



STATE OF NEVADA

Department of Conservation & Natural Resources

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Jim Gibbons, Governor

Leo M. Drozdoff, P.E., Acting Director

Colleen Cripps, Ph.D., Acting Administrator

Web posting 8/16/2010

Deadline for comment 9/17/2010

Notice of Proposed Action

Permit #NEV0060006

Meridian Rossi Corporation

Austin Gold Venture Mine (aka Inspiration Mine)

The Administrator of the Division of Environmental Protection gives notice that an application for renewal of a Water Pollution Control Permit for the Austin Gold Venture Mine (aka Inspiration Mine), formally a mining and beneficiation facility, has been properly filed with the Division of Environmental Protection in Carson City. The applicant for renewal of Water Pollution Control Permit NEV0060006 is:

Meridian Rossi Corporation
4635 Longley Lane
Unit 110, Suite 4A
Reno, NV 89502

The facility is located approximately eight miles south of the town of Austin, Lander County. The mill site and tailings impoundment lie on the western side of the Toiyabe Range within the Reese River valley. The open pits and waste rock dumps are located east of the mill site within the Birch Creek drainage of the Toiyabe Range. The mill site was connected to the pits by a seven mile long haul road. The entire project lies within Township 18N, Range 43E. The mill site and tailings impoundment are located entirely within section 27. The mine and dumps reside within sections 25 and 36. All mine components, with the exception of portions of the haul road connecting the pits (Sections 26, 34, and 35) with the mill site are located on U.S. Department of Agriculture - Forest Service land. Those portions of the main haul road not located on Federal lands are located on existing patented mining claims. The number of acres disturbed by this facility is approximately 200, including haul and exploration roads.

The mine is in post-closure. Mining operations began in 1986 and ceased in 1989. This facility was an open pit gold mine with two open pits. There were limited underground workings in one pit. The ore was processed by conventional cyanide leach tanks with precious metal recovery by carbon adsorption and electrowinning and deposited into the tailings impoundment located adjacent to the mill site.

In addition to the mill, tailing impoundment, open pits, and overburden dumps, the facility consisted of office/operations buildings, a low grade ore stockpile, and haul and exploration roads. The mill and all structures have since been removed.

The Administrator is constrained to either renew the Water Pollution Control Permit or to deny the application. The Administrator has made the tentative decision to renew 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 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 (submittal end date September 17, 2010) 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 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 Kurt F. Kolbe at (775) 687-9405 or visit the Bureau of Mining's website at <http://ndep.nv.gov/bmrr/bmrr01.htm>.