

Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Pan Mine Project

Draft

Final

Lead Agency:

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Egan Field Office

Cooperating Agencies:

Nevada Department of Wildlife
Eureka County Board of Commissioners
White Pine County Commission

Counties Directly Affected:

Eureka and White Pine, Nevada

Date EIS Filed with EPA:

November 8, 2013

Comments on the EIS can be Directed to:

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Comments must be received by:

30 days after publication in the Federal Register

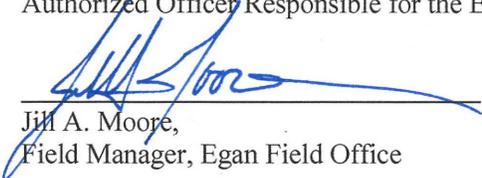
ABSTRACT

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, this Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) evaluates the environmental effects of the construction, operation, and maintenance of a gold mine known as the Pan Mine Project in White Pine County, Nevada, on lands currently managed by the Ely District Office of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The proposed project would be located in the Pancake Mountain Range, in White Pine County, Nevada, approximately 50 miles west of Ely and 22 miles southeast of Eureka. The proposed project is an open-pit gold mine with two larger pits and four smaller pits, as well as crushing facilities and stockpiles; two waste rock disposal areas; a heap leach pad and associated conveyors; processing facilities and ponds; water supply wells and a water delivery/storage system; haul roads and access roads; ancillary facilities; and a 69 kilovolt (kV) transmission line to serve the project which would be supplied by Mt. Wheeler Power on a new BLM Right-of-Way. Construction and operation of the mine would result in approximately 3,204 acres of disturbance that includes the previously authorized exploration disturbance of 100 acres. Upon completion of mining activities, the majority of the operation would be reclaimed.

Three alternatives to the Proposed Action were carried through in the analysis and include the No Action Alternative, Southwest Power Line Alternative, and Waste Rock Disposal Site Design Alternative. The agency preferred alternative is a combination of the Southwest Power Line Alternative and the Waste Rock Disposal Site Design Alternative.

The BLM is responsible for administering mineral rights access on certain federal lands as authorized by the General Mining Law of 1872. The BLM Egan Field Office has the responsibility and authority to manage the surface and subsurface resources on public lands located within the Egan Resource Area. The BLM must review the Plan of Operations to ensure use of public land in the Egan Resource Area is in conformance with BLM's Surface Management Regulations (43 Code of Federal Regulations 3809) and other applicable statutes, including the Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976 (as amended).

Authorized Officer Responsible for the Environmental Impact Statement:


Jill A. Moore,
Field Manager, Egan Field Office

10/30/13
Date