

**MIRANDA U.S.A., Inc.**  
**ANGEL WING EXPLORATION PROJECT**  
**ELKO COUNTY, NEVADA**

**PLAN OF OPERATIONS/  
NEVADA RECLAMATION PERMIT APPLICATION**



**February 2013**

**MIRANDA U.S. A., Inc.  
ANGEL WING EXPLORATION PROJECT  
ELKO, NEVADA**

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NEVADA RECLAMATION PERMIT APPLICATION**

February 2013

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*Submitted to*

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**MIRANDA U.S.A., Inc.**  
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## **INTRODUCTION**

This Plan of Operations and Nevada Reclamation Permit Application (NRP) (Plan) is submitted to the Bureau of Land Management, Wells Field Office (BLM), and the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) Bureau of Mining Regulation and Reclamation (BMRR) by Miranda U.S.A., Inc. (Miranda) and Ramelius Nevada LLC (Ramelius) for the Angel Wing Exploration Project (Project) located in Elko County, Nevada. The Project is a joint venture effort between Miranda and Ramelius. As outlined in Section 1.1 of this Plan, Miranda will be the operator. This Plan is submitted in accordance with BLM Surface Management Regulations 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 3809, as amended, and Nevada reclamation regulations at Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 519A. This Plan combines the requirements of the BLM for a plan of operations and the NDEP for a reclamation permit for exploration.

The Project is located on public land administered by the BLM in part or all of Sections 8 and 16 through 19, Township 44 North, Range 70 East (T44N, R70E), and Section 24, T44N, R69E, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian (MDB&M) in Elko County, Nevada (Project Area). The Project Area includes approximately 818 acres. Project disturbance and bonding will occur in phases. Miranda has been conducting Notice-level exploration activities on public land in this area under Notice N-084102 which is currently acknowledged at 3.3 acres. Additionally, there is approximately 8.6 miles of existing road located in Utah that Miranda will utilize for Project access. The surface disturbance associated with the Project access through Utah will be covered under a Notice that Miranda is currently preparing for submittal to the Bureau of Land Management Salt Lake Field Office. Figure 1 shows the Project Area with authorized Notice-level surface disturbance (all figures are included in Appendix A). Figure 2 shows the proposed Phase I Project disturbance and pre-1981 road disturbance within the Project Area. The Project access route through Utah is shown on Figure 4.

Miranda proposes to create a total of 60 acres of surface disturbance under this Plan. All 60 acres of disturbance will be analyzed as required under the National Environmental Policy Act. The mineral exploration activities covered under this Plan consist of the following: drilling reverse circulation and core holes; geologic and geophysical mapping; construction of exploration roads, drill sites, and sumps; the maintenance of the pre-1981 roads within the Project Area and the Project access roads; and reclamation of Project-related surface disturbance.

Table 1 outlines the total acreage of authorized and proposed surface disturbance, by type of disturbance, for the phased Project. The 3.3 acres of authorized Notice-level activities on public lands are included in the total surface disturbance under this Plan. The proposed disturbance under Phase I will create approximately 6.2 acres of new surface disturbance in addition to the existing Notice-level disturbance for a total of 9.5 acres. The remaining surface disturbance acreage (50.5 acres) will be utilized through exploration under subsequent phases over approximately five years. These phased activities will consist of the same type of activities as in the Plan, but the locations will be submitted as work plans to the BLM. The locations will be based on the success of previously completed exploration activities. The work plans will include maps that show the

location of the proposed surface disturbance to ensure that all eligible and unevaluated cultural resources or any other sensitive resources are avoided.

**Table 1: Acreage of Approved and Proposed Project Disturbance**

Surface Disturbing Activity	Disturbance			
	Notice-Level Authorized (acres)	Proposed Phase I (acres)	Subsequent Phases (acres)	Total (acres)
Constructed Roads	1.9	4.6	36.5	43.0
Overland Travel	1.3	0.0	0.0	1.3
Drill Sites (including sumps)	0.1	0.7	14.0	14.8
Existing Access Road Needing Rehabilitation	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>50.5</b>	<b>60</b>

Surface disturbance under subsequent phases cannot be specified at this time because the specific locations for the subsequent activities will be based on the results of Phase I activities, including the current and ongoing exploration work. Therefore, Miranda will conduct the exploration work and bonding in phases. As a result, the Reclamation Cost Estimate (RCE) in Appendix B includes the authorized and proposed Phase I surface disturbance, which equals 9.5 acres. Table 2 outlines the total authorized and Proposed Phase I surface disturbance that will be bonded under the Plan.

**Table 2 Bonding for Existing and Proposed Disturbance under Phase I**

Approved Acres	Proposed Phase I Acres	Total Bonded Disturbance Acres
3.3	6.2	9.5

In order to provide the BLM and BMRR relevant data concerning subsequent phases of surface disturbance, Miranda will provide documentation on the areas of planned exploration prior to commencing exploration at least one month in advance with specific locations of roads and drill sites. In addition, Miranda will provide the BLM and NDEP an annual report on or before April 15<sup>th</sup> of each year that documents surface disturbance locations, types of surface disturbance, and any completed concurrent reclamation. In the event Miranda determines that exploration activities have varied in such a way that will affect the reclamation bond calculation, an updated RCE will be supplied with the annual report.

