



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Elko District Office
3900 East Idaho Street
Elko, Nevada 89801
<http://www.nv.blm.gov>



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JUN 29 2010

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
BUDGET AND PLANNING DIVISION

In Reply Refer To:
3809 (NVE0200)
NVN-87946

Dear Interested Party:

The Elko District Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) received Barrick Gold Exploration, Inc.'s proposal for the Arturo Mine Project's Plan of Operations. Barrick proposes to begin open pit mining at the Arturo Mine. Barrick proposes to continue surface exploration and begin mining at the Arturo site. The Arturo Project planning area is located approximately 45 miles northwest of Elko, in Elko County, Nevada at the previously authorized Dee Gold Mine site. Enclosed is a general location map.

The proposed amendment would expand Barrick Gold Exploration Inc.'s development of the Dee Gold Mine, which is an existing open pit gold mine currently in closure and reclamation. Enclosed is a fact sheet with a brief description of the Proposed Action.

The purpose of the public scoping process is to determine relevant issues that will influence the scope of the environmental analysis, including alternatives, and guide the process for developing the EIS. At present, the BLM has identified the following preliminary issues: grazing, wildlife, Native American concerns, cultural resources, and water resources. Federal, state, and local agencies, along with other stakeholders that may be interested or affected by the BLM's decision on this project are invited to participate in the scoping process. Before including your address, phone number, email 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 what we will be able to do so.

Written comments should be submitted by close of business on July 21, 2010 or no later than 15 days after the last public meeting which will be held on July 8, 2010. Comments will be used to guide the preparation of an environmental impact statement, which will analyze the proposed action for potential impacts and address issues and concerns. Questions concerning this may be mailed to: BLM, Arturo Mine Project Coordinator, 3900 East Idaho Street, Elko, NV 89801 -4611 or emailed to arturo_eis@blm.gov. Questions concerning this project should be addressed to John Daniel at the above address, faxed to (775) 753-0255 by phone at (775) 753-0277, or email arturo_eis@blm.gov.

Sincerely,


David Overcast, Manager
Tuscarora Field Office

Arturo Mine Project EIS Scoping Fact Sheet

PROPOSED ACTION

Barrick-Dee Mining Venture (BDMV), a joint venture between Barrick Gold Exploration Inc. and Marigold Mining Company, proposes to construct and operate the Arturo Mine Project (Project). The Project would include development of new facilities and expansion of the Dee Gold Mine, an open pit mine currently in final reclamation and closure.

BDMV submitted a Plan of Operations (PoO) (NVN-87946) for the Project in June 2009, to the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Elko District Office, Tuscarora Field Office, in compliance with 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 3809.

The Project is located on the northern Carlin Trend approximately 30 miles northwest of Carlin in Elko County, Nevada (see **Figure 1**). The Project is accessed by the Boulder Valley Road from Interstate 80.

Surface waters within the Project area consist of ephemeral drainages which ultimately flow toward the Humboldt River via Boulder Creek and less than 5 acres of small wetlands. Land use in the Project vicinity includes recreation, mineral development, and wildlife and grazing management.

The Project proposes to disturb a total of 2,456 acres, primarily on public lands that have either been previously disturbed from past mining activities or have been authorized for disturbance by the BLM, but were not carried out due to past economic conditions. Existing disturbance from past mining activities is illustrated in **Figure 2**.

The proposed Project facilities are shown in **Figure 3** and would include:

- Expansion of the open pit to a total of 590 acres;
- Expansion of the overburden storage areas to a total of 1,150 acres;

