



# United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Tonopah 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)

NOV 25 2015

In Reply Refer To:

3809 (NVB0200)

2800 (NVB0200)

N-93515

N-73706

Dear Interested Public:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Tonopah Field Office has issued a Decision Record (DR) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Environmental Assessment (EA) of the Three Hills Mine Project that would be located approximately one mile west of the town of Tonopah in Esmeralda County, Nevada. The decision of the Tonopah Field Manager, BLM Battle Mountain District, is to select the Proposed Action, inclusive of applicant committed environmental protection measures of the Plan of Operations (Plan) and specified in Section 2.2.5 of the EA, and mitigation measures specified in Chapter 4, as the BLM's Preferred Alternative.

WK Mining (USA) Ltd. (WKM) submitted a Plan of Operations and Reclamation Permit (N-93515) to construct, operate, and close an open pit gold mine and milling facility. Additionally, AT & T submitted a Plan of Development (POD) (N-73706), and Right of Way (ROW) for realignment of an existing buried fiber optic cable. The Project would include the following major components: one open pit; waste rock storage areas; Run-of-mine ore placement; a heap leach pad with associated process water tanks and an Event Pond; an Absorption-Desorption-Recovery processing plant; a refinery; exploration; a lime silo; a water supply pipeline and associated water delivery pipelines; on-site power generation and distribution system; access and haul roads; ancillary facilities that include the following: haul, secondary, and exploration roads; ready line; maintenance area; storm water diversions; sediment control basins; reagent and fuel storage; storage and laydown yards; prill silo and explosive magazines; fresh water storage; monitoring wells; meteorological station; an administration/security building; borrow areas; growth media stockpiles; and solid and hazardous waste management facilities to manage wastes; reclamation and closure, including the development of an evapotranspiration cell; and modifications to US Highway 95 at the junction with the South Access Road.

The proposed Project Area would comprise approximately 722 acres, of which approximately 459 acres would be new surface disturbance.

The EA was made available for a 30-day public comment period ending on November 17, 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 October 19, 2015 providing a link to the EA and instructions on how to comment. Approximately six comment letters were received from the public or other federal, state, or local agencies. Substantive comments were evaluated and considered by the BLM during the decision making process. Minor corrections or updates to the EA were made as a result of the substantive comment review. The BLM reviewed and considered these comments and determined that they did not identify or present any significant new information nor changed circumstances that would warrant additional NEPA analysis. Responses to substantive comments are provided in Appendix B of the EA.

The EA, DR, and FONSI are available on the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) ePlanning webpage at <http://1.usa.gov/1NkIqyI> and a hardcopy of these documents are available for review at the Tonopah Field Office at 1553 South Main Street, Tonopah, NV during regular business hours 7:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday, except federal holidays (Please note: the electronic version of the EA is a large .pdf and may take a few minutes to load).

If you have any questions regarding this EA or wish to obtain a CD or hard copy of this document, please contact Will Coyle, Assistant Field Manager Non-Renewable at (775) 482-7803.

Sincerely,



Timothy J. Coward  
Field Manager  
Tonopah Field Office