

## FACT SHEET

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

Permittee Name: **Donald E. Jung**  
Project Name: **New Pass Mine**  
Permit Number: **NEV0093114**  
Review Type/Year/Revision: **Renewal 2016, Fact Sheet Revision 00**

### **A. Location and General Description**

**Location:** The New Pass Mine is located in the historic New Pass Mining District, straddling the county line between Churchill County to the west and Lander County to the east, within portions of Sections 9, 10, 15, and 16, Township 20 North, Range 40 East, Mount Diablo Baseline and Meridian. To access the site, travel approximately 27 miles northwest from the town of Austin or approximately 84 miles east from the town of Fallon on U.S. Route 50 to New Pass Summit (elevation 6,348 feet above mean sea level). At the summit, proceed north on the dirt road approximately 4 miles to the New Pass Mine site.

**General Description:** The New Pass Mine is a small underground mining and beneficiation facility that operates very intermittently during clement weather. The gravity separation mill is permitted to process up to 1,000 tons of ore annually to produce a gold-bearing concentrate. Only limited mining and beneficiation have occurred since the Permit was first issued in 1995. The total surface disturbance area is less than 3 acres and all located on patented lode mining claims, i.e., private land, and unpatented lode mining claims, i.e., public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management, Sierra Front Field Office.

### **B. Synopsis**

**Historic Activity:** The first documented production from mines in the project area occurred in 1864. The majority of the Facility infrastructure was constructed prior to 1947. The current Permittee has intermittently operated the mill to process ore from the Superior Vein, Tunnel #4, since 1958. Based on information provided by the Permittee, New Pass Resources, Inc. leased the property in 1978, and conducted small-scale cyanide leaching during 1978 and 1979 within the 'lined' 3<sup>rd</sup> Tails Pond ('liner' construction undocumented) using a synthetic-lined barren solution pond and steel pregnant solution wash tank. Evaluation of the property then passed to E&B Explorations Inc. in about 1981, and was followed by a brief period of evaluation by Homestake Mining Company in 1984. Cyanide was reportedly not historically used in processing material discharged to either the 1<sup>st</sup> Tails Pond or the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tails Pond. However, the Permittee did process a small (unquantified) amount of cyanide-treated crushed quartz through the gravity mill

circuit and discharged the resultant tailings into the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tails Pond in the early 1990's.

Permit Activity: Water Pollution Control Permit NEV0093114 was first issued in November 1995, and since that time no chemicals have been authorized or used in the gravity mill. In addition, the historic cyanide-bearing 3<sup>rd</sup> Tails Pond was closed and reclaimed during 2008.

The mine and mill are located above an elevation of over 7,100 feet above mean sea level. Therefore, the Facility only operates intermittently during a period of eight to ten months each year. Gold ore is mined from the historic underground workings, primarily the #4 Tunnel along the Superior Vein. The run-of-mine ore is transported to the surface and stockpiled near the portal. The stockpile is small enough to be covered with a tarp to preclude infiltration of meteoric water and stormwater run-on.

Once a sufficient quantity of ore is stockpiled, it is trucked to a 40-ton ore storage bin located at the mill. The run-of-mine ore is fed from the storage bin into a 6-inch by 20-inch jaw crusher that discharges to a bucket elevator that conveys the material to an 18-inch cone crusher. The crushed ore passes from the cone crusher into a 60-ton crushed ore storage bin that feeds a 4-foot by 3-foot ball mill. The ground ore slurry is fed to a gravity concentration circuit comprised of a jig, a spiral classifier and a concentrating table to produce a gold concentrate. Oversize material from the classifier is returned to the ball mill, the gold-bearing concentrate is collected for off-site processing, and the tailing is discharged to one of the unlined tails impoundments for disposal. As configured, the mill can process approximately 1.4 tons of new ore feed per hour.

The crushing, grinding, and gravity concentration portions of the beneficiation circuit are located within the historic mill building containment. Compliance inspections have identified potential containment integrity issues within the mill due to the presence of cracked, spalled, and broken concrete. The use of chemicals is not authorized. However, the mill building containment will require evaluation during any closure activities.

### C. Receiving Water Characteristics

The New Pass Mine is located along the spine of the New Pass Range within an ephemeral drainage that flows to the southeast. The nearest spring is Iron Tank Spring, located approximately 0.5 miles south of the New Pass Mill. Groundwater has been identified at a depth greater than 150 feet below surface. Make-up water for processing and domestic use is obtained from an on-site well (Nevada Division of Water Resources Log No. 1396) completed in 1950. The water meets all Division Profile I reference values.

**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 **Battle Mountain Bugle** and **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 renewed Permit.

**F. Proposed Limitations, Schedule of Compliance, Monitoring, 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 process solution will be placed on required routine visual monitoring of the Facility components. 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. Code 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 Code of Federal Regulations 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. 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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