

FACT SHEET
(Pursuant to Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 445A.236)

Permittee Name: **Klondex Gold & Silver Mining Company**

Project Name: **Fire Creek Surface Discharge Project**

Permit Number: **NEV2018104**

Review Type/Year/Revision: **New Permit 2025, Fact Sheet Revision 00**

A. Location of Discharge

Location: The Fire Creek Surface Discharge Project authorizes the discharge of treated and untreated mine dewatering water into a channel adjacent to Fire Creek, deemed non-jurisdictional by the Army Corps of Engineers in 2018. The discharge point is located in Section 23, Township 30 North, Range 47 East, Mount Diablo Baseline & Meridian (MDB&M).

General Description: The Project consists of a tie-in to an existing pipe which discharges to the rapid infiltration basins (RIBs). The water treatment system is permitted and monitored under the Fire Creek Project Water Pollution Control Permit (WPCP) NEV2007104.

B. Description of Discharge

General: The Permittee operates an underground mining facility, located approximately 18 miles southeast of the town of Battle Mountain.

The Permittee will discharge treated water generated from the dewatering of the underground mine at the Project. Water generated from the existing water treatment plant at the Fire Creek Mine is conveyed through an 8-inch diameter high-density polyethylene (HDPE) pipeline over a distance of approximately 1.75 miles for discharge into the RIBs. A 24-inch, 500-foot long HDPE pipeline ties in to this existing pipeline approximately 0.75 miles prior to the discharge location for the RIBs, for discharge into a channel adjacent to Fire Creek.

The treatment plant effluent is of good quality and meets all Profile I reference values. The discharge pipeline is equipped with a totalizer flow meter and a valve to direct flow to either the RIBs or the discharge location. The actual discharge volume and rate shall not exceed the permitted limit of 1,200,000 gallons per day.

A pipeline conveying non-contact water which meets Profile I reference values is tied-in to the treatment plant effluent pipeline for discharge at the diffuser.

C. Proposed Determination

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

D. Receiving Water Characteristics

Background water quality of Fire Creek has been monitored through the Fire Creek Project WPCP NEV2007104. Water quality is of good quality and meets all Profile I reference values.

One source of the discharge is treated water from the dewatering of the underground workings. The influent to the treatment plant typically exceeds the Profile I reference values for antimony, arsenic, chloride, manganese, selenium, sulfate, and total dissolved solids, but meets all standards at the diffuser. The surface discharge pipe is tied into the pipe which discharges to the RIBs.

Another source of the discharge is water encountered in the underground workings at approximately 5,340 feet above mean sea level (amsl). Water from 5,340 feet amsl is held in an underground tank, as needed, and piped to the surface through a single wall 4-inch HDPE SDR11 pipe. This pipe ties in to the existing 8-inch HDPE permeate pipeline from the water treatment plant which is routed to the surface discharge diffuser. The tie in is isolated by check valve. Water quality at 5,340 feet amsl meets all Profile I reference values.

E. Proposed Effluent Limitations, Schedule of Compliance, Monitoring, Special Conditions

See Section I of the Permit.

F. Rationale for Permit Requirements

The facility must not discharge a pollutant that would result in the degradation of existing or potential underground sources of drinking water, or that would cause an exceedance of an applicable surface water quality standard or regulation.

The primary methods for ensuring compliance will be required routine monitoring and reporting, augmented by Division site inspections. Specific monitoring requirements can be found in the Permit.

G. Procedures for Public Comment

The Notice of the Division's intent to issue a Permit authorizing the discharge, subject to the conditions within the Permit, is being published on the Division website: <https://ndep.nv.gov/posts/category/land>. 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 the public notice is posted to the Division website. 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.

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 (the Service) is authorized to enforce the prevention of migratory bird mortalities at ponds. 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.

Prepared by: TJ Mohammed

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Revision 00: Renewal Permit and boiler plate update