

Dated: November 28, 2008.

Lisa J. Lierheimer,

Senior Permit Biologist, Branch of Permits,
Division of Management Authority.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NV-040-07-5110-CF05; N-82888; 8-08807;
TAS: 14X5017]

Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Bald Mountain Mine North Operations Area Project in White Pine County, Nevada

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management,
Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: In accordance with section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and 43 CFR 3809, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Ely District, Nevada has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a proposed expansion of the existing Plans of Operation for Barrick Gold U.S. Inc.'s Bald Mountain Mine and Mooney Basin Mine located in White Pine County, Nevada. The two existing mines would be combined into one new expanded operation which would be called the North Operations Area. The Draft EIS analyzes the environmental effects of the Proposed Action, two action alternatives, and the No Action Alternative.

DATES: Comments on the Draft EIS will be accepted for 45 days after the date this Notice of Availability (NOA) is published in the **Federal Register**. BLM will host public meetings in Ely, Elko, and Eureka, Nevada, to provide the public with an opportunity to review the proposal and project information. Federal, state, and local agencies, and other individuals or organizations that may be interested in, or affected by, the BLM's decision on this proposed Plan of Operation are invited to participate in these public meetings. The BLM will notify the public of the meeting dates, times, and locations at least 15 days prior to the meetings. Announcements of the public meeting will be made by news release to the media, individual letter mailings, and posting on the BLM Web site: http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/ely_field_office.html. Comments received on the Draft EIS will be considered in preparing the Final EIS. Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined at the Ely District Office.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

- E-mail: lynn_bjorklund@nv.blm.gov
- Fax: 775-189-1910
- Mail: Bureau of Land Management, Ely District, Attention: Lynn Bjorklund, HC33 Box 33500, Ely, Nevada, 89301

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: For further information and/or to have your name added to the mailing list, contact Lynn Bjorklund, Ely Field Office, at 775 289-1893 or by email to lynn_bjorklund@nv.blm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Barrick Gold U.S. Inc. has submitted a proposal to expand and combine their existing Bald Mountain and Mooney Basin Mines into one project area to be administered under one Plan of Operation called North Operations Area. The mines are located approximately 65 miles northwest of Ely, Nevada. This proposed expansion is entirely on unpatented mining claims on BLM-administered public land.

The Proposed North Operations Area would include 4,160 acres of previously permitted disturbance and 3,920 acres of new disturbance, for a total of 8,080 acres. The project would consist of extending existing open pits, expanding existing rock disposal areas and heap leach facilities, construction of a truck shop, additional exploration, concurrent reclamation and continuing operation of existing facilities.

Individual respondents may request confidentiality. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment, which includes your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold from public review your personal identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All submissions from organizations, businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses will be available for public inspection in their entirety. The minutes and list of attendees for each public meeting will be available to the public and open for 60 days after the meeting to any participants who wish to clarify the views they expressed. All comments will be available to the public for review at the BLM Ely District Office throughout the EIS process.

Authority: 43 CFR 3809.

Michael J. Herder,

Acting District Manager, Ely District Office.

[FR Doc. E8-30079 Filed 12-18-08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[MT-070-1990-EX]

Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Graymont Western U.S., Inc. Proposed Mine Expansion, Broadwater County, MT

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management,
Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: Graymont Western U.S., Inc. submitted a Plan of Operations on February 22, 2006, to expand their Limestone Hills quarry operation on unpatented mining claims on public lands west of Townsend, Montana. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA, 42 U.S.C. 4321, *et seq.*) and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA, 43 U.S.C. 1701, *et seq.*), a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) has been prepared for the Graymont Western U.S., Inc. Proposed Mine Expansion administered by the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Butte Field Office and the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Operations on public lands are on mining claims located in accordance with the General Mining Law of 1872, as amended (30 U.S.C. 22, *et seq.*). The DEIS addresses alternatives associated with Graymont Western U.S., Inc. Proposed Mine Expansion and recommends a preferred Alternative, allowing the expansion.

DATES: The BLM and the DEQ will accept written comments on the Draft EIS for 60 days following the date the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) publishes its Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**. Future meetings or hearings and any other public involvement activities will be announced at least 15 days in advance through public notices, media news releases, and/or mailings

ADDRESSES: The Draft EIS will be available for public review at the following locations: the BLM Butte Field Office, 106 North Parkmont, Butte Montana; the DEQ Office, 1520 East Sixth Avenue, Helena, Montana; the Helena Public Library, 120 South Last Chance Gulch, Helena, Montana; the

Townsend Public Library, 201 North Spruce Street, Townsend, Montana; and online at <http://www.deq.mt.gov>.

