

Dated: May 4, 1995.

Andrew Cuomo,

Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NV-060-1990-01; N64-92-001P]

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Mule Canyon Project Mining Plan of Operations

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation Mule Canyon Project Plan of Operations for mining in Lander County, Nevada and notice of scoping period and public meetings.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) as amended, and to 43 CFR Part 3809, the Surface Management Regulations, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), will be directing the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed development of a new mill facility, tailings impoundment, heap leach facility, five open pits, and ancillary facilities in Lander County, Nevada. The environmental impact statement will be prepared by third party contractor and funded by the proponent, Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation. The BLM invites comments and suggestions on the scope of the analysis.

DATES: Scoping meetings will be held on May 24, 1995, from 7-9 p.m. at the Battle Mountain District BLM Office conference room, 50 Bastian Road, in Battle Mountain, Nevada; and on May 25, 1995, from 7-9 p.m. at the Senior Citizens Center, Crescent Valley, Nevada. The purpose of these meetings is to identify issues to be addressed in

the EIS, and to encourage public participation in the NEPA process. Representatives of the BLM and Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation will be summarizing the Plan of Operations and the anticipated environmental impacts resulting from the project and will be accepting comments from the audience. Additional briefing meetings will be held as appropriate. Written comments on the Plan of Operations and the scope of the EIS will be accepted until close of business, June 26, 1995.

ADDRESSES: Scoping comments may be sent to: USDI-BLM, District Manager, P.O. Box 1420, 50 Bastian Road, Battle Mountain, Nevada, 89820, Attn.: Dave Davis, Mule Canyon Project Manager.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dave Davis, Mule Canyon Project Manager, (702) 635-4000.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has recently submitted a proposal to develop a mining facility on the north end of the Shoshone Mountain Range, in Lander County, Nevada, approximately 14 miles east-southeast of Battle Mountain. The proposed mining development will involve the development of five open pits, a heap leach pad, a tailings storage facility, four holding ponds, several solution ponds, milling, processing, and other ancillary facilities. There are currently two disposal plans for over/interburden storage. The no backfill plan entails the construction of 12 overburden facilities (total disturbance 504 acres). The backfill disposal plan entails construction of fourteen facilities, including the backfilling of the Main Pit area (total disturbance 521 acres). Total maximum disturbance under either scenario is expected to be near 2,870 acres. A fence surrounding the project will enclose approximately 6,606 acres.

The BLM has determined through internal scoping that the following issues may be potentially significant and as such will be the focus of the EIS: Minor dewatering associated with mining, water quality and pit water quality after closure, socio-economic impacts to the region, air quality, impacts to range and wildlife resources,

cultural and Native American Religious Concerns, reclamation, and cumulative impacts. Additional significant issues to be addressed may arise during the scoping process. Federal, State, and local government agencies and other individuals who may be interested or affected by the BLM's decision on this plan of operations are invited to participate in the scoping process.

Dated: May 1, 1995.

Michael C. Mitchel,

Acting District Manager.

[FR Doc. 95-11391 Filed 5-8-95; 8:45 am]

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[UT-920-95-1320-01]

Utah and Colorado: Uinta Southwestern Utah Regional Coal Team Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management.

ACTION: Notice of regional coal team meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the responsibilities outlined in the Federal Coal Management Regulations (43 CFR Part 3400), the Regional Coal Team (RCT) for the decertified Uinta Southwestern Utah Federal Coal Production Region will hold a meeting to discuss and make recommendations concerning coal leasing and development in the Region. The RCT will review pending coal lease applications under the "Leasing by Application" (LBA) program and discuss any additional coal-related activities appropriate at this time. Members of the public, coal companies, and interested agencies are invited to make comments at the meeting.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A total of six coal lease applications are pending in the region, including five in Utah, and one in Western Colorado. The RCT will be reviewing the applications, and, where appropriate, making recommendations to the BLM concerning processing the applications. Pending applications in the Region include:

State	Applicant	Coal field	Est. acreage
Utah	Coastal States Energy	Wasatch Plateau	2,020
	Sage Point Coal Co	Book Cliffs	1,104
	PacifiCorp Electric Oper	Wasatch Plateau	7,865
	Genwal Coal Co	Wasatch Plateau	4,052
	Cyprus Western Coal	Book Cliffs	2,300
Colorado	Mountain Coal ¹	Paonia/Summerset	2,276

¹ Tract scheduled for sale in Denver, Colorado, May 15, 1995.