

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

**Stockpile Reserves LLC
Fencemaker Antimony Mine Project
Environmental Assessment
DOI-BLM-NV-WO10-2012-0021-EA**

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Based on the interdisciplinary analysis conducted in the Fencemaker Antimony Mine Project Environmental Assessment (EA) DOI-BLM-NV-WO10-2012-0021-EA, dated July 2012, for the Proposed Action, a review of the plan of operations and my consideration of the Council of Environmental Quality's (CEQ) criteria for significance (40 CFR 1508.27), both with regard to the context and the intensity of impacts, I have determined that there are no significant impacts associated with the proposed action. Therefore, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) pursuant to Section 102(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is not required.

Based on applicant committed environmental measures (EA sections 2.2.12 and 2.2.13) and the analysis of potential impacts, it was not necessary to develop additional mitigations through the analysis.

The Proposed Action is in conformance with the approved Sonoma-Gerlach Management Framework Plan (1982) and is consistent with other Federal agency, state, and local plans to the maximum extent consistent with Federal law and Federal Land Policy Management Act provisions.

Context

Stockpile Reserves LLC submitted a Plan of Operations (POO) for the resumption of mining activities at an existing underground antimony mine. The components of the POO are collectively referred to as the Proposed Action in this Document. Mining-related activities would include using an existing cleared and leveled area (0.38 acres) and clearing an addition 0.25 acres (0.63 acres total) for parking vehicles, staging ore, equipment maintenance, temporarily staging ore, equipment maintenance, storage sheds and parking a watchman trailer. A Right-of-Way would also be secured for the existing Fencemaker Pass Road.

The project area is located in Fencemaker Pass on the western side of the Stillwater Range, in Pershing County, Nevada. The Project encompasses approximately 0.63 total acres and is approximately 5,520 feet in elevation above mean sea level. The Project would consist of approximately 0.25 acres of new surface disturbance located on public lands administered by the BLM Winnemucca District Office, Humboldt River Field Office. The Project is located within Township 26 North, Range 37 East, Section 31, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian (Project Area) 38 miles east-southeast of Lovelock, Nevada and 62 miles south-southwest of Winnemucca,

Nevada. This area is already disturbed with an existing mine adit, a road and a leveled unvegetated staging area.

Intensity

1) Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse.

The EA considered possible beneficial and adverse impacts of the proposed expansion project. New employment for a proposed mining work force, and use of local retail services, restaurants and lodging are possible throughout the approximate 15 years of the project. Under the proposed action impacts to the resources would include the presence of an expanded level area, additional vehicle traffic and additional ancillary features. When the project is completed the adit would be filled and all materials removed. The presence of these features themselves would be short term impacts to the local topography. Under the Proposed Action including environmental measures specified in the proposed action (EA section 2.2.13 Environmental Protection Measures and 2.2.12 Monitoring Programs) there are not expected to be adverse impacts to any of the affected resources due to the presence of these features.

2) The degree to which the proposed action affects public health or safety.

Mining activities are not expected to cause adverse public health effects. The proposed action includes a Dust Control Plan, a Site-Wide Monitoring Plan, and Dark-Sky Measures. Safety requirements would be required by Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) and the Nevada Industrial Relations Division of Mine Safety. No adverse public health or safety effects are expected from use of the reclaimed area.

3) Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas.

The project would not affect park lands, prime farmland, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers or ecologically critical areas. All areas to be disturbed by mining activity have been inventoried and evaluated for historic and/or cultural resources.

4) The degree to which the effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial.

Mining activities are not new to Nevada. Such activities are prone to generating public comment through scoping and the public comment period on the preliminary EA. Issues and concerns brought forward through scoping were taken into consideration for analysis in preparing the preliminary EA. Concerns raised on the preliminary EA have been addressed in the final EA and in the decision making process.

5) The degree to which the possible effects on the quality of the environment are likely to be highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.

The mining techniques involved are all common methods employed in the mining industry and are not expected to produce uncertain or unique risks.

6) The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration.

Implementation of a proposed action would not set any known precedents or establish any principles for future decisions. The proposed mining activities have been commonly applied for over seventy-five years.

7) Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts.

Cumulative effects were analyzed for the potential effects to air quality and invasive and nonnative species, migratory birds, Native American Religious Concerns, geology, public access, soils, special status species, vegetation, visual and wildlife resources. Detailed analyses of these areas were done to assess the potential cumulative impacts. Minimal cumulative impacts were identified for these resources. Based on these analyses it has been determined that no significant cumulative impacts would result from the proposed action.

8) The degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the NRHP or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historic resources.

The proposed action would have no adverse effects to cultural or historic resources.

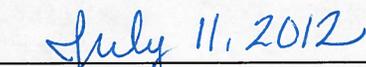
9) The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under ESA of 1973.

The endangered or threatened species or its' habitat were examined in the EA and no adverse impacts are anticipated.

10) Whether the action threatens a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.

No threats of violation were identified in the preparation of the EA and any authorization regarding this proposed project would stipulate that the operator must obtain all necessary approvals from other federal, state, and local agencies before proceeding.


**Michael Truden, Field Manager,
Humboldt River Field Office**


Date