

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[MT-070-97-1220-00]

Emergency Closure of Public Road in Beaverhead County, Montana

AGENCY: Butte District Office, Bureau of Land Management, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of emergency closure of a public road segment in Beaverhead County, Montana.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that effective immediately a segment of the Sawlog Gulch road beginning at the west side of the Big Hole River ford and then proceeding south up Sawlog Gulch for about ¾ miles to the Forest Service boundary will be closed during wet and high runoff periods of the year. This closure is made under the authority of 43 CFR 8364.1.

Signs will be posted at both extremities of the road informing the public when the road closure is in effect. This closure when in effect will apply to all motorized vehicles.

The purpose of this emergency closure is to minimize public safety concerns associated with crossing the Big Hole River during high water levels; reduce road maintenance costs; and, prevent soil erosion and water quality deterioration due to inadequate drainage conditions along the roadbed.

DATES: This closure will be effective immediately and shall remain in effect pending periods of improved weather conditions, until further notice.

ADDRESSES: Copies of this closure order and maps showing the location of the road segment are available at the Headwaters Resource Area Office, 106 N. Parkmont, Butte, MT 59702.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Merle Good, Headwaters Resource Area Manager, at 406-494-5059.

Dated: August 28, 1997.

James R. Owings,

District Manager.

[FR Doc. 97-23746 Filed 9-8-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NV-030-1992-02]

Notice of Availability for the Olinghouse Mine Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Notice of Comment Period and Public Open-Houses

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior.

COOPERATING AGENCIES: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, Washoe County, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, Lyon County-Town of Fernley.

ACTION: Notice of availability for the Olinghouse Mine Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), Washoe County, Nevada; and Notice of Comment Period and Public Open-Houses.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act, 40 CFR parts 1500-1508, and 43 CFR part 3809, notice is given that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared, with the assistance of a third-party consultant, a Draft EIS on the proposed Olinghouse Mine Project, and has made copies available for public and agency review.

DATES: Written comments on the Draft EIS must be submitted or postmarked to the BLM no later than November 14, 1997. Oral and/or written comments may also be presented at two public open-houses, to be held:

October 20, 1997, 5:00-8:00 p.m.,

Washoe Co. Commissioners

Chambers—Reno, NV

October 21, 1997 5:00-8:00 p.m.,

Fernley Town Complex—Fernley, NV

ADDRESSES: Written comments on the Draft EIS should be addressed to: Bureau of Land Management, Carson City Field Office, 5665 Morgan Mill Road, Carson City, NV 89701, Attn.: Terri Knutson, Olinghouse Mine EIS Project Manager. A limited number of copies of the Draft EIS and supporting documentation may be obtained at the same address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Terri Knutson, Olinghouse Mine EIS Project Manager, Bureau of Land Management, 5665 Morgan Mill Road, Carson City, NV 89701, (702) 885-6156.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Alta Gold Company has submitted a Plan of Operations for the development of the Olinghouse Mine located approximately 6 miles west of Wadsworth, NV and 33 miles east of Reno, NV. The proposed

operation includes: development and condemnation drilling necessary for development of future operations; development of two open-pits and a waste rock disposal area; construction of a heap leach pad and plant for ore processing; construction of a haul road and other mine facilities. The proposal would disturb a total of 503 acres of public and private land.

This Draft EIS analyzes the environmental impacts associated with the proposed development of the Olinghouse Mine, an alternate access 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 June 13, 1996, and an open scoping period was held until August 23, 1996. Two public scoping open-houses to solicit comments and ideas were held on July 3, 1996 in Reno, NV and August 8, 1996 in Fernley, NV. 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: August 29, 1997.

John O. Singlaub,

District Manager.

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