# 1 OPERATOR/CLAIM INFORMATION

## 1.1 Operator Information

Operator Name: Miranda U.S.A., Inc.

Mailing Address: 310 Silver Street  
Elko, Nevada 89801

Phone Number: (775) 738-1877

Tax Payer Identification Number: 83-0307086

Point of Contact: Mike Jones  
310 Silver Street  
Elko, Nevada 89801  
Office: (775) 738-1877

Emergency Contact Information: Mike Jones  
310 Silver Street  
Elko, Nevada 89801  
Office: (775) 738-1877

## 1.2 Corporate Information

President: Kenneth Cunningham

Mailing Address: 310 Silver Street  
Elko, Nevada 89801

Phone Number: (775) 738-1877

Vice President: Joseph Herbert

Mailing Address: 310 Silver Street  
Elko, Nevada 89801

Phone Number: (775) 738-1877

Secretary: Doris Meyer

Mailing Address: 310 Silver Street  
Elko, Nevada 89801

Phone Number: (775) 738-1877

Treasurer: Doris Meyer

Mailing Address: 310 Silver Street  
Elko, Nevada 89801



Phone Number: (775) 738-1877

Nevada Registered Agent: Gayle A. Kern  
Kern & Associates, Ltd.

Mailing Address: 5421 Kietzke Lane  
Reno, Nevada 89511-10251

Phone Number: (775) 473-8962

### 1.3 **Claimant/Claim Information**

Owner(s): Gregory and Heidi Kuzma

Address: P.O. Box 987  
Truckee, California 96160

Primary Commodity: Gold.

Claim Name(s):

See Appendix C for a list of claims.

BLM Serial Number of Mining Claim(s) where disturbance will occur:

See Appendix C and Figure 3 (Appendix A) for the list and location of claims where disturbance will occur.

Claim Type(s): Lode.

## **2 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT**

### **2.1 Legal Description**

The Project is located on public land administered by the BLM in part or all of Sections 8 and 16 through 19, T44N, R70E, and Section 24, T44N, R69E, MDB&M in Elko County, Nevada.

### **2.2 Project Access**

The Project is located approximately 60 miles north of the town of Wendover, Nevada. The Project is accessed from Wendover by traveling approximately 32 miles west on Interstate 80 to the Oasis exit. Travel north on State Route (SR) 233 to the town of Montello. From Montello, continue northeast approximately 19 miles on SR 233 to Grouse Creek Road, then travel north approximately 18 miles on Grouse Creek road. From Grouse Creek Road, travel west approximately 11 miles on various gravel roads to access the Project Area. Approximately 8.6 miles of Project access, as shown on Figure 4, is located in Box Elder County, Utah.

### **2.3 Surface Ownership (Acres) of the Land within the Project Area Boundary and Acres of Proposed Disturbance**

#### **2.3.1 Private Lands**

None.

#### **2.3.2 Public Lands**

The Project Area contains approximately 818 acres of public land administered by the BLM.

#### **2.3.3 National Forest System Lands**

None.

#### **2.3.4 State Lands**

None.

### **2.4 Description of Operations**

Miranda is currently authorized to conduct 3.3 acres of surface disturbance within the Project Area under a Notice. The authorized surface disturbance includes the utilization of overland travel and drill sites as well as the construction of drill sites and roads. Miranda plans a total of 60 acres of disturbance for exploration activities, which includes the 3.3 acres of existing disturbance (Table 1). The portion of Project access that is located in Box Elder County, Utah, is being included in a notice submittal to the Bureau of Land Management, Salt Lake Field Office. The surface disturbance would occur in phases. Surface disturbance that Miranda plans to conduct under Phase I would occur in the Project Area and is identified on Figure 2. A block cultural survey will be conducted in the Project Area prior to the initiation of surface disturbing activities.

All phases of exploration activities will include exploration drilling, road construction, drill pad construction, sump construction, and the maintenance of existing pre-1981 roads.

### **2.4.1 Topographic Maps and Figures for the Project**

The Project Area is located on the Death Creek Reservoir 7.5-minute United States Geological Survey Quadrangle map. All figures are located in Appendix A.

### **2.4.2 Equipment and Personnel**

Exploration drilling personnel will access the site in four-wheel drive vehicles.

One 3,000-gallon water truck for each drill rig will be utilized to provide water during Project operations. Up to two reverse circulation rigs and one core drilling rig will be used in the Project Area, and each rig will include the following support vehicles:

- One pipe truck;
- One booster truck;
- One 3,000-gallon water truck;
- One all-terrain support vehicle; and
- One auxiliary air compressor.

The Project work force will include one three-man crew per shift for each reverse circulation rig, and a two-man crew per shift for the core rig. One to two geologists will supervise drilling operations. One D7 dozer will be required for rehabilitation of existing access road and for exploration road construction. One tracked excavator hoe will be required to aid in existing road rehab, for new road construction, and for drill pad and sump construction. Miranda will take steps to prevent fires by ensuring that each field vehicle carries hand tools and a fire extinguisher. Water trucks at the Project Area will be used in the event of a fire. All portable equipment, including drill rigs, support vehicles, and drilling supplies, will be removed from the Project Area during extended periods of non-operation.

