drozdoff, P.E., Administrator

July 16, 2008

Notice of Proposed Action

The Administrator of the Division of Environmental Protection gives notice that an application for a new Water Pollution Control Permit for the Cortez Hills Expansion Project, a mining and beneficiation facility, has been properly filed with the Division of Environmental Protection in Carson City. The applicant for Water Pollution Control Permit NEV2007106 is:

Cortez Joint Venture dba Cortez Gold Mines
HC66 Box 1250
Crescent Valley, Nevada 89821-1250

The facility is located on public land in Lander County, within Sections 1, 12, 13, and 24, Township 26 North, Range 47 East (T26N, R47E); Sections 6, 7, 18, and 19, T26N, R48E; Sections 24, 25, 35, and 36, T27N, R47E; and Sections 19, 30, and 31, T27N, R48 E, Mount Diablo Baseline and Meridian, approximately 35 miles southeast of the town of Battle Mountain, Nevada.

The proposed project consists of an open pit and underground mining operation and heap leach beneficiation facility, designed to extract gold and associated minerals, with a maximum permitted production rate of 20,000,000 tons of ore per year. The facility is comprised of an open pit and an underground mine, a lined heap leach pad, an existing mill and associated lined and leak detected tailings storage impoundment, lined and leak detected process and stormwater ponds, engineered waste rock storage facilities, a primary crusher and cross-valley mill-grade ore conveyor system, dewatering and water management facilities, water quality and component monitoring wells, and associated administrative and operational support infrastructure. 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. It is estimated the facility will disturb approximately 5,108 acres of public land.

The Administrator is constrained to either issue the Water Pollution Control Permit or to deny the application. The Administrator has made the tentative decision to issue the 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 30th day following the date of publication of this notice (18 August 2008) to:

Division of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Mining Regulation and Reclamation

This Document is for Electronic Distribution

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 Miles Shaw on (775) 687-9409 or visit our website at <http://ndep.nv.gov/bmrr/bmrr01.html>

This Document is for Electronic Distribution