



**NEVADA DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
BUREAU OF WASTE MANAGEMENT**



**FACT SHEET FOR A RCRA HAZARDOUS WASTE PERMIT (NEW)
PRECIOUS METALS RECOVERY, LLC (PMR)
EPA ID# NVR000088542
DRAFT PERMIT# NEVHW0028**

The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) has developed this Fact Sheet for the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Permit which NDEP intends to approve for the **Precious Metals Recovery, LLC (PMR)** Dry Hills Facility in Eureka County, Nevada. This Fact Sheet has been prepared in accordance with the public notice requirements of Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 444.8632 and Chapter 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Section 124.8. The purpose of this Fact Sheet is to provide interested citizens and other governmental agencies a summary description of the principal facts and issues NDEP has considered in reviewing the Application for and development of a RCRA Permit for the management of hazardous waste.

BACKGROUND:

Congress passed the Mercury Export Ban Act of 2008 (Export Ban) which generally bans the export of elemental mercury as of January 1, 2013 and mandates a National Mercury Repository (National Repository) where elemental mercury may be stored. The proposed PMR Dry Hills Facility will receive elemental mercury, and activated carbon and calomel which will be processed at the facility to produce elemental mercury. The PMR facility is intended only as a treatment and storage facility (TSF) for the mercury containing wastes identified in the permit application; and no hazardous waste disposal is authorized at the site. The elemental mercury received and produced at the proposed TSF will be periodically tested for purity and stored in an elemental mercury storage room. Although storage capacity will be designed into the proposed building, the Dry Hills Facility is not intended for the long-term storage of elemental mercury. Ultimately, the elemental mercury will be transferred to the National Repository for long-term storage. Transfer of elemental mercury will occur at regularly scheduled intervals after the National Repository is operational.

FACILITY DESCRIPTION

PMR is a subsidiary of Barrick Goldstrike Mines, Inc. (BGMI). PMR is a new company that will own and operate the proposed newly designed facility for the expressed purpose to manage mercury and mercury-bearing materials generated primarily by BGMI near Carlin, Nevada. As designed, the proposed treatment and storage facility is intended solely for the use of Barrick Gold North America (Barrick).

The facility will be located on private land comprising part of an area known as the Dean Ranch, approximately 40 miles southwest of Elko, Nevada, 17 miles southeast of the town of Beowawe, and 12 miles east of the community of Crescent Valley. The facility will be located in the northwest corner of Section 5, Township 29 North, Range 50 East, MDBM, in an unincorporated area of Eureka County, Nevada. The facility consists of:

- One (1) Container Storage Unit;
- Two (2) Above Ground Storage Tanks;
- Four (4) Treatment Tanks;
- Three (3) Miscellaneous Units (1 Filter press, 1 Mercury Retort and 1 Future Mercury Retort)

Since there are no land disposal units, the facility is not required to perform groundwater monitoring.

Container Storage

Containers are managed in the areas noted in the Container Management Plan in Permit Application Section 22. Both liquids and solids are accepted for storage or treatment (no treatment in containers is permitted). The specific management requirements of each area are in the respective section(s) of the application. The following container storage areas are to be permitted: Elemental Mercury Storage (CS Area 1-A); Calomel Storage (CS Area 1-B); Spent Activated Carbon Storage (CS Area 1-C); and Other Waste Storage (CS Area 1-D).

Tank Storage

The tank storage portion of the facility includes two (2) aboveground fiberglass-reinforced plastic tanks. The maximum amount and type of wastes that may be handled are discussed in Permit Condition 4.1.

Tank Treatment

The maximum amount and type of wastes that may be treated are discussed in Permit Condition 5.1. The containment system employed for these tanks is discussed in detail in Permit Application Section 23. There are four (4) aboveground fiberglass reinforced plastic tanks for the treatment of waste solution.

Miscellaneous Units

The following miscellaneous units areas are to be permitted: One (1) Mechanical Processing Unit (Filter Press); One (1) Thermal Unit (Mercury Retort); and one future Thermal Unit (Mercury Retort). The maximum throughput that may be processed are discussed in Permit Condition 6.2

TYPES OF WASTE TO BE HANDLED

The proposed facility will receive both elemental mercury and mercury-bearing waste material (calomel and activated carbon) which are generated from the Goldstrike Mine and other Barrick mine facilities in Nevada. The specific hazardous waste types and quantities are limited to those identified within the RCRA Part A Application and Permit Section 3. Any waste generated at the facility will be shipped offsite for disposal.

BASIS FOR THE PERMIT CONDITIONS

The draft permit conditions are established pursuant to the authority of Section 3006 of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) (Chapter 40 Code of Federal Regulations as codified in part 271), 40 CFR Parts 124, and 260 through 270, Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 459.520 and Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 444.842 through 444.8746, 444.940 through 444.9555, and 444.960. These laws and regulations govern the management of hazardous wastes in the State of Nevada. The NDEP, as the authorized permitting agency for the State of Nevada, has reviewed the permit application submitted by PMR and has determined the facility can be operated under the proposed permit conditions in accordance with applicable regulations and in a manner which is protective of public health and the environment.

Unit-specific operation and maintenance requirements in the draft permit also contain provisions for: waste analysis for proper management of hazardous waste; contingency plan and preparedness requirements to prevent and respond to releases of hazardous waste; personnel training requirements; inspection and record-keeping requirements; and unit-specific closure requirements.

REQUESTED VARIANCES

No Variances were requested for this Permit.

PROCEDURES FOR REACHING A FINAL DECISION

Section 7004(b) of RCRA, NAC 444.8632, and 40 CFR Section 124.10 require that the public and interested agencies be given at least forty-five (45) days to comment on each draft Permit prepared under RCRA. The

comment period for the PMR draft permit will end on **February 4, 2014**. Any person interested in commenting on the application or draft permit must do so within this forty-five day comment period.

The ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD for the DRAFT PERMIT, which includes the APPLICATION, AGENCY and APPLICANT CORRESPONDENCE, DRAFT PERMIT, and this FACT SHEET, are available for public review between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday at the NDEP offices in Carson City. A copy of the DRAFT PERMIT and APPLICATION may also be viewed at the Crescent Valley Public Library.

When NDEP makes a final decision to either issue or deny the permit, notice will be given to PMR and to each person who has submitted written comments or requested a notice of the final decision. The final permit decision shall become effective thirty (30) days after service of notice of the decision unless a later date is specified or review is requested under NAC 444.8632, or an appeal of the NDEP decision is brought to the State Environmental Commission under NAC 459.9995. If no comments are submitted requesting a change in the draft permit, the final permit shall become effective reflecting the conditions in the draft permit

NAME OF PERSON TO CONTACT

NDEP Contact: Sree Kailash, (775) 687-9471, E-mail: skailash@ndep.nv.gov

Facility Contact: Joe Giraudo, (801) 990-3747, E-mail: jGiraudo@barrick.com

Comments should include all reasonably available references, factual grounds, and supporting material. A public hearing may be held to hear further comments if a written notice of opposition is received and a request for such a hearing is submitted by **February 4, 2014**. In the event that such a public hearing is requested, a time and place for the meeting will be scheduled and announced in a separate public notice at least thirty (30) days prior to the hearing. The NDEP will respond in writing to all comments received during the public comment period and any statements heard at a public hearing, in the event one is held, when making a final permit decision.

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