### **2.4.3 Constructed Roads**

Approximately 8,072 linear feet of roads will be constructed with average running width of 14 to 16 feet. Road construction will occur in areas with varying topography, and as a result, roads will have an average disturbance width of 25 feet. Planned disturbance associated with road construction is shown in Table 1. Exploration roads that require earth-moving will be constructed using typical construction practices for temporary mineral exploration roads to minimize surface disturbance, erosion, and visual contrast, as well as to facilitate reclamation.

Road construction will be implemented using a Caterpillar dozer, backhoe, or equivalent equipment. Road grades will be no steeper than ten percent, except for short drill spurs, in order to be consistent with the BLM roads manual. When drainages must be crossed by a road, Best Management Practices (BMPs) established by NDEP and the Nevada Division of Conservation Districts through the State Environmental Commission (1994) will be followed to minimize the surface disturbance and erosion potential. Culverts may be required in various areas along the proposed access road. These areas will be reviewed with BLM, and culverts will be installed as

required by BLM. It is not anticipated that blasting will be necessary to construct roadbeds. If drilling and blasting of exploration drill roads should become necessary, prior to blasting the operator will submit an approved safety plan to the NDEP.

Routine road maintenance may be required and will consist of smoothing ruts, filling holes with fill material, grading, and re-establishing waterbars when necessary. In addition, Miranda may need to blade and gravel roads to minimize excess disturbance. The gravel will be obtained from outside the Project Area at an existing gravel source located on private land.

Balanced cut and fill construction will be used to the extent practicable to minimize the exposed cut slopes and the volume of fill material. Since the depth of the cut will be kept to a minimum, growth media removed during construction will be stockpiled as the fill slope to be used during reclamation. Road construction within drainages will be avoided where possible. When drainages must be crossed by a road, BMPs established by NDEP and the Nevada Division of Conservation Districts through the State Environmental Commission (1994) will be followed to minimize the surface disturbance and erosion potential.

Approximately 3,967 feet of the existing access road will require rehabilitation to safely accommodate exploration traffic. These areas requiring rehabilitation are shown on Figure 2 (Appendix A). Considering an average disturbance width of ten feet outside of the existing road prism in the proposed rehabilitation areas, it is estimated that 0.9 acre of disturbance will be required to improve these areas of the existing access road.

#### **2.4.4 Constructed Drill Sites**

Drill sites will have working areas that measure approximately 30 feet wide by 70 feet long. During Phase I, Miranda proposes to construct approximately 12 drill sites with these surface disturbance dimensions. Drill sites will be the minimum size necessary for safe access and to provide a safe working area for equipment and crews.

A sump will be constructed within the disturbance footprint of each drill site and will have an approximate dimension of ten-feet wide by 20-feet long by five-feet deep to contain drill cuttings and manage water generated during drilling. The sumps will be built with an incline on one end so that animals could easily exit the sump.

#### **2.4.5 Drilling Procedures**

Miranda will conduct exploration drilling with up to two reverse circulation rigs and one core drilling rig. Drill holes will be vertical or angled and drilled with reverse circulation and core drill rigs. Drill holes will have an average depth of 1,000 feet. Once the drill rig has completed drilling the hole, the hole will be plugged. The drill holes will be plugged by placing drill cuttings or inorganic fill material into the total depth of the hole. The top 20 feet of each drill hole will be plugged with neat cement, cement grout, or concrete grout pursuant to NAC 534.4371. If ground water is encountered, each drill hole will be plugged as a well pursuant to NAC 534.420. Based on previous drilling in the area, the depth to ground water is estimated at 450 feet below ground surface.

Miranda will follow standard drilling procedures and require a company representative to be on site or on call throughout drilling activities. The company representative will monitor and

coordinate the layout and construction of each drill site, the setup of the drill rig, drilling progress, demobilization, and cleanup of the drill site. A company geologist will also coordinate drilling activities, log each hole according to the geologic features encountered, determine the maximum depth of each hole, and advise the drill operator as needed. The company representative and geologist will travel to and from the drill site in separate four-wheel drive pickup trucks.

Standard drill rig crews will consist of a drill operator and one or two helpers. The helpers normally remove and box the recovered core samples, bag the cuttings from reverse circulation rigs, mix drilling fluids in the portable mud tank, operate the water truck, assist with drilling operations, and conduct maintenance as necessary. The crew will be transported to and from the drill site in four-wheel drive vehicles.

#### **2.4.6 Surface Occupancy**

Under 43 CFR 3715.01, occupancy means full or part-time residence on the public lands. It also means activities that involve residence; the construction, presence, or maintenance of temporary or permanent structures that may be used for such purposes; or the use of a watchman or caretaker for the purpose of monitoring activities. Residence or structures include, but are not limited to, barriers to access, fences, tents, motor homes, trailers, cabins, houses, buildings, and storage of equipment or supplies.