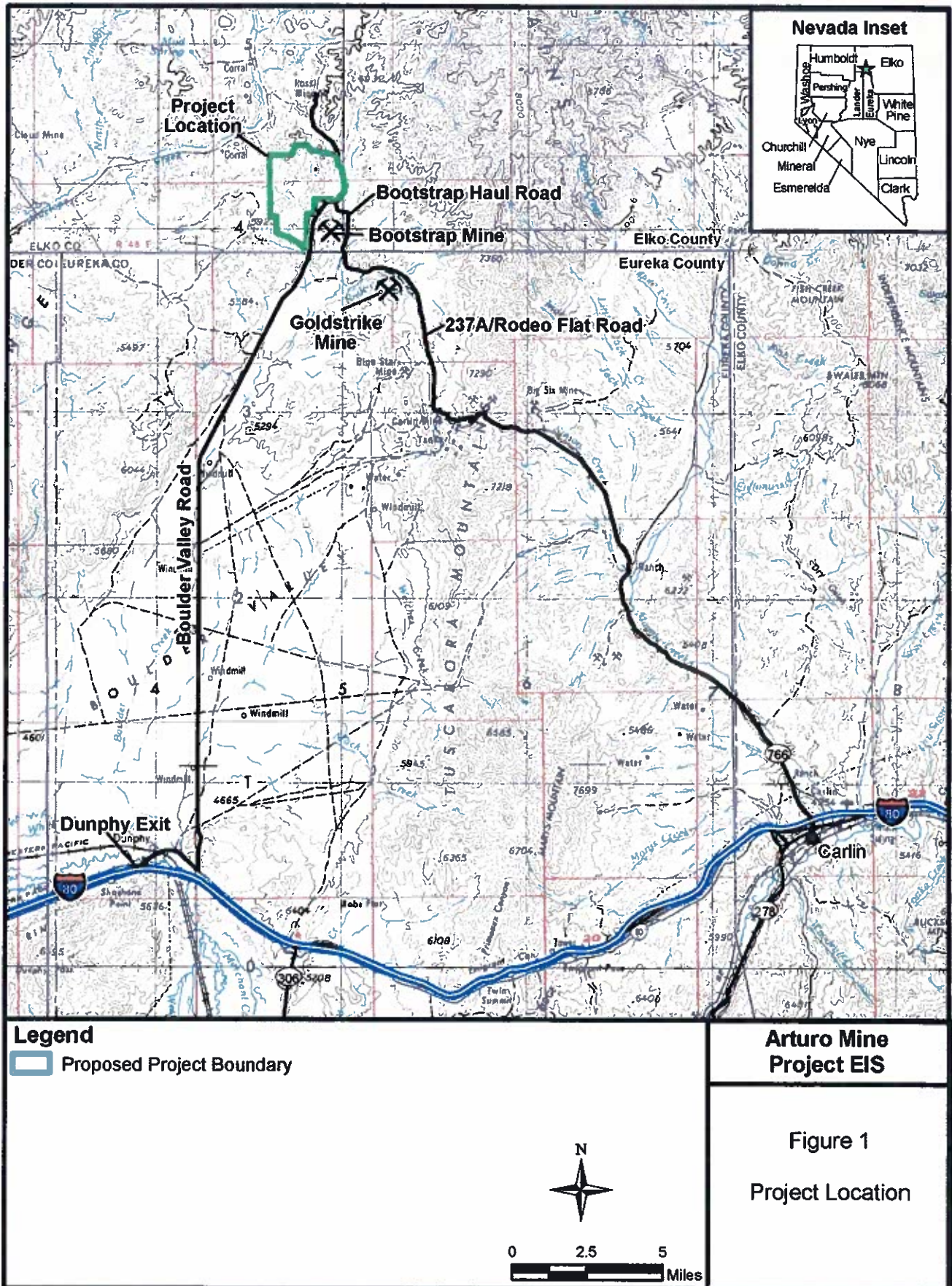
- Construction of a heap leach pad and processing facilities covering a total of 219 acres;
- Construction and/or maintenance of ancillary facilities covering a total of 391 acres; and
- Improvements to the Bootstrap Haul Road covering a total of 106 acres.

