

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Bureau of Land Management**

[LLNVE02000.L19900000.EX0000; MO: 4500011512; 10-08807; TAS: 14X1109]

**Notice of Availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Newmont Mining Corporation Emigrant Project Plan of Operation, Nevada**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared a Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Newmont Mining Corporation Emigrant Project Plan of Operations and by this notice is announcing its availability.

**DATES:** The BLM will not issue a final decision on the proposal for a minimum of 30 days from the date that the Environmental Protection Agency publishes this notice in the **Federal Register**.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the EIS for the Newmont Mining Corporation Emigrant Project Plan of Operation are available for public inspection at the BLM Tuscarora Field Office, 3900 East Idaho Street, Elko, Nevada. Interested persons may also review the Final EIS at the following Web site: [http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/elko\\_field\\_office.html](http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/elko_field_office.html).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Tom Schmidt, BLM Project Manager (775) 753-0200; by mail at Bureau of Land Management, Tuscarora Field Office, Attn: Emigrant Mine Project Manager, 3900 East Idaho Street, Elko, Nevada 89801; or by e-mail [tom\\_schmidt@blm.gov](mailto:tom_schmidt@blm.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Newmont Mining Corporation submitted a proposed Plan of Operations to the BLM on February 4, 2004 to open the Emigrant Mine about 10 miles south of Carlin, Nevada. The proposed Emigrant Mine would include developing and operating an open pit mine, constructing a waste rock disposal facility, storing waste rock in mined out areas of the pit, developing an oxide heap leach pad; constructing ancillary facilities, rerouting intermittent stream flows in the pit area, and conducting concurrent reclamation. Proposed mining operations would last for approximately 10 years with an additional 4 years of closure operations.

Approximately 1,170 acres of public land and 248 acres of private land would be disturbed.

The issues analyzed in the Final EIS include the potential impacts to wildlife and cultural resources, the potential for waste rock, heap leach, and pit walls to produce acid rock drainage and/or heavy metals, and the proposed diversion of a drainage. Indirect and cumulative impacts are addressed for air quality, water, soil, vegetation, wildlife, fisheries and aquatic resources, threatened, endangered, candidate, and sensitive species recreation, livestock grazing, social and economic values, visual resources, cultural and Native American religious site concerns. Additional resource analysis includes geology and minerals, paleontology, lands and realty, wilderness, weeds and environmental justice.

The analysis in the Final EIS reflects modifications to the proposed plan of operations as a result of new information. As a result of the NEPA review process, an Adaptive Management Plan was developed to monitor performance of the operations plan and prevent impacts. The BLM originally published a Notice of Availability of the Draft EIS in the **Federal Register** on March 25, 2005 (70 FR 15346). In response to substantive comments on the 2005 Draft EIS, the BLM issued a revised Draft EIS in 2008 that replaced the 2005 Draft EIS. A Notice of Availability for the 2008 Draft EIS was published in the **Federal Register** on November 19, 2008 (73 FR 69675). The 2008 Draft EIS incorporated revisions made in response to substantive comments received on the 2005 Draft EIS. The 2008 Draft EIS analyzed the proposed action and no action alternatives. Other alternatives considered and reasons why they were eliminated from detailed analysis are discussed in the Final EIS. Measures to avoid or minimize environmental impacts and to assure the proposed action does not result in undue or unnecessary degradation of public lands are also included. The BLM received 15 comments from the public. These comments included concerns about what methods would be used to classify waste rock as potentially acid generating and non-potentially acid generating. In response to these comments, the Final EIS includes an Adaptive Management Plan in the monitoring program to continually monitor and evaluate the performance of the waste rock management plan proposed for this project and respond to any unforeseen surface and/or groundwater impacts.

Comments on the 2008 Draft EIS received from the public and from an

internal BLM review were considered and incorporated as appropriate into the proposed plan of operations and the Final EIS. Public comments resulted in the addition of clarifying text and the inclusion of the Adaptive Management Plan.

**Authority:** 40 CFR 1506.6 and 1506.10.

**Kenneth E. Miller,**  
*Manager, Elko District.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Bureau of Land Management**

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**Notice of public meeting: Resource Advisory Councils, Nevada**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of Public Meeting.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA), the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Nevada will hold a joint meeting of its three Resource Advisory Councils (RACs), the Sierra Front-Northwestern Great Basin RAC, the Northeastern Great Basin RAC, and the Mojave-Southern Great Basin RAC in Sparks, Nevada. The meeting is open to the public and a public comment period will be available.

**DATES AND TIMES:** Thursday, January 20, 2011, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday, January 21, 2011, from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. A public comment period will be held early in the afternoon on Thursday, January 20. The time for the comment period will be posted on the Web and the agenda will be available two weeks days prior to the meeting at <http://www.blm.gov/nv>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Rochelle Francisco, telephone: (775) 861-6588, e-mail: [rochelle\\_francisco@blm.gov](mailto:rochelle_francisco@blm.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The three 15-member Nevada councils advise the Secretary of the Interior, through the BLM Nevada State Director, on a variety of planning and management issues associated with public land management in Nevada. The meeting will be held at John Ascuaga's Nugget, 1100 Nugget Avenue, Sparks, Nevada. Agenda topics include a presentation and discussion of accomplishments