No structures, as listed above, are proposed in this Plan to be located on public lands; however, Miranda may utilize a trailer in the Project Area for logging core and cuttings. As discussed below in Section 2.4.8, a temporary, 5,000-gallon water tank will be located in the Project Area. Additionally, porta-potties are planned to be utilized in the Project Area.

#### **2.4.7 Hazardous Materials**

Hazardous materials utilized at the Project Area will include diesel fuel, gasoline, and lubricating grease. Approximately 500 gallons of diesel fuel will be stored in fuel delivery systems on vehicles and drill rigs. Approximately 100 gallons of gasoline will be stored in fuel delivery systems for light vehicles. Approximately 100 pounds of lubricating grease will be stored on the drill rigs or transported by drill trucks. All containers of hazardous substances will be labeled and handled in accordance with Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) and Mining Safety and Health Administration (MSHA). In the event that a reportable quantity of hazardous or regulated materials, such as diesel fuel, is spilled, measures will be taken to control the spill, and the NDEP, and the Emergency Response Hotline will be notified, as required. If any oil, hazardous material, or chemicals are spilled during operations, they will be cleaned up in a timely manner. After clean up, the oil, toxic fluids, or chemicals and any contaminated material will be removed from the site and disposed of at an approved disposal facility. Appendix D contains a Spill Prevention Plan for the Project.

#### **2.4.8 Water Management Plan**

Water utilized during drilling will be obtained from the City of Montello. Water brought into the Project Area from Montello will be discharged into a temporary, 5,000-gallon water tank located within the Project Area. The 3,000-gallon water trucks will then extract water from the water storage tank and distribute to each drill rig as necessary.

Miranda estimates that approximately 3,000 gallons of water per day will be utilized for core drilling and 3,000 gallons per day will be utilized for each reverse circulation drilling rig. The Project could potentially have as many as two reverse circulation rigs and one core rig operating at one time. As much as 5,000 gallons of water per day may be used for dust control. Therefore, the daily drill water requirement could be as much as 14,000 gallons per day. A 3,000-gallon water truck will be utilized for each drill rig for water transport. This water use will only occur during active drilling.

Drill fluids will be managed with the use of sumps at each drill site. The size of the sump will be dependent on the amount of water encountered during drilling. BMPs for sediment control will be utilized during construction, operation, and reclamation to minimize sedimentation from disturbed areas. Proposed construction and drilling activities will avoid springs and seeps, if present. In order to facilitate drainage and prevent erosion, all bladed roads will have waterbars constructed, as needed, at BLM-recommended spacing.

Sediment control structures may include, but not be limited to, fabric or certified weed-free straw bale filter fences, siltation or filter berms, mud pits, and downgradient drainage channels in order to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation to the environment. Sediment traps, constructed as necessary within the drill pad disturbance, will be used to contain drill cuttings.

#### **2.4.9 Rock Characterization and Handling Plan**

Not applicable as this is an exploration project.

#### **2.4.10 Quality Assurance Plan**

Not applicable as this is an exploration project. However, quality assurance for reclamation will be addressed under the Reclamation Plan (Section 3).

#### **2.4.11 Spill Prevention Plan**

A spill prevention plan is located in Appendix D.

#### **2.4.12 Other Plans**

All refuse generated by the Proposed Action will be transported off site and disposed of at an authorized landfill facility off site, consistent with applicable regulations. No refuse will be disposed of on site. Water or nontoxic drilling fluids or products, including Abandonite, Alcomer 120L, bentonite, EZ-mud, polyplus, and super plug, will be utilized as necessary during drilling and will be stored within the Project Area.

The following precautionary measures will be taken to prevent wildland fires: 1) All vehicles will carry a minimum of a shovel and five gallons of water (preferably in a pump), in addition to a conventional fire extinguisher; 2) Adequate fire fighting equipment (shovel, pulaski, standard fire extinguisher(s), and an ample water supply) will be kept readily available at each occupied drill site; 3) Vehicle catalytic converters will be inspected often and cleaned of all flammable debris; 4) All cutting/welding torch use, electric arc-welding, and grinding operations will be conducted in an area generally free of vegetation. An ample water supply and shovel will be on hand to extinguish any fires created from sparks. At least one person in addition to the cutter/welder/grinder will be at the work site to promptly detect fires created by sparks; 5) Any

restriction or closures issued by the Wells Field Office that apply to the Project will be observed by Project personnel; and 6) Any observed wildland fire will be reported immediately to the BLM Central Nevada Interagency Dispatch Center at (775) 623-3444.

#### **2.4.13 General Schedule of Operations from Start through Closure**

Pending the approval of this Plan, Miranda anticipates initiating surface disturbance included under Phase I during the 2013 field season. The schedule for reclamation is detailed in Section 3.

#### **2.4.14 Land within the Area of Operation which Was Affected by the Following**

##### 2.4.14.1 Areas Previously Disturbed by a Previous Operator and Inactive

None.

##### 2.4.14.2 Areas Disturbed by Current Operator Prior to January 1, 1981 and Inactive

None.

##### 2.4.14.3 Areas Disturbed by Current Operator Prior to January 1, 1981 and Still Active

None.