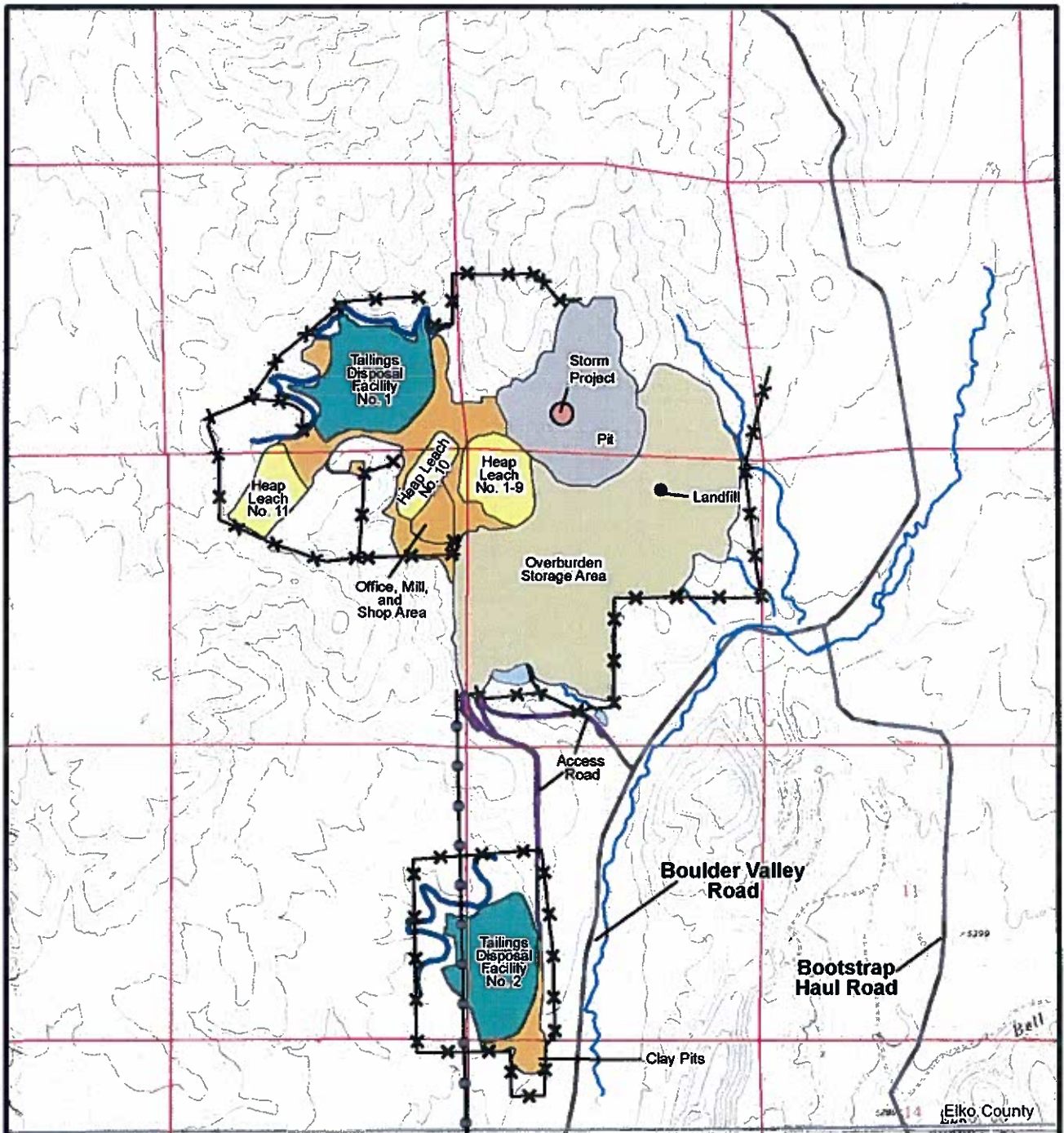
The proposed overburden storage would be constructed over the existing reclaimed tailings and heap leach facilities. Ancillary facilities would include a new electrical substation and power lines; water and sewer systems; borrow areas; chemical, fuel, and hazardous material storage; a Class III landfill; communications; fencing; roads; storm water controls; office, shop, crusher and ore stockpiles.

Mill-grade ore would be delivered by truck via the Bootstrap Haul Road to the Barrick Goldstrike Mine where it would be processed at existing facilities. Barrick Goldstrike Mine facilities are located approximately 8 miles southeast of the Project area. Low-grade ore would be processed onsite at the proposed heap leach pad and associated processing facilities. Oxide and sulfide-bearing waste rock would be managed according to the Project's overburden management plan.

If approved, construction of mining facilities would begin in 2011, with operations beginning in 2012. Mine operations and processing would continue for approximately 8 years, followed by an estimated 3 years of site closure. Reclamation would occur concurrently with mining to the extent possible. Post-closure monitoring, including the monitoring of pit lake formation, would continue for up to 20 years.

An average of 260 workers would be required for mining and processing operations and concurrent reclamation. Final years of reclamation would require approximately 15 workers. The estimated work force payroll, including benefits, is estimated to be approximately \$20 million per year.





