



# 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 8/12/2010

Notice of Decision

Permit #NEV2004109

Barrick Gold Exploration Inc.

Storm Underground Mine Project

The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection has decided to renew Water Pollution Control Permit NEV2004109 to Barrick Goldstrike Mines, Inc. This permit authorizes the construction, operation, and closure of approved mining facilities in Elko County. The Division has been provided with sufficient information, in accordance with Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 445A.350 through NAC 445A.447, to assure the Division that the waters of the State will not be degraded by this operation, and that public safety and health will be protected.

The permit will become effective August 26, 2010. The final determination of the Administrator may be appealed to the State Environmental Commission pursuant to Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 445A.605 and NAC 445A.407. All requests for appeals must be filed by 5:00 PM, August 21, 2010, on Form 3, with the State Environmental Commission, 901 South Stewart Street, Suite 4001, Carson City, Nevada 89701-5249. For more information, contact Paul Eckert at (775) 687-9401 or visit the Division's Bureau of Mining Regulation website at [www.ndep.nv.gov/bmrr/bmrr01.htm](http://www.ndep.nv.gov/bmrr/bmrr01.htm)

One (1) comment was received during the public comment period from Sue Gilbert of the Nevada Division of Water Resources. The Division response is attached to this notice.

NDEP Response to Nevada Division of Water Resources (NDWR) comment received by electronic mail on July 26, 2010.

Comment: "All waters of the State belong to the public and may be appropriated for beneficial use pursuant to the provisions under Chapters 533 and 534 of the Nevada Revised Statutes and not otherwise. Currently the operator has permits on file with the Nevada Division of Water Resources related to the Storm surface area for mining, milling and groundwater remediation. Additional filings to authorize the use of these permits for the entire Storm underground development area may be necessary. Accurate measurements of water pumped must be kept. The operator shall, install, maintain and plug any required monitoring wells in compliance with Chapter 534 of the Nevada Administrative Code."

Response: Comment noted.