##### 2.4.14.4 Disturbed by Current Operator after January 1, 1981, but Prior to October 1, 1990 and Inactive

None.

##### 2.4.14.5 Disturbed by Current Operator after January 1, 1981, but Prior to October 1, 1990 and Active

None.

##### 2.4.14.6 Areas which are Active on or after October 1, 1990

There are numerous existing access routes in the Project Area. The current operator has conducted drilling programs in the Project Area over the past three years. Authorized surface disturbance associated with previous exploration activities is shown on Figure 1.

##### 2.4.14.7 Location of Access Roads Existing Prior to January 1, 1981

Based on 1967 aerial photography, roads existing prior to January 1, 1981 are shown on Figure 2. Other years of aerial photography between 1967 and 1981 were identified, but the Project Area was covered by clouds in the photos.

#### 2.4.14.8 Location of any Surface Water Bodies within One-half Mile Downgradient of the Disturbance

Portions of the proposed access route will require surface disturbance related to road improvement. Many of these improvement areas are located within one-half mile of Mecham Creek and associated spring (Figure 2). Proposed surface disturbing activities within the Project Area are located within on-half mile of Cow Pond and Death Creek Spring.

#### **2.4.15 Environmental Protection Measures**

Miranda commits to the following environmental protection measures to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation during construction, operation, and reclamation of the Project. The measures are derived from the general requirements established in the BLM's Surface Management Regulations at 43 CFR 3809 and BMRR mining reclamation regulations, as well as water, air quality, and other environmental protection regulations.

##### *Water Quality*

- Exploration drill holes will be surveyed and plugged as an operational procedure immediately after completion of drilling in accordance with NAC 534.4369 and 534.4371. The drill holes will be plugged by placing drill cuttings or cement grout, concrete grout, or neat cement plug into the total depth of the hole, or if ground water is encountered, plugged as a well pursuant to NAC 534.420.
- Storm water BMPs will be used at construction sites to minimize erosion from storm water.
- BMPs such as check dams (weed-free straw bales) will be used to slow and disseminate discharge water from pump tests to decrease erosion and sedimentation to surface waters.
- Drill cuttings will be contained on site and the fluids managed utilizing appropriate control measures. Sediment traps will be used as necessary and filled at the end of the drill program.
- Miranda will follow the Spill Prevention Plan included in Appendix D.
- Only nontoxic fluids will be used in the drilling process.

##### *Migratory Birds*

- Land clearing or other surface disturbance associated with the activities within the Project Area will be conducted outside of the avian breeding season, whenever feasible, to avoid potential destruction of active bird nests or young birds in the area. When surface disturbance must be created during the avian breeding season (April 30 through July 31), a qualified biologist will survey the area prior to land clearing activities. If active nests are located, or if other evidence of nesting (i.e., mated pairs, territorial defense, carrying nesting material, transporting food) is observed, a protective buffer (the size depending on the habitat requirements of the species) will be delineated and the entire area avoided



preventing destruction or disturbance to nests until they are no longer active. The start and end dates of the seasonal restriction may be based on site-specific information, such as elevation and winter weather patterns, which affect breeding chronology.

### *Cultural and Paleontological Resources*

- Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g), Miranda will notify the BLM authorized officer, by telephone, and with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony (as defined in 43 CFR 10.2). Further pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4 (c) and (d), the operator will immediately stop all activities in the vicinity of the discovery and not commence again for 30 days or when notified to proceed by the BLM authorized officer.
- In the event that previously undiscovered paleontological resources are discovered in the performance of any surface disturbing activities, the item(s) or condition(s) will be left intact and immediately brought to the attention of the authorized officer of the BLM. If significant paleontological resources are found, avoidance, recordation, and data recovery will be required.
- Any cultural resource discovered by the permit holder, or any person working on their behalf, during the course of activities on federal land will be immediately reported to the authorized officer by telephone, with written confirmation. The permit holder will suspend all operations in the immediate area of such discovery and protect it until an evaluation of the discovery can be made by the authorized officer. This evaluation will determine the significance of the discovery and what mitigation measures are necessary to allow activities to proceed. The holder is responsible for the cost of evaluation and mitigation. Operations may resume only upon written authorization to proceed from the authorized officer.

### *Public Safety and Access*

- Public safety will be maintained throughout the duration of the Project. All equipment and other facilities will be maintained in a safe and orderly manner.
- All unattended sumps will be adequately fenced to preclude access.
- Any survey monuments, witness corners, or reference monuments will be protected to the extent economically and technically feasible.
- All solid wastes will be disposed of in a state, federal, or local designated site.
- Pursuant to 43 CFR 8365.1-1(b)(3), no sewage, petroleum products, or refuse will be dumped from any trailer or vehicle.
- Miranda will comply with all applicable state and federal fire laws and regulations and all reasonable measures will be taken to prevent and suppress fires in the Project Area.

### *Air Quality*

- Emissions of fugitive dust from disturbed surfaces will be minimized by the application of water from a water truck as a method of dust control.
- In addition, Miranda may need to gravel some existing pre-1981 roads and the exploration roads to minimize excess disturbance and control dust. A Surface Area Disturbance (SAD) Permit will be required because the proposed surface disturbance exceeds five acres. A Dust Control Plan will be included in the SAD Permit.

