

condemnation drilling necessary for development of future operations; expansion of the open-pit and waste rock disposal area; construction of an additional leach pad and solution ponds to accommodate processing of Run-of-Mine ore; and the relocation of the stormwater diversion channel beyond the limits of the active mine workings. Existing permitted surface disturbance within the project area is 1,005 acres. The proposal would disturb an additional 364 acres for a total of 1,369 acres of public and private land within the project area.

This Draft EIS analyzes the environmental impacts associated with the proposed expansion of the existing Denton-Rawhide Mine, a partial pit backfill alternative, and the no action alternative. Issues analyzed in the Draft EIS include geology and minerals, water resources, soils, vegetation, wildlife and fisheries, range resources, paleontological resources, cultural resources and Native American concerns, air quality, access and land use, recreation and wilderness, social and economic values, visual resources, noise, and hazardous materials.

A copy of the Draft EIS has been sent to all individuals, agencies, and groups who have expressed interest in the project or as mandated by regulation or policy. A limited number of copies are available upon request from the BLM at the address listed above.

Public participation has occurred during the EIS process. A Notice of Intent was filed in the Federal Register on January 24, 1996, and an open scoping period was held until March 1, 1996. One public scoping open-house to solicit comments and ideas was held on February 15, 1996. All comments presented to the BLM throughout the EIS process have been considered.

To assist the BLM in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action and alternatives, comments on the Draft EIS should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or chapters in the document. Comments may address the adequacy of the Draft EIS and/or the merits of the alternatives formulated and discussed in the document. Reviewers may wish to refer to the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points. After the comment period ends on the Draft EIS, comments will be analyzed and considered by the BLM in preparing the Final EIS.

Dated: October 18, 1996.  
John O. Singlaub,  
*District Manager.*  
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### Bureau of Land Management

[CA-067-7122-6606; CACA-35511]

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Imperial Project, a proposed gold mining operation on public lands in Imperial County, California.

**DATES:** Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement must be postmarked no later than Tuesday, December 31, 1996.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments should be addressed to Bureau of Land Management, El Centro Resource Area, 1661 South 4th Street, El Centro, CA 92243, Attention: Keith Shone.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Keith Shone (619) 337-4412 or Thomas Zale (619) 337-4420.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:** No hearings are presently planned, however, should public demand warrant, a hearing would be held by the BLM.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Imperial Project (Project) is a proposal by Chemgold, Inc. to develop an open-pit, precious metal mining operation utilizing heap leach processes. The proposed site is located in eastern Imperial County, California, approximately 45 miles northeast of El Centro, California and 20 miles northwest of Yuma, Arizona. The Project area is comprised of approximately 1,625 acres of unpatented mining claims on public lands administered by the BLM. Up to 150 million tons of ore would be leached and 450 million tons of waste rock would be deposited at the proposed waste rock stockpiles or the mine-out portion of the three (3) planned open pits. The expected maximum average mining rate would be 130,000 tons per day. Approximately 1,392 acres of surface disturbance would occur as a result of the Proposed Action. Mining activities would be performed 24 hours per day, seven (7) days per week, and are projected to commence in 1997 and terminate around the year 2016. The proposed

mine would include a lined heap leach pad designed and constructed to support and contain the ore heap and to collect process fluid from the treated heap for precious metal recovery. Blasted ore rock would be mined and hauled directly to the heap without crushing (run-of-mine). Blasted waste rock would be hauled directly to a waste rock stockpile or to one of the on-site pits to be backfilled. A ground water production well field, consisting of up to four (4) ground water production wells, would be completed and used to provide water for processing operations, dust control and domestic uses.

Dated: October 21, 1996.  
Terry A. Reed,  
*Area Manager.*  
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### Intent To Prepare Environmental Impact Statement

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a mining Plan of Operations (POO) for the Kinross-Goldbanks Mine project, Pershing County, Nevada; and notice of scoping period and public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and 43 CFR part 3809, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will be directing the preparation of an EIS for the proposed development of a mine in Pershing County, Nevada. The EIS will be prepared by contract and funded by Kinross-Goldbanks Mining Company (KGMC). A public meeting will be held to identify issues to be addressed in the EIS, and to encourage public participation in the review process. Representatives of the BLM and KGMC will be summarizing the POO and accepting comments from the audience. The BLM invites comments and suggestions on the scope of the analysis.

**DATES:** The scoping meeting will be held Wednesday, December 4, 1996 at the office of the Winnemucca District BLM, from 7-9 p.m. Written comments on the POO and scope of the EIS will be accepted until December 16, 1996. The Draft EIS is expected to be completed by July of 1997, at which time the document will be made available for public review and comment.