You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

E-mail: ghallsten@mt.gov or david_r_williams@blm.gov.

Fax: 406-444-4386 or 406-533-7660.

Send written comments to: Graymont Western U.S., Inc. Proposed Mine Expansion DEIS, Attention: Greg Hallsten, Montana Department of Environmental Quality, Director's Office, PO Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901; or David Williams, Bureau of Land Management, Butte Field Office, 106 North Parkmont, Butte, MT 59701.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information and/or to request a copy of the document, contact: Greg Hallsten, Montana Department of Environmental Quality, PO Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901; or David Williams, Bureau of Land Management, Butte Field Office, 106 North Parkmont, Butte, MT 59701.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Graymont Western U.S., Inc. submitted a Plan of Operations on February 22, 2006, to the BLM and the DEQ to expand their existing operation, located on unpatented mining claims on public lands west of Townsend, Montana. This proposal is a continuation of mining along a prominent limestone ridge which forms the crest of the "Limestone Hills." Mining was originally permitted here beginning in 1981 and has continued since then. The principal concern, developed through public meetings and agency review, was potential loss of mule deer and mountain sheep habitat and winter browse vegetation, principally mountain mahogany.

The DEIS evaluates three alternatives: No Action, the Proposed Action, and Alternative A, Modified Pit Backfill, which is the agency preferred alternative. The No Action Alternative would limit mine disturbance to the currently permitted 735 acres of disturbance, and the mine would continue to operate until it reached the permitted limits, estimated at 7 to 12 years. The Proposed Action Alternative would allow for an additional 1,313 acres of disturbance and allow operations to continue for 35 to 50 years. The Modified Pit Backfill Alternative modifies the proposed action to require reclamation at the site to provide for more diverse topography and soils that favor winter browse species, but the Alternative does not change the proposed disturbance acreage or years of future operations.

The Draft EIS and documents related to this EIS, including public comments,

will be posted on the DEQ Web site (<http://www.deq.mt.gov>) and may be published as part of the Final EIS. The public is invited to review and comment on the range and adequacy of the draft alternatives and associated environmental effects. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

Rick M. Hotaling,

Field Manager.

[FR Doc. E8-30076 Filed 12-18-08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[UT-920-08-5101-ER-J108; UTU-79766, NVN-82385]

Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for a Proposed Liquid Petroleum Products Pipeline from Woods Cross, UT, to Northeast Las Vegas, NV, and Draft Amendment of the Pony Express Resource Management Plan

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Availability.

SUMMARY: In accordance with Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations implementing the NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500-1508), and applicable agency guidance, a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and Draft Pony Express Resource Management Plan (RMP) amendment have been prepared in response to UNEV, LLC's right-of-way (ROW) application to construct and operate a liquid petroleum products pipeline on public lands from Woods Cross, Utah, to northeast Las Vegas, Nevada.

DATES: This notice initiates a 90-day public comment period. During this

period, the public is invited to submit comments on the DEIS and Draft Pony Express RMP Amendment to be considered in the development of the Final EIS and Record of Decision. To ensure comments will be considered, the BLM must receive written comments on the DEIS and Draft Plan Amendment within 90 days following the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes a Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**.

Public meetings will be held in the following locations: Salt Lake City, Tooele, Delta, and Cedar City, Utah, and Las Vegas, Nevada. Times and dates of these meetings will be announced through the Utah BLM Web site (http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/prog/more/lands_and_realty/major_projects/unev_pipeline_eis.html), press releases, local newspapers, and other local media. The BLM will announce public meetings and other opportunities to submit comments on this project at least 15 days prior to the event.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold from public review your personal identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

If you comment as or on behalf of an organization or business, BLM will release your comments to the public in their entirety, including all personal identifying information. The BLM will not consider a request from an organization or business, or anyone commenting on behalf of an organization or business to withhold any personal identifying information from release to the public.

ADDRESSES: Comments related to the DEIS should be mailed to Joe Incardine, National Project Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Utah State Office, P.O. Box 45155, Salt Lake City, UT 84145-0155. Comments may also be transmitted by facsimile to the attention of Joe Incardine at: (801) 539-4222, sent via e-mail to:

UT_UNEV_Pipeline_EIS@blm.gov, or hand delivered to: BLM Utah State Office, 440 West 200 South, Suite 500, Salt Lake City, Utah. E-mails should include "UNEV Draft EIS" in the subject line.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joe Incardine at the BLM Utah State Office, P.O. Box 45155, Salt Lake City, UT