



United States Department of the Interior



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In Reply Refer To:
NVN-064634
3809/1793 (NVW010.31)

JAN 15 2021

Dear Interested Public:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Winnemucca District, Humboldt River Field Office (WD/HRFO), has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) to analyze a proposed expansion project (Project) of the Relief Canyon Gold Mine submitted by Gold Acquisition Corporation (GAC), a wholly owned subsidiary of Pershing Gold Corporation, itself a wholly owned subsidiary of Americas Gold and Silver Corporation.

The Relief Canyon Gold Mine is located in Packard Flat in Pershing County, Nevada, approximately 16 miles east-northeast of Lovelock, Nevada. The proposed Project is a modification to GAC's Plan of Operations (Plan) and would expand mining within their current Plan boundary. It would extend the mine life by five years including three years of active mining and two additional years of leaching following cessation of mining. The expansion proposes to deepen the existing pit, expand and add waste rock storage facilities, heap leach pads, process ponds, groundwater dewatering facilities, and groundwater re-infiltration facilities. Upon cessation of mining, an approximately 57-acre pit lake will develop.

The DEIS analyzes the impacts associated with the proposed modification to the Plan (BLM record NVN-064034) for the Relief Canyon Mine, which is located on public and private lands within all or portions Township (T) 27 North (N), Range (R) 33 East (E), section 13 and T27N, R 34E, sections 16-21, relative to the Mount Diablo Baseline and Meridian.

Two public scoping meetings will be held online via the Zoom Webinar platform. A project introduction and a slide presentation will be given at the beginning of each meeting, followed by an open house. Specialists from the WD/HRFO will be on hand to answer questions related to the analysis presented in the DEIS. The BLM will announce the dates and locations of future meetings or hearings and any other public involvement activities at least 15 days in advance through local media, newspapers and the BLM website at:
<https://www.blm.gov/office/winnemucca-district-office>.

The DEIS will be available on the BLM website for review and comment starting on January 15, 2021. During this time, the BLM will also be taking public comments on the proposed modified

Plan of Operations for the Relief Canyon Mine (NVN-064634), as provided for in the Surface Management regulations, 43 CFR 3809. The DEIS, Plan of Operations, and supporting documents can be found by clicking on the word "Documents" on the left side of the screen on the ePlanning website (link below). You are invited to submit substantive comments in writing on the proposed Project before the end of the scoping period. Electronic comments and comments sent by mail must be received or post-marked by March 5, 2021. Please submit comments by the following means:

- on-line via the ePlanning website <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2000567/510> (see the Participate Now tab).
- by email at wfoweb@blm.gov with "Relief Canyon EIS" in the subject line.
- by fax: (775) 623-1503.
- or by mail to Ms. Jeanette "Jean" Black, Project Lead, c/o BLM, 5100 East Winnemucca Blvd, Winnemucca, NV 89445.

Due to current BLM COVID-19 policy, which requires that BLM offices remain closed to the public, copies of this information will not be available for review at the Winnemucca District office. Should this policy change, hardcopies of this information will be made available for viewing in our public room. 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 personal identifying information -- may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

A Final Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared that considers the comments received during the DEIS comment period. For additional information or questions regarding the documents above, please contact Jeanette Black at (775) 623-1500 or at the above address.

Sincerely,



Kathleen L. Rehberg
Acting Field Manager
Humboldt River Field Office