



STATE OF NEVADA

Department of Conservation & Natural Resources

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Jim Gibbons, Governor

Allen Biaggi, Director

Leo M. Drozdoff, P.E., Administrator

Web posting 8/10/2009
August 13, 2009

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 Manhattan Gulch Project, a placer mining and beneficiation facility, has been properly filed with the Division of Environmental Protection in Carson City. The applicant for the new Water Pollution Control Permit NEV2009103 is:

A.U. Mines, Inc. LLC
P.O. Box 54
Tonopah, NV 89049

The facility is located on public, patented and private land in Nye County, within portions of Sections 21, 22, 23, and 24, T08N, R43E and Section 19, T08N, R44E Mount Diablo Baseline and Meridian (MDB&M). The project site is approximately thirty-five (35) miles (by air) north-northeast of the town of Tonopah and five (5) miles west (by air) of the town of Manhattan in Nye County, Nevada.

The project consists of a placer mining and gravity beneficiation facility, designed to extract gold, with a maximum permitted production rate of 4,800,000 tons of ore per year. The facility is comprised of a mine, portable gravity separation operation, ponds, wells, and associated support facilities. 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 new Water Pollution Control Permit or to deny the application. The Administrator has made the tentative decision to issue the new 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 by hand delivery, United States Postal Service, facsimile, or e-mail no later than 5:00 PM on the 30th day following the date of publication of this notice (publication date: August 13, 2009, comment submittal deadline September 12, 2009) to:

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

All comments, objections, or requests received during the public notice period will be considered in the final determination regarding this Water Pollution Control Permit. If the Division

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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's website at <http://ndep.nv.gov/bmrr/bmrr01.htm>

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