



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 9/30/2010

Deadline for comment 10/30/2010

Notice of Proposed Action

Permit #NEV0096106

Mineral Ridge Gold LLC

Mineral Ridge Project

The Administrator of the Division of Environmental Protection gives notice that an application for a renewal of a Water Pollution Control Permit for the Mineral Ridge Project, a mining and beneficiation facility, has been properly filed with the Division of Environmental Protection in Carson City. The applicant for the renewal of Water Pollution Control Permit NEV0096106 is:

Mineral Ridge Gold LLC
Mineral Ridge Project
1515 7th Street
Elko, NV 89801

The facility is located on both public and private land within all, or portions of, Township 1 South, Range 38 East, Section 36; Township 1 South, Range 39 East, Section 31; Township 2 South, Range 38 East, Sections 1, 2 and 12; and, Township 2 South, Range 39 East, Section 6, Mount Diablo Baseline and Meridian, approximately 4.5 miles northwest (by air) of the town of Silver Peak in Esmeralda County, Nevada.

The project consists of an open pit mining operation with a crushing facility and heap leach pad for the primary extraction of gold, with a maximum permitted production rate of 1,400,000 tons of ore per year. The facility is comprised of open pit mines, crushing facility, agglomeration facility, heap leach pad, process solution ponds, a process recovery building and associated ancillary pipelines, collection channels, valves, pumps, and support facilities. The ore will be processed using conventional cyanide heap leaching technology and precious metal recovery by carbon adsorption with a stripping and electrowinning circuit followed by refining. 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 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 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 October 30, 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 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>