### *Noxious Weeds*

- Noxious weeds will be controlled through implementation of the following BMPs: concurrent reclamation efforts; operator control; removal of invasive, nonnative, and noxious weeds on reclaimed areas; washing heavy equipment prior to entering the Project Area; and avoiding areas of known invasive, nonnative, and noxious weeds during periods when the weeds could be spread by vehicles.

### 3 RECLAMATION

Reclamation will be completed to the standards described in 43 CFR 3809.420 and NAC 519A. Reclamation will meet the reclamation objectives as outlined in the U.S. Department of Interior Solid Minerals Reclamation Handbook #H-3042-1 (BLM 1992), Surface Management of Mining Operations (NSO) Handbook H-3809-1 (BLM 1989), and revegetation success standards per BLM/NDEP “Revised Guidelines for Successful Mining and Exploration Revegetation” (BLM 1999). All Miranda drill sites, sumps, and road construction will be recontoured and reseeded.

Reclamation will be designed to achieve post exploration land uses consistent with the BLM's land use management plans for the area. Reclamation is intended to return disturbed land to a level of productivity comparable to pre-exploration levels. Post-exploration land use includes wildlife habitat, livestock grazing, hunting, and dispersed recreation. The post-exploration land use is not expected to differ from pre-exploration land use.

During exploration activities, reclamation will involve management of drilling to contain cuttings and manage drilling fluids, monitoring road conditions, and keeping sites clean and safe. During seasonal closure of the Project and periods of inactivity between drilling phases, reclamation will involve filling sumps, cleaning sites, and maintaining the overall safety of the Project Area. The BLM and NDEP will be notified prior to any periods of inactivity greater than 120 days.

After exploration activities are completed, reclamation will involve regrading disturbed areas related to this Project to their approximate original contour. The Project will then be seeded using the approved reclamation seed mixture and application rates furnished by the BLM (Table 3). Yearly visits to the site will be conducted to monitor the success of the revegetation for a period of up to three years or until revegetation success has been achieved. The post-exploration and post-reclamation topography will be essentially the same as the pre-exploration topography because only limited amounts of linear surface disturbance are planned.

**Table 3: Proposed Seed Mix**

Species		Application Rate (lbs PLS <sup>1</sup> /acre)
Common Name	Scientific Name	
Basin Wildrye	<i>Leymus cinereus</i>	2
Indian Ricegrass, Nezpar	<i>Achnatherum hymenoides</i>	2
Wheatgrass, Snake River, Secar	<i>Elymus wawawaiensis</i>	2
Bottlebrush Squirreltail, VNS	<i>Elymus elymoides</i>	1
Sandberg Bluegrass, VNS	<i>Poa sandbergii</i>	1
Basin Big Sagebrush	<i>Artemisia tridentata ssp. Tridentate</i>	1
Western yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium var. occidentalis</i>	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>10</b>

<sup>1</sup>Pure live seed.  
VNS = variety not specified

Exploration activities will occur over approximately five years. All reclamation work, with the exception of revegetation monitoring, will be completed no later than two years after the completion of activities under this Project. Miranda will conduct concurrent reclamation of disturbed areas once it is determined that the disturbance is no longer required for Project activities. Revegetation activities are limited by the time of year during which they could be

effectively implemented. Site conditions and/or yearly climatic variations could require that this schedule be modified to achieve revegetation success. Additional reclamation activities include the removal of all equipment, supplies, and materials brought onto public land at the end of the Project life. Table 4 outlines the anticipated reclamation schedule on a monthly basis, which will be followed to achieve the reclamation goals set forth above.

**Table 4: Anticipated Exploration Reclamation Schedule**

TECHNIQUES	Quarter				Year(s)
	1st Jan.- Mar.	2nd April- June	3rd July- Sept.	4th Oct.- Dec.	
Regrading					Within 2 years of Project completion
Seeding					Within 2 years of Project completion
Monitoring					3 years beyond regrading and reseeding

### 3.1 Drill Hole Plugging

Drill holes will be plugged in accordance with Nevada Revised Statutes 534, NAC 534.4369 through NAC 534.4371, and guidance from the BLM. In the event that ground water is encountered, drill holes will be plugged pursuant to NAC 534.420. No drill holes will be left open at the end of the Project.

### 3.2 Regrading and Reshaping

Regrading and reshaping of all constructed drill sites, including sumps, and constructed roads, will be completed to approximate the surrounding topography. Fill material will be pulled onto the roadbeds to fill the road cuts and restore the slope to natural contours. The proposed surface disturbance associated with the construction activities has been categorized by slope angle and the total disturbance of each segment calculated accordingly as outlined in the attached RCE and shown on the internal Excel calculator in Appendix B. Roads and drill sites will be regraded and reshaped with an excavator.

Should any drainage be disturbed, they will be re-shaped to approach the pre-construction contours. The resulting channels will be of the same capacity as up and downstream reaches and will be made to prevent erosion and ultimately revegetated. Following completion of earthwork, all disturbed areas will be broadcast seeded.

