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## FACT SHEET

(Pursuant to Nevada Administrative Code [NAC] 445A.401)

Permittee Name: **Solauro LLC**  
Project Name: **Summit King Project**  
Permit Number: **NEV2012110 (new 2013)**

### A. Location and General Description

The facility is located on private land in Churchill County, within Sections 2 and 11, Township 16 North, Range 32 East, Mount Diablo Baseline and Meridian (MDB&M), approximately 27 air miles southeast of the town of Fallon. To access the site, proceed east on U.S. Highway 50 (U.S.-50) from Fallon for approximately 32 miles. Turn south on the unnamed dirt frontage road leading to the site. The mine entrance is approximately ½-mile from U.S.-50 on the right side of the road.

The Summit King Project is a surface mining facility operated for the purpose of removing historic tailings material from the area around the historic mines for off-site chemical processing at a separately permitted facility and for reclaiming the site. No beneficiation or processing of the ore is permitted at the site. No chemicals are permitted to be used or stored at the facility. The Summit King Project is permitted as a small-scale facility pursuant to NAC 445A.410. The facility is required to be designed, constructed and must be 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.

### B. Synopsis

The project area is located on the northwest side of the Sand Springs Range, west of Sand Springs Pass. The Sand Springs Range is an area of metamorphic rocks intruded by a large granodiorite to quartz monzonite pluton. Small tungsten deposits occur near the north and south borders of the pluton, generally in limestone. Tertiary rocks cap these older rocks on the west side and across the north end of the range. Dikes of rhyolite and andesite occupy an east-west trending fault zone between these two rock units.

The historic mines in the area (Dan Tucker, Getchell, and Summit King) follow a major east-west trending braided system of faults with quartz veins that dip from 35° to 65° south and are adjacent to dikes of rhyolite and andesite. The north

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side, or footwall of the fault, consists of Tertiary volcanic rocks, and the south side, or hanging-wall, consists of Mesozoic metasediments.

Soils for the region are primarily aridisols with entisols with gravel or bare rock prevalent at the base of mountains and on steep slopes. Soils specific to the project site are mainly aridisols, suborders argid and salid, with representation of entisols.

The tailings intended to be mined are a light tan color and consist of ore that was crushed and milled during the chemical processing associated with the historic mining activity (up to approximately 1965). Present material gradation is approximately ¼-inch minus.

Mining activity at the facility consists of removal of surface deposits of tailings material from the historic mines. Native soil will be removed only in minimal amounts during tails excavation and to facilitate regrading of any mined area for reclamation.

Analytical results (Meteoric Water Mobility Procedure) of tailings material leachate showed no exceedances of the Profile II reference values. Acid/Base accounting for the tailings material showed acid neutralizing potential of 71.9 tons CaCO<sub>3</sub> equivalent per 1,000 tons (t/kt) of material compared to acid generating potential of 0.656 t CaCO<sub>3</sub>/kt, suggesting that low pH runoff from the tailings area will not be an issue. Routine tailings material characterization will continue on a quarterly basis according to the Permit requirements.

All tailings material excavated will be transported by covered dump truck to the processing facility at the Tonopah Airport Mill (NEV2012103) for processing. The Permittee expects to extract gold and silver for resale, as well as mercury for resale or disposal at a licensed facility. Details of the Tonopah Airport Mill facility are available in the Fact Sheet for that project.

Ancillary facilities at the site consist of a staging area for parking of vehicles and loading of excavated tailings material into dump trucks. All excavation and transport vehicles will be secured when not in use. Fuel and lubricants for the vehicles will be brought to the site only as needed, with no storage at the site. Any spill of petroleum products will be contained, secured in appropriate containers, and contaminated material transported to an authorized disposal facility.

### **C. Receiving Water Characteristics**

According to records obtained for wells drilled in the same vicinity, the water table in this area is estimated to be approximately 750 feet below ground surface

(ft bgs). Based on this information, mining activity is not expected to intercept groundwater. Water from the Tonopah municipal utility will be transported to the mine in water trucks for mining use and dust suppression.

