

Bldv. Winnemucca, Nevada, 89445,
(702) 623-1528/1500.

Dated: July 28, 1998.

Colin P. Christensen,

Acting Field Office Manager, Winnemucca.

[FR Doc. 98-21108 Filed 8-6-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

Final Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability, final environmental impact statement for Newmont Gold Corporation's Trenton Canyon Project.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, notice is given that the Winnemucca District of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared, by third party contractor, and made available for a 30 day public review, the Final Environmental Impact Statement for Newmont Gold Company's Trenton Canyon Project, located in Humboldt and Lander Counties, Nevada.

DATES: The Final Environmental Impact Statement will be distributed and made available to the public on August 7, 1998. The period of availability for public review for the Final Environmental Impact Statement ends on September 8, 1998. At that time a Record of Decision will be issued regarding the Proposed Action.

ADDRESSES: A copy of the Final Environmental Impact Statement can be obtained from: Bureau of Land Management, Winnemucca District Office, 5100 East Winnemucca Boulevard, Winnemucca, Nevada 89445. The Final Environmental Impact Statement is available for inspection at the following locations: Bureau of Land Management Nevada State Office (Reno); Lander and Humboldt County Libraries; and the University of Nevada library in Reno, Nevada.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rod Herrick, Project Manager, at the above Winnemucca District address or telephone (702) 623-1500.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Final Environmental Impact Statement has been produced in the abbreviated format and must be used in conjunction with the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), issued February 13, 1998. In addition, the Final provides responses to comments received by BLM during the public comment period

on the Draft. The EIS analyzes the direct, indirect and cumulative impacts associated with the continued mining with expansion of the North Peak and Valmy deposits and commencement of mining in the Trenton deposit. Also analyzed are impacts related to new haul roads, overburden disposal areas, additional heap leach facilities, widening of the primary access road, and additional ancillary facilities.

Dated: July 30, 1998.

Colin P. Christensen,

Winnemucca Acting Field Manager.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[AK-931-1310-00-NPRA]

Northeast National Petroleum Reserve—Alaska Final Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Availability.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management announces the availability of the Northeast National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Final Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (IAP/EIS). The planning area is roughly bounded by the Colville River to the east and south, the Ikpiqruk River to the west and the Beaufort Sea to the north. The IAP/EIS contains a Preferred Alternative and five non-preferred alternatives for a land management plan for the 4.6 million-acre planning area and assessments of each alternative's impacts on the surface resources present there. These alternatives provide varying answers to two primary questions. First, what protections and enhancements will be implemented for natural and cultural resources and the activities that are based on these resources? Second, will the BLM conduct oil and gas lease sales in the planning area and, if so, what lands will be made available for leasing?

Under the Preferred Alternative leasing would be allowed in 87 percent of the planning area. Protection to habitats important to molting geese and the Teshekpuk Lake caribou herd would be provided by making them unavailable for leasing or by strict restrictions on oil and gas surface occupancy. In addition, surface use restrictions and other stipulations are applied to other habitats with high

surface resource values. Included are important subsistence use areas such as Fish Creek, Judy Creek, and the Ikpiqruk and Miguakiak Rivers. Similar restrictions and stipulations are applied to the Colville, Kikiakrorak and Kogosukruk Rivers to protect raptor nesting and subsistence. The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to identify specific lands in the NPR-A as "Special Areas," and the two previously designated Special Areas within the planning area will expand under the Preferred Alternative. Some land along the Kikiakrorak and Kogosukruk Rivers will be added to the Colville River Special Area and the Pik Dunes will be added to the Teshekpuk Lake Special area. The BLM is also proposing that it work with nearby Colville River land owners, including the State and Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, to create a Bird Conservation Area along part of the river under the Partners in Flight Program. The BLM will create a subsistence advisory panel to assist in addressing subsistence-related issues that arise in managing a leasing program in the study area. The stipulations included within the Preferred Alternative are modestly revised based on public comment, from those presented in the draft IAP/EIS for alternatives B-E. A close reading of these stipulations is necessary to fully understand the protections to key natural and subsistence resources provided by the Preferred Alternative.

Alternative A calls for no action, or no change from the status quo, and under it no leasing would occur. Alternatives B through E make progressively more land, and more environmentally sensitive land, available to possible leasing. Alternative B makes 52 percent of the planning area available, Alternative C makes 72 percent available, Alternative D makes 90 percent available and Alternative E makes the entire planning area available. Restrictive stipulations would provide protections for natural and cultural resources under all alternatives, but their number and scope would vary between alternatives.

Alternative A contains the fewest stipulations because it authorizes the fewest activities and entirely precludes leasing. As alternatives B through E make progressively more sensitive lands available for leasing, they also include increasing numbers of protective stipulations. Thus, while Alternative E opens the entire planning area to leasing it also has many specific stipulations whose intent is to ensure that sensitive natural resources are protected.

