



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Mount Lewis Field Office

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http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/battle_mountain_field.html

In Reply Refer To:

3809 (NVB0100)

NVN-066621 (14-2A)

JUN 19 2015

Dear Interested Public:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Mount Lewis Field Office issued a Decision Record (DR) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), both dated March 5, 2015 for the Environmental Assessment (EA) of the Horse Canyon/Cortez Unified Exploration Project that is located 35 miles southeast of the community of Battle Mountain in Eureka and Lander counties, Nevada. The decision of the Mount Lewis Field Manager, BLM Battle Mountain District, was to select the Proposed Action inclusive of applicant committed environmental protection measures of the Plan of Operations (Plan) and specified in Section 2.2.3 of the EA, as the BLM's Preferred Alternative.

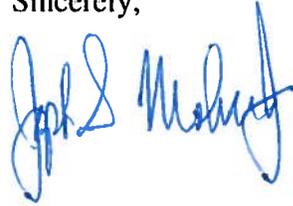
Barrick Gold Exploration Inc. (Barrick) submitted an Amendment to the Plan (File Number: NVN-066621 (14-2A)) to increase the acreage of allowable surface disturbance within the Project area by 140 acres for a total of 549 acres. Exploration activities of the Proposed Project would include overland access, new road construction, geophysical analysis, trenching, test wells, monitoring wells, construction of exploration drill pads and sumps, and reclamation.

The EA was made available for a 30-day public comment period ending on January 5, 2015. Notifications of the availability of the EA were sent to persons and agencies on the Project mailing list and the EA was posted on the Battle Mountain District ePlanning webpage. Additionally, the BLM issued a press release on December 5, 2014 providing a link to the EA and instructions on how to comment. Comment letters were received from the public and other federal, state, or local agencies. Substantive comments were evaluated and considered by the BLM during the decision making process. However, the BLM reviewed and considered these comments and determined that they did not identify or present any significant new information or changed circumstances that would warrant additional NEPA analysis. Minor corrections or updates to the EA were made as a result of these substantive comments. Responses to substantive comments were provided in Appendix F of the EA.

The DR, FONSI, and EA are available on the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) ePlanning webpage at: <http://1.usa.gov/1dOiKgS> and a hardcopy of these documents are available for review at the Mount Lewis Field Office at 50 Bastian Road, Battle Mountain, NV during regular business hours 7:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday, except federal holidays, or will be provided upon request.

For questions regarding this EA please contact Chris Worthington, Planning and Environmental Coordinator, 50 Bastian Road, Battle Mountain, NV 89820 or email cworthin@blm.gov.

Sincerely,



FOR

Jon D. Sherve
Acting Field Manager
Mount Lewis Field Office