### 3.3 Noxious Weed Control Measures

To prevent and control the introduction and spread of noxious weeds within the Project Area during reclamation activities, Miranda will implement the following prevention and control practices:

- Soil (growth media) disturbance will be minimized to the extent practicable, consistent with Project objectives. Growth media will be stockpiled and used in reclamation.
- Disturbed sites will be revegetated as soon as practicable when exploration work is completed. Revegetation may include topsoil replacement, planting, seeding, fertilization, liming, and weed-free mulching as necessary.

- The seed mixture will be certified pure live seed and weed free. Straw bales used for erosion control will also be certified as weed free.

Noxious weeds can readily invade disturbed areas associated with exploration projects. Miranda will be responsible for the following: 1) identifying noxious weeds in the Project Area (booklets and pamphlets will be provided by the BLM); 2) excluding noxious weeds from disturbed areas until reclamation has been accepted and released; and 3) ensuring that all equipment is “weed free” before traveling to and from the Project Area so that noxious weeds are not spread to new locations. When noxious weeds are encountered in the Project Area, documentation of their location and extent will be provided to the BLM as soon as possible. Miranda will obtain approval from the BLM authorized officer prior to any herbicide application. Miranda will contact the Wells Field Office’s noxious weed program lead regarding any issues concerning noxious weeds.

To minimize the introduction of noxious weeds into the Project Area, the following preventative measures will be implemented by Miranda: 1) stay on existing roads to and from the Project Area and within the Project Area; 2) use a certified weed-free seed mix during reclamation; 3) conduct concurrent reclamation when feasible; and 4) implement a weed monitoring and control program. The BLM will provide Miranda with a color brochure, ‘Noxious Weeds of Central Nevada.’ Miranda will survey the Project Area semi-annually for invasive weed species. If a limited amount of weeds are discovered, they will be pulled, placed in a plastic bag, sealed, and disposed of properly. For more intensive infestations, Miranda will consult with the BLM on containment or eradication measures.

### **3.4 Mine Reclamation**

Not applicable as this is an exploration project.

### **3.5 Handling of Topsoil**

The depth of cut for newly constructed exploration roads will be minimal. Soils capable of serving as a growth media will be salvaged and stockpiled as the fill slope. In addition to the soils, as much of the soil organic matter as possible will be salvaged to minimize compaction and promote aeration. Soil amendments are not considered necessary in those areas where sufficient growth media are available.

### **3.6 Revegetation**

Generally, seedbed preparation and seeding will take place in the fall after regrading of disturbed areas. All reclaimed areas will be broadcast seeded with a cyclone-type bucket spreader. Broadcast seed will be covered by harrowing, raking, or other site-specific appropriate methods as necessary to provide seed cover and enhance germination. Reclaimed surfaces will be left in a textured or rough condition (i.e., small humps, pits, etc.) to enhance moisture retention and vegetative success while minimizing erosion potential.

The seed list, which is outlined in Table 3, is based on known soil and climatic conditions and will be utilized to establish a plant community that will support the post-exploration land use. The mix will be designed to promote plant species that can exist in the environment of northeastern Nevada, are proven species for revegetation, or are native species found in the plant communities prior to disturbance. Broadcast seeding will be at the rate specified in Table 3.

Changes or adjustments to the reclamation plant list or application rate will be completed in consultation with and approval by the BLM and BMRR. The seed mixture will be certified pure live seed and weed free. Straw bales used for erosion control will also be certified as weed free.

Timing of revegetation activities is critically important to the overall success of the program. Seeding activities will be timed to take advantage of optimal climatic periods and will be coordinated with other reclamation activities. In general, earthwork and drainage control will be completed in the summer or early fall. Seedbed preparation will generally be completed in the fall, either concurrently with or immediately prior to seeding. Seeds will be sown in late fall to take advantage of winter and spring precipitation and optimum spring germination. Early spring seeding may be utilized for areas not seeded in the fall. In either case, seeding will not be completed when the ground is frozen or snow covered.

### **3.6.1 Wildlife Habitat Rehabilitation**

Through successful revegetation utilizing a seed mix provided and approved by the BLM, wildlife habitat will be restored and enhanced. Reclamation will meet the objectives as outlined in revegetation success standards per Attachment B “Nevada Guidelines for Successful Revegetation for the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S.D.A. Forest Service” September 1998.

### **3.7 Isolation, Removal, or Control of Acid-Forming, Toxic, or Deleterious Materials**

All refuse generated by the Project will be disposed of at an authorized landfill facility off site, consistent with applicable regulations. No refuse will be disposed of on site. Water or nontoxic drilling fluids, including abantonite, Alcomer 120L, bentonite, EZ-mud, polyplus, and super plug, will be utilized as necessary during drilling and will be stored at the Project Area.

