



Notice of Request for Section 401 Water Quality Certification Action - Bureau of Water Quality Planning

Web Posting: 12/19/2025

Deadline for Comments: 1/19/2026

**South Railroad Mine
Elko County**

**Stantec Consulting Services Inc.
401 Railroad Street
Elko, NV 89801**

Certification Action Number NV-401-25-025

The purpose of this project is to allow Gold Standard Ventures (US) Inc. (GSV), subsidiary of Orla Mining Ltd., to profitably extract gold from public lands where they have mining claims, as well as on private land controlled by Orla Mining Ltd. This project would occur in Elko County and would impact Dixie Creek and Trout Creek which are tributaries to the Humboldt River. The proposed activities involve the development of an open-pit gold mining operation, which will encompass the following major components: four open pits; three waste (non-mineralized) rock disposal facilities (WRDFs); ore-crushing and conveying system; lime and cement silos and ore agglomeration facility; ore stockpiles; clay stockpile; growth media stockpiles; onsite power plant and substation; a limestone quarry area; a heap leach facility (HLF) with solution channels, associated process solution tanks, and ponds; water supply and dewatering system; stormwater diversion ditches and stormwater sediment basins; water treatment plant processing facilities comprised of chemical storage, filtration, pumps, and pipelines; adsorption, desorption, and recovery (ADR) plant; refinery; and an assay laboratory; access and haul roads; ancillary facilities; and reclamation and closure, including the development of evapotranspiration cells. Clean fill will be placed in one perennial stream segment, eight intermittent stream segments, and seven freshwater emergent wetland locations. A Compensatory Mitigation Plan has been prepared to offset the unavoidable impacts on aquatic resources. The project proponent has requested certification for the use of an Individual Permit (SPK-2018-00673) under Clean Water Act Section 404 administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

A 401 certification (or a waiver of certification) is required for any federal license or permit that authorizes activities that may result in any discharge into waters of the United States. Nevada Division of Environmental Protection is in receipt of a complete request for certification in compliance with Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification regulations which the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency promulgated in 2023, codified as 40 CFR 121.

The Administrator is evaluating whether the proposed activity will comply with applicable water quality requirements. Certification actions are valid for the duration of the federal license or permit (typically five years). Any conditions contained within the certification action become a condition of the federal license or permit.

Persons wishing to comment on the application for consideration by the Administrator in making a determination regarding the certification action should submit their comments or request a hearing in writing, emailed no later than 5:00 P.M. on 1/19/2026:

Bureau of Water Quality Planning
901 South Stewart Street, Suite 4001
Carson City, Nevada 89701-5249
ndep401@ndep.nv.gov

The request for a hearing 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. All water quality-related comments or objections received within the thirty (30) day period will be considered in the formulation of final certification action regarding the application. If written comments indicate a significant degree of public interest in the proposed permit, the Administrator shall hold a public hearing. A public notice of such hearing will be issued not less than thirty (30) days prior to the hearing date.

The applications, proposed permits, comments received, and other information are on file and may be copied, or copies may be obtained by writing to the above address or by contacting Zachary Carter, Bureau of Water Quality Planning, at (775) 687-9456 or ndep401@ndep.nv.gov. The public notice for this project can be viewed at the following website: <https://ndep.nv.gov/posts/category/water>.

Please bring the foregoing notice to the attention of all persons interested in this matter.