



STATE OF NEVADA

Department of Conservation & Natural Resources

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Brian Sandoval, Governor

Leo M. Drozdoff, P.E., Director

Colleen Cripps, Ph.D., Administrator

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ACTION - Bureau of Mining Regulation and Reclamation

Web Posting: 06/13/2014

Deadline for Comment: 07/13/14

The Administrator of the Division of Environmental Protection (the Division) gives notice that an application for a major modification of a Water Pollution Control Permit for the **Mill 5/6-Gold Quarry-James Creek Project**, a mining and beneficiation facility, has been properly filed with the Division of Environmental Protection in Carson City. The Applicant for modification of Water Pollution Control Permit **NEV0090056** (Permit) is:

Newmont USA Limited dba Newmont Mining Corporation
1655 Mountain City Highway
Elko, NV 89801-2800

The facility is located on public and private land in north-central Eureka County, between 6 and 21 miles north of the town of Carlin. The facility is located in portions of Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 18, Township 33 North, Range 51 East; Sections 6 and 7, Township 33 North, Range 52 East; Sections 25, 26, 28, 33, 34, 35, and 36, Township 34 North, Range 51 East; Section 31, Township 34 North, Range 52 East; Sections 2, 3, 10, 11, 13, and 24, Township 35 North, Range 50 East; and Sections 19, 29, and 30, Township 35 North, Range 51 East, Mount Diablo Baseline and Meridian.

The facility is designed to extract gold and associated metals at a maximum permitted production rate of 14,500,000 tons of ore per year. The facility consists of large-scale open pit and underground mines; cyanide heap leach, flotation, roasting, and cyanide mill beneficiation facilities; solution and stormwater ponds; tailings storage facilities; waste rock storage facilities; production, dewatering, and monitoring wells; and associated buildings and supporting infrastructure. The major modification will authorize the use of a new paste fill mixture to backfill mined-out stopes in the Leeville Mine. The paste fill will consist of historic tailings material from the Mill 4/2 tailings storage facility mixed with aggregate, cement, fly ash, and water in proportions specified in the draft Permit. Operational and environmental advantages of using paste fill instead of the existing backfill method include lower permeability, better wall-rock sealing, improved safety and stability underground, a reduced volume of tailings in surface impoundments, and a significant time reduction for the final chemical stabilization of tailings material. A new Paste Fill Plant with associated truck off-load area, stockpiles, hoppers, conveyors, and cement and fly ash silos will be constructed on a lined Site Containment Area. A new double-lined Paste Fill Stormwater Pond will collect runoff and any spillage. 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 modified Permit or to deny the application. The Administrator has made the tentative decision to issue the modified 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 30th day following the date of publication of this notice (submittal end date **13 July 2014**) 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 Statute 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>.