All non-preferred alternatives except Alternative A recommend that the Pik

Dunes be added to the Teshekpuk Lake Special Area and that the Ikpiqpuk River be designated as a Special Area for its paleontological values.

Under various non-preferred alternatives, the BLM would recommend that Congress designate the Colville River a wild, scenic, or recreation river under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the final IAP/EIS will be accepted for a period of 30 days and must be postmarked no later than September 8, 1998. Written comments on the document should be addressed to: NPR-A Planning Team, Bureau of Land Management, Alaska State Office (930), 222 West 7th Avenue, #13, Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7599. Comments can also be sent to the NPR-A website (<http://aurora.ak.blm.gov/npra/>) or to Jim Ducker at jducker@ak.blm.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gene Terland (907-271-3344; gterland@ak.blm.gov) or Jim Ducker (907-271-3369; jducker@ak.blm.gov). They can be reached by mail at the Bureau of Land Management (930), Alaska State Office, 222 West 7th Avenue, #13, Anchorage Alaska 99513-7599.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Authority for developing this document is derived from the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976, as amended, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA).

The BLM leased tracts in the NPR-A in 1982 and 1983 (all now expired), but halted a lease sale in 1984 when no acceptable bids were made. Recently, interest in a lease sale has increased as oil and gas infrastructure moved west. Soon a development at the Alpine Field, in the Colville River delta, will bring a pipeline to within 10 miles of the eastern boundary of the planning area. None of the federal lands in the planning area are currently available to oil and gas leasing because existing NEPA documentation is dated and inadequate to meet current standards. Should the BLM undertake a leasing program, this IAP/EIS will form the basic NEPA documentation to authorize leasing, and it will determine those lands that are available and those that are unavailable for leasing.

The preferred alternative presented in the document is a variation on the alternatives presented in the draft IAP/EIS, but all the actions it proposes fall within the range of actions considered by the non-preferred alternatives

presented there. Public comments on the draft alternatives helped guide the selection of the Preferred Alternative.

Public participation has occurred throughout the period since the Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement was published on February 13, 1997. In addition to holding scoping meetings in Nuiqsit, Atkasuk, Barrow, Fairbanks and Anchorage several publicly attended workshops have addressed important issues within the planning area. The planning area provides particularly important habitat for caribou, waterfowl and other species and many of the local residents of the area rely on harvesting these resources for subsistence purposes. Ensuring adequate protection of these resources has been one of the driving forces behind workshops to seek input from a variety of public sources with expertise in related fields. Information from these workshops has also been helpful in developing this document.

Section 810 of the Alaska National Lands Conservation Act requires the BLM to evaluate the effects of the alternative plans presented in this IAP/EIS on subsistence activities in the planning area, and to hold public hearings if it finds that any alternative might significantly restrict subsistence activities. Appendix D of the document indicates that alternatives D and E meet the "may significantly restrict" threshold and, when the cumulative case is considered, all alternatives discussed in the document meet the threshold. The findings required by Section 810 of ANILCA are also included in this IAP/EIS. Public meetings were held during January in five North Slope villages, and in Fairbanks; Anchorage; Washington, DC; and San Francisco. In April, a public hearing on subsistence was held in Bethel, Alaska.

The BLM has worked very closely with the North Slope Borough and the State of Alaska in developing this IAP/EIS. The Mineral Management Service of the Department of the Interior assisted the BLM in developing the document.

Copies of the final IAP/EIS will be available in public libraries throughout the State of Alaska.

Dated: July 29, 1998.

Sally Wisely,

Associate State Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[MT-910-1820-00]

Resource Advisory Council Meetings, Montana Councils and Dakotas Council; Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA), 5 U.S.C. Appendix, the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), has established four Resource Advisory Councils for the State of Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota.

The Montana Councils are: Butte Resource Advisory Council, Lewistown Resource Advisory Council and Miles City Advisory Council; North Dakota and South Dakota: Dakotas Resource Advisory Council.

These Councils provide representative counsel and advice to BLM on the planning and management of public lands. Members of these Councils were appointed by the Secretary of the Interior.

Members of the Montana and Dakotas Councils will gather to share common issues including travel management, land exchanges, weeds and access beginning at 1:00 p.m. September 15 through the afternoon of September 16. On September 17, the Montana Councils will hold their official meetings. The Dakotas Council will hold its official meeting the morning of September 15 and the morning of September 17. The four Councils will have their joint discussions at the GranTree Inn, 1325 N. 7th Ave., Bozeman, Montana. The individual Montana Councils will hold their official meetings at the Holiday Inn—Bozeman, 5 Baxter Lane, Bozeman, Montana. The September 15 portion of the Dakotas Council official meeting will be held at the GranTree and the September 17 portion of the meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn. The agendas for the Council meetings are as follows:

Butte Resource Advisory Council

The council will convene at 8:00 a.m. Thursday, September 17 at the Holiday Inn—Bozeman, 5 Baxter Lane, Bozeman, Montana. The main agenda topic will be travel management. The public comment period will begin at 11:00 a.m.