



# STATE OF NEVADA

Department of Conservation & Natural Resources

Brian Sandoval, Governor

Leo M. Drozdoff, P.E., Director

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Colleen Cripps, Ph.D., Administrator

## NOTICE OF PROPOSED ACTION - Bureau of Mining Regulation and Reclamation

**Web Posting: 10/14/2013**

**Deadline for Comment: 11/15/2013**

The Administrator of the Division of Environmental Protection (the Division) gives notice that an application for a new Water Pollution Control Permit (WPCP) for the **Fire Creek Infiltration Project**, a mine dewatering water management facility, has been properly filed with the Division of Environmental Protection in Carson City. The Applicant for Water Pollution Control Permit **NEV2013102** (Permit) is:  
Klondex Gold & Silver Mining Company

**Fire Creek Infiltration Project**  
**1250 Lamoille Highway, Suite 312**  
**Elko, Nevada 89801**

The facility is located on a combination of public land, administered by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, and private land, in Lander County, Nevada, within Sections 9, 10, 14, 15, 22, 23, and 24, Township 30 North, Range 47 East, and Section 19, Township 30 North, Range 48 East, Mount Diablo Baseline and Meridian, approximately 4 miles northwest of the town of Crescent Valley, Nevada.

The Project consists of a dewatering water management system designed to infiltrate up to 4,320,000 gallons per day of mine water in two (2) adjacent rapid infiltration basins (RIBs). Dewatering water from underground mine workings, and draindown water from a waste rock repository, are generated at the separate Fire Creek Exploration Project (WPCP NEV2007104), and are treated in an existing Water Treatment Plant (WTP) before being conveyed via pipeline approximately 2 miles to the RIBs. A separate source of cleaner dewatering water from Underground Containment Dam-1 (UCD-1) is also conveyed to the RIBs. The Project includes the pipeline, RIBs, piezometers, monitoring wells, and associated valves, air vents, flow meters, staff gauges, stormwater diversion ditch, and other equipment. The Permit requires that all water discharged to the RIBs shall meet all Division Profile I water quality reference values. The Permit also specifies limits on the discharge rate, the minimum depth of the RIBs, and the maximum water depth within the RIBs, and prohibits the formation of new surface seeps or springs. Degradation of waters of the State is prohibited. Hydrologic and geochemical investigations performed by the Applicant demonstrate that, subject to the Permit limits, groundwater quality will not be degraded, and the maximum rise in water level in the nearest residential well, approximately 2.8 miles downgradient (east-southeast) of the

RIBs, is predicted to be 4.2 feet. The actual rise in water levels at residential wells will likely be less than this because the infiltration rate is expected to be much lower than the maximum Permitted rate. Monitoring data obtained from the RIBs, groundwater monitoring wells, and piezometers will be used to determine compliance with the Permit.

The Administrator is constrained to either issue the Permit or to deny the application. The Administrator has made the tentative determination to issue the Permit.

Persons wishing to comment upon the proposed 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) 445A, must submit their written comments, objections, or requests by hand delivery or US Postal Service, or by facsimile or e-mail transmittal, no later than 5:00 PM on the 30<sup>th</sup> day following the date of publication of this notice (submittal end date 15 November 2013) to:

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

All comments, objections, or requests received during the public notice period will be considered in the final determination regarding the 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 Permit and all application documents are on file at the Division and are available for public inspection and copying pursuant to Nevada Revised Statutes 445A.665. For more information, contact Tom Gray at (775) 687-9403, or visit the Bureau of Mining Regulation and Reclamation website at <http://ndep.nv.gov/bmrr/bmrr01.htm> .