

FACT SHEET

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

Permittee Name: **Western Milling LLC**
Project Name: **Western Milling LLC**
Permit Number: **NEV2023101**
Review Type/Year/Revision: **New Permit 2024, Fact Sheet Revision 00**

A. Location and General Description

Location: the project is located in Mineral County, NV in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 28, 29, 32, 33 Township 6 N, Range 35 E, Mount Diablo Baseline and Meridian. More specifically the milling facility corresponds to being in Section 28 which is approximately 35 miles east of Hawthorne or 3.15 miles south of Mina immediately adjacent to and off US 95 within the historic Sodaville mining district.

The project is located on patented / private land.

General Description: The facility will include a ball mill, rod mill, and impact mill as well as a jaw crusher and a cone crusher which will be used to recover barite, gold, silver, copper, and other metals of economic interest. Gravity concentration will be utilized primarily, however, the applicant may utilize approved flocculants as well. No chemicals are authorized in the processing of ore. The applicant will utilize two water recycle ponds, a freshwater pond, A future concrete tailings pond and assorted support equipment and pump to assist this processing. The facility is 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 that exceed the 25-year, 24-hour storm event.

B. Synopsis

The facility site layout consists of an old gravity, physical separation site on private land which is on a hill just East of US 95. The site elevation is lowest at the north, east, and south ends, with the west side at a higher elevation which is the hill along the highway. Since the site is on a ridge between two water sheds it does not receive additional offsite runoff which would need to be managed otherwise.

The physical separation will involve the initial screening of ore material, further crushing with a small jaw, cone, or rod crusher and gravity separation by spiral separators and shaker tables. The processing plant will be placed on the concrete apron pads, draining to the recycle pond. Use of the old Sodaville mill site will include the three existing slabs (~20 feet (ft) x 60 ft) and a new fourth built above to enhance gravity separation. All slabs will have concrete containment berms/ curbs and will drain to ponds through pipes or flumes.

The facility seeks to process waste of 30,000 tons of ore piles from historical mining activities that occurred in the early 1900's which include the: Crystal Barite Mine, OMCO Mine, Cabin Under the Rocks Mine, and the Huntoon Mine (once approved). Subsequently the facility seeks to gravity process ore materials from mine workings and other permitted sites in the area (once approved).

Ponds: A 40 ft x 100 ft (10 ft depth) fresh water and two secondary 40 ft x 100 ft (10 ft depth) water ponds will be placed onsite for settlement of waste “fines” and water recycling. The ponds will have a 3:1 slope. A minimum freeboard of 2 ft shall be maintained at all times. There will be about a 200,000-gallon capacity in each pond. The applicant did not propose to line the freshwater pond. The ponds will be surrounded by five strand, barbed wire fence.

Material Characterization: The meteoric water mobility procedure test for the ore material from the Crystal Barite Mine (aka Dollhouse Mine) looked to be within the standards of Profile I. The MWMP for the ore material from the Huntoon Mine showed elevated concentrations of several constituents above Profile I reference values. Note that every batch of offsite ore will need to be approved for processing at the millsite. BMRR requires that the water from the settlement ponds be sampled and submitted to the Division on a batch and semi-annual basis.

Electrical service will be by the onsite generator and commercial service from the nearby powerline, NV Energy. No fuel will be stores on site. A mobile fuel truck will be used to fuel equipment Good housekeeping practices will be employed at all times during operation of the facility. Trash will be removed by a local disposal company.

Temporary closure of the gravity separation plant will occur regularly for a few days at a time while changing the parameters for processing. The closure will involve the storage of the minimal process water and solids undergoing processing. Inspection of the process components will allow continual visual verification of fluid control and the elimination of the potential release of contaminants to the environment. The site manager will be located across the highway and will maintain continuance of visual monitoring between processing testing.

Permanent closure will involve cleaning out and storing the equipment used. Process waters will be analyzed and be properly disposed of upon processing termination. De-watered tailing will be disposed of properly and the processing facility will be closed in a manner that will preclude contamination to water of the State.

C. Receiving Water Characteristics

Water will be trucked to the ponds and freshwater tanks from either from Mina (Hawthorne Utilities), Sodavile Springs surface water, or the well listed in the Permit. Anticipated water use will not exceed 1,000 gallons per day. A future well may be drilled at the millsite which applicant may seek to convert to mining of which the operator will submit an EDC with water tests prior to such use.

Depth to groundwater varies seasonally but is noted to 120 feet per applicant at the well, however, at the millsite the groundwater is at or near the surface. The water well is 1000 feet Northwest and is owned by applicant. Another well (non potable) is 1200 feet to the Northwest at the Wild Cat Brothel. There are Springs in Sodavile Structure west of US 95 that are 200’ to 800’ That compose the surface water that may be used in the future.

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 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 or 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 new Permit.

F. Proposed Limitations, Schedule of Compliance, Monitoring, Special Conditions

See Section I of the Permit.

TABLE 1. Approved Drilling and Flocculant Additives

EZ-Mud® Gold	Aqua-Clear® PFD	N-Seal™	Casing Seal®
EZ-Seal®	Aquaguard®	PAC™-R	Core-Lube™
Holeplug® 3/8	Barad-399 Core	Poly-Bore™	Anhydrous Calcium Chloride
NXS-Lube	Barafloc®	Quik Mud® D-50	Peladow™ Calcium Chloride
Pel-Plug	Baro-Lube™ Gold Seal	Quik-Trol Gold LV	Con Det®
Pole-E-Flake	Bore-Grout	Sakrete Fence-Post Concrete	Aqua-Clear® AE
Portland Cement	Cal-Seal™ 60	Aquagel Gold Seal®	AQF-2 Foaming Agent
Quik-Gel®	Diamond Seal	Abantonite®	Quik-Foam®
Quik Mud® Gold	EZ-Mud® DP	Barad 381	Cellophane Flake

Quik-Trol® Gold	EZ-Mud® Plus	Baroid® 41	Floquat FL 4820
Soda Ash	Sand & Gravel	Barotherm® Gold	AMC Stick Up® (AMC Drilling Fluids and Products Ltd.)
Phosclear®	HaloKlear: LBP-2101	LiquiFloc Extra Strength (2%)	Cationic Polymer 9248
Cationic Polymer 137	ChargePac 9500	Drewfloc 2425	System Floc-360
Vitec 7000	RoCide IS2	Alcomer 24 UK	AMC Bentonite Chips
AMC CR-650	AMC Ezee-Pac L	AMC 117	AMC 206
AMC Aus-Det	AUS-Plug	AMC Clay Doctor	AMC CoreWell
GEM GP	Performatrol 930		

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.

Per applicant’s monitoring plan, fluid control and monitoring will be continuous. Visual supervision of the physical plant procedures will verify fluid containment throughout the processing. 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 (the 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 2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2606, Sacramento, California 95825, (916) 414-6464, for additional information.

Prepared by: Keith Johnson, PE

Date: 06/10/2024

Revision 00: New Permit.

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