



# 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](http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/battle_mountain_field.html)

In Reply Refer To:  
2800 (NVB0100)  
NVN-092012

**JUN 19 2015**

Dear Interested Public:

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing NEPA, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Mount Lewis Field Office (MLFO) has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) which analyzes the impacts of the proposed Barrick Cortez Inc. Fiber Optic Cable Project (Project), located approximately 34 miles south of Beowawe in Eureka County, Nevada. The EA identifies, describes, and evaluates resource protection measures that would mitigate the possible impacts from the proposal.

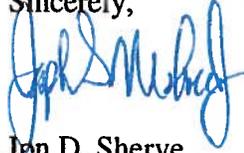
Barrick Cortez Inc. (BCI) has submitted a Plan of Development (POD) to construct a 21.8-mile-long fiber optic cable between the southeastern boundary of BCI's Cortez Gold Mine (CGM) Operations Area and BCI's Lodge at Pine Valley. The cable and approximately 19 vaults (for cable installation/access) would be installed parallel to and within the existing disturbance areas associated with county roads (County Road [CR] 222 and JD Ranch Road). The proposed right of way would be located on BLM administered lands. The fiber optic cable would be in use for the duration of operations at the CGM Operations Area (approximately 5 years).

The comment period begins June 19, 2015, and ends July 6, 2015. The EA may be viewed at: <http://1.usa.gov/1BpkmsB> or a printed copy or CD can be picked up at the Battle Mountain District Office at 50 Bastian Road, Battle Mountain, NV. (Please note: the electronic version is a large .pdf and may take a few minutes to load.) Written comments can be sent to BLM, 50 Bastian Road, Battle Mountain, NV 89820 during this comment period and will be considered in the decision-making process. Comments may also be submitted using the ePlanning comments submission at: <http://1.usa.gov/1BpkmsB> (click on the "comment" button in the lower right hand corner) or emailed to: [blm\\_nv\\_bmdo\\_barrick\\_fiberoptic\\_ea@blm.gov](mailto:blm_nv_bmdo_barrick_fiberoptic_ea@blm.gov).

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.

If you have any questions regarding this EA or wish to obtain a CD or hard copy of this document, please contact Chris Worthington, Planning and Environmental Coordinator at (775) 635-4144.

Sincerely,



FDR

**Jon D. Sherve**  
**Acting Field Manager**  
**Mount Lewis Field Office**