Precipitation in the area of the mine averages approximately 4.8 inches annually, mainly as snow in winter and rain in early spring. Runoff on the surface is ephemeral and runs from the adjacent hillsides west of the facility into the mine area. No known springs or perennial streams are found within a one mile radius of the mine site.

The tailings are distributed over an area of approximately 3.1 acres. The tailings area is within a depression into which stormwater or spring runoff occasionally flows. The watershed area which may direct storm runoff onto the tailings area is approximately 25 acres. Since the project area is the low point, diverting stormwater around the site would be difficult. The Permittee will instead use appropriate best management practices to construct berms and ditches, as required, to manage stormwater such that the tails piles are not undermined or washed out. Characterization of tails samples (meets all Profile II reference values) and depth to groundwater (approximately 750 ft bgs) suggest that waters of the State will not be degraded.

If quarterly material characterization identifies areas where exposure to meteoric water may result in leaching of metals or low pH solution, the Permittee will take appropriate steps to isolate such material from adjacent run-on sources. This will be accomplished mainly by regrading and covering, as required, mined areas as soon as possible after economic material is removed.

#### **D. Procedures for Public Comment**

The Notice of the Division's intent to issue a Permit authorizing the facility to construct, operate and close, subject to the conditions within the Permit, is being sent to the **Lahontan Valley News** for publication. The Notice is being mailed to interested persons on the Bureau of Mining Regulation and Reclamation mailing list. Anyone wishing to comment on the proposed Permit can do so in writing within a period of 30 days following the date of public notice. The comment period can be extended at the discretion of the Administrator. All written comments received during the comment period will be retained and considered in the final determination.

A public hearing on the proposed determination can be requested by the applicant, any affected State, any affected intrastate agency, or any interested agency, person or group of persons. The request must be filed within the comment period and must indicate the interest of the person filing the request and the reasons why a hearing is warranted.

Any public hearing determined by the Administrator to be held must be conducted in the geographical area of the proposed discharge or any other area the Administrator determines to be appropriate. All public hearings must be conducted in accordance with NAC 445A.403 through NAC 445A.406.

**E. Proposed Determination**

The Division has made the tentative determination to issue the Permit.

**F. Proposed Effluent Limitations, Schedule of Compliance, Special Conditions**

See Section I of the Permit.

**G. Rationale for Permit Requirements**

The facility is located in an area where annual evaporation is greater than annual precipitation. Therefore, it must operate under a standard of performance which authorizes no discharge(s) except for those accumulations resulting from a storm event beyond that required by design for containment.

The primary method for identification of escaping solution will be placed on required routine inspections of storm water management ditches and berms. Specific monitoring requirements can be found in the Water Pollution Control Permit.

**H. Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act**

Under the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act, 16 U.S.C. 701-718, it is unlawful to kill migratory birds without license or permit, and no permits are issued to take migratory birds using toxic ponds. The Federal list of migratory birds (50 CFR 10, 15 April 1985) includes nearly every bird species found in the State of Nevada. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is authorized to enforce the prevention of migratory bird mortalities at ponds and tailings impoundments. Compliance with State permits may not be adequate to ensure protection of migratory birds for compliance with provisions of Federal statutes to protect wildlife.

Open waters attract migratory waterfowl and other avian species. High mortality rates of birds have resulted from contact with toxic ponds at operations utilizing toxic substances. The Service is aware of two approaches that are available to prevent migratory bird mortality: 1) physical isolation of toxic water bodies through barriers (e.g. by covering with netting), and 2) chemical detoxification. These approaches may be facilitated by minimizing the extent of the toxic water.

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Methods which attempt to make uncovered ponds unattractive to wildlife are not always effective. Contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at 1340 Financial Boulevard, Suite 234, Reno, Nevada 89502-7147, (775) 861-6300, for additional information.

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