

BLM to Begin EIS for Bald Mountain Mine North and South Operations Area Projects

Ely, Nev. – The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has published in the *Federal Register* a Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for a Barrick Gold US, Inc., proposal to expand the Bald Mountain Mine located in White Pine County, about 70 miles northwest of Ely and 30 miles northeast of Eureka, Nev. The notice opens a 30-day public scoping period that will end **May 16, 2012**.

The BLM has scheduled four public scoping meetings in Nevada, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Dates and locations are:

- Monday, May 7, Bristlecone Convention Center, 150 Sixth Street, Ely
- Tuesday, May 8, Eureka County High School, 1 Vandal Way, Eureka
- Wednesday, May 9, Elko Convention Center, 700 Moren Way, Elko
- Thursday, May 10, Best Western Airport Plaza, 1981 Terminal Way, Reno

The public is being asked to identify issues relevant to the proposed Bald Mountain Mine expansion of the existing mine facilities in the North Operations Area Project, expansion of the existing Casino/Winrock Plan of Operations and incorporate it into the North Operations Area Project, and establish a South Operations Area Project that would encompass and expand the existing Yankee and Alligator Ridge mine sites. The BLM has identified the following preliminary issues: air quality from increased use of equipment, view shed of the Pony Express Trail, loss of wild horse habitat and loss of wildlife habitat for greater sage-grouse, golden eagles and mule deer migration.

Expanding the North Operations Area Project and incorporating the Casino/Winrock Plan of Operations into the North Operations Area Project would increase the total surface disturbance from 9,124 acres to 13,704 acres and add four new heap leach pads. Establishing the South Operations Area Project would increase the total surface disturbance from 960 acres to 3,643 acres. The South Operation Area Project Plan of Operations would include an electrical transmission line and an access road between the North and South operations areas.

Interested individuals should address all written comments to the BLM Ely District Office, HC 33 Box 33500, Ely, NV 89301, Attn: Miles Kreidler or fax them to Kreidler at (775) 289-1910. Comments may be submitted to email: BLM_NV_EYDO_Barrick_Bald_EIS@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.

Additional information is available online at <http://www.blm.gov/nv/>. Click on the Ely District map and then click on the Bald Mountain Mine North and South Operations Area Projects under “In the Spotlight.”

For more information, contact Miles Kreidler, BLM Ely District mining engineer, at (775) 289-1893 or mkreidler@blm.gov.