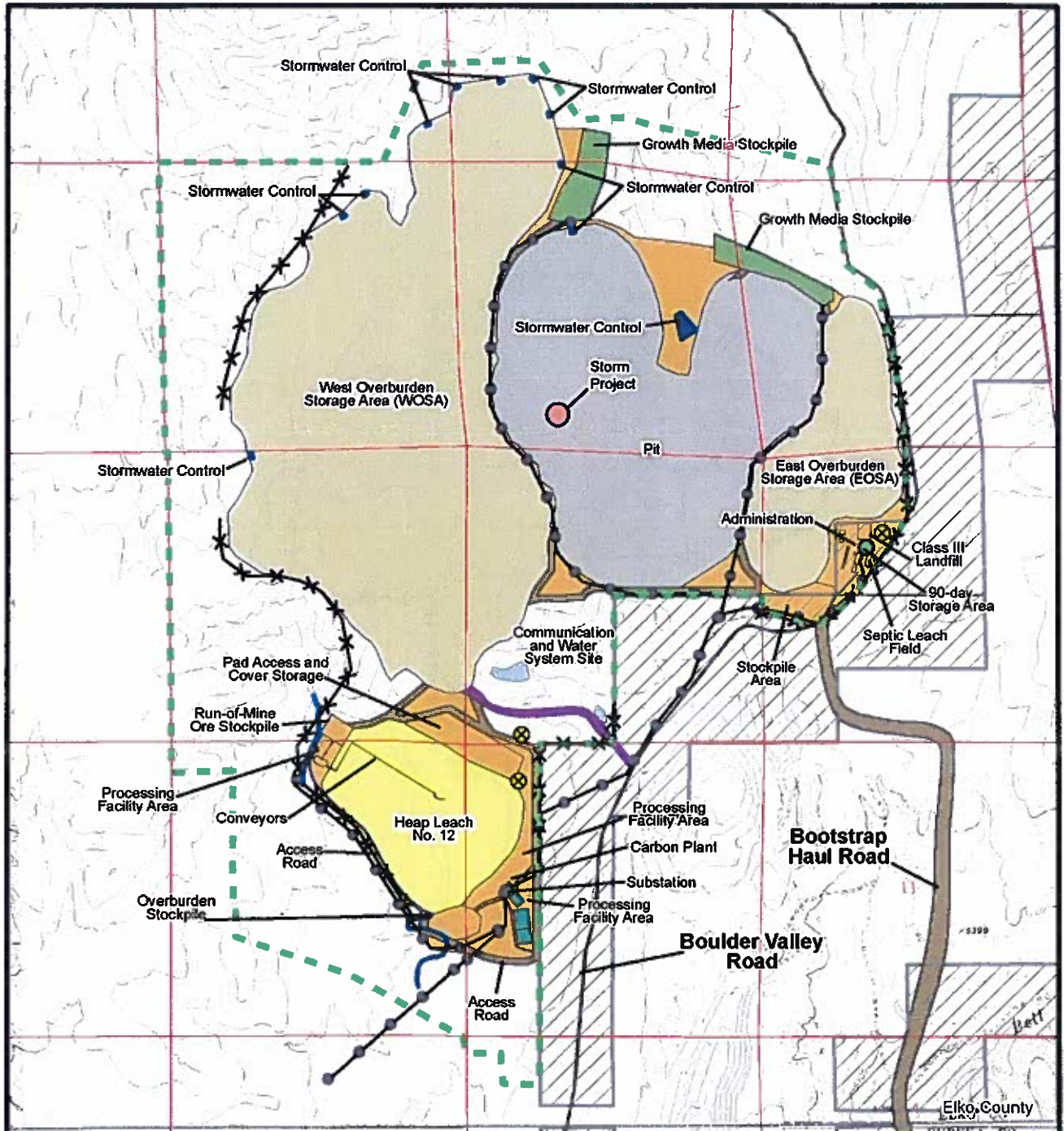
Legend

- Access Roads
- Ancillary Facilities
- Heap Leach Facilities
- Open Pit
- Overburden Storage Areas
- Tailings Disposal Facilities
- Water Body

- Existing Powerline
- Diversion Ditch
- Stream
- Fence
- Road

Arturo Mine Project EIS

Figure 2
Existing Disturbance



Legend		Arturo Mine Project EIS	
Proposed Project Boundary	Stormwater/Event Pond	<p align="center">Figure 3</p> <p align="center">Proposed Disturbance</p>	
Access Road	Waterbody		
Ancillary Facilities	Diversion Ditch		
Haul Road	Stream		
Heap Leach Facilities	Proposed Well Location		
Open Pit	Powerline		
Overburden Storage Areas	Fence		
Growth Media Stockpiles	Private		
Process Ponds	Public		
		0 0.25 0.5 Miles	