Hazardous materials utilized at the Project Area will include diesel fuel, gasoline, and lubricating grease. Approximately 500 gallons of diesel fuel will be stored in fuel delivery systems on vehicles and drill rigs. Approximately 100 gallons of gasoline will be stored in fuel delivery systems for light vehicles. Approximately 100 pounds of lubricating grease will be stored on the drill rigs or transported by drill trucks. All containers of hazardous substances will be labeled and handled in accordance with NDOT and MSHA. In the event that a reportable quantity of hazardous or regulated materials, such as diesel fuel, is spilled, measures will be taken to control the spill, and the NDEP, and the Emergency Response Hotline will be notified, as required. If any oil, hazardous material, or chemicals are spilled during operations, they will be cleaned up in a timely manner. After clean up, the oil, toxic fluids, or chemicals and any contaminated material will be removed from the site and disposed of at an approved disposal facility. The costs for the removal of two cubic yards of hazardous waste and two cubic yards of petroleum contaminated soil are included in the reclamation cost estimate (Appendix B).

### **3.8 Removal or Stabilization of Building, Structures, and Support Facilities**

No buildings or temporary structures will be built. All equipment and supplies will be removed following completion of the Project. Materials, including scrap, trash, and unusable equipment, will be removed on a daily or weekly basis and disposed of in accordance with federal and state regulations and laws.

### **3.9 Post-Closure Management**

Post-closure management will commence on any reclaimed area following completion of the reclamation work for the area. Post-closure management will extend until the reclamation of the site or component has been accepted by both the BLM and BMRR. For bonding purposes, a three-year post-closure management period is assumed following completion of reclamation construction on any site. For sites reclaimed early in the operations, management of the reclaimed sites will occur concurrently with operational site management. Annual reports showing reclamation progress will be submitted to the BLM and BMRR.

## 4 MONITORING PLAN

Monitoring of the drill sumps includes periodic visual inspections during drilling operations to ensure that the drill cuttings are contained. Should the observed condition indicate that the sump containment is inadequate, additional sump capacity will be built and/or incorporated into the drilling fluid management system. Monitoring associated with reclamation activities is addressed in the Reclamation Plan (Section 3).

The BLM and Miranda will cooperate to inventory and monitor noxious weeds within areas of disturbance related to exploration activities within the Project Area. Noxious weed infestations within the Project Area resulting from Miranda's ground disturbing activities will be promptly reported to the BLM. The extent of the infestation will be recorded and plotted on a map. Miranda will treat any noxious weed infestations that result from ground disturbing activities within the Project Area for at least a three-year period following the completion of the Project. Treatments will be applied and recorded per BLM policy. The BLM and Miranda will cooperate to monitor the effectiveness of treatments on noxious weeds.

### 4.1 **Demonstrate Compliance with the Approved Plan of Operations and Other Federal and State Environmental Laws and Regulations**

The current operations at the Project are authorized under the existing Angel Wing Notice N -084102. The proposed activities outlined in this Plan will be conducted under the BLM and NDEP approvals for this Plan.

### 4.2 **Provide Early Detection of Potential Problems**

Monitoring will include periodic visual inspections during road and drill site construction, drill operations, and reclamation. In order to facilitate drainage and prevent erosion, all bladed roads will have waterbars constructed as specified in the BLM roads manual. BMPs for sediment control will be utilized to minimize sedimentation from disturbed areas. Sediment control structures will include, but not be limited to, fabric and/or weed-free straw bale filter fences, siltation or filter berms, mud sumps, and downgradient drainage channels in order to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation to the environment. Sediment traps will be constructed as necessary to ensure that the drill cuttings are contained and fluids are managed. Should the observed condition indicate that the sump containment is inadequate, additional sump capacity will be built and/or incorporated into the drilling fluid management system. Monitoring associated with reclamation activities is addressed in the Reclamation Plan (Section 3).

### 4.3 **Supply Information That Will Assist in Directing Corrective Actions Should They Become Necessary**

The activities outlined in the Reclamation Plan (Section 3) provide the necessary direction for corrective actions associated with the reclamation.



## **5 INTERIM MANAGEMENT PLAN**

The following discussion includes those topics that are pertinent to the planned exploration activities.

### **5.1 Measures to Stabilize Excavations and Workings**

The planned exploration activities do not include mine excavations or workings. The constructed exploration drill roads, pads, and sumps will be maintained in operating condition until reclamation to prevent wash outs and containment breaches.

### **5.2 Measures to Isolate or Control Toxic or Deleterious Materials**

All refuse generated by the Project will be disposed of at an authorized landfill facility off site, consistent with applicable regulations. No refuse will be disposed of on site. Water and/or nontoxic drill hole abandonment materials, including abantonite, Alcomer 120L, bentonite, EZ-mud, polyplus, and super plug, will be utilized as necessary during drilling and will be stored at the Project Area.

Hazardous and regulated materials utilized at the Project Area will include diesel fuel, gasoline, and lubricating grease. Approximately 500 gallons of diesel fuel will be stored in fuel delivery systems on vehicles and drill rigs. Approximately 100 gallons of gasoline will be stored in fuel delivery systems for light vehicles. Approximately 100 pounds of lubricating grease will be stored on the drill rigs or transported by drill trucks. All containers of hazardous substances will be labeled and handled in accordance with the NDOT and MSHA (see Appendix D for the Material Safety Data Sheets). In the event hazardous or regulated materials, such as diesel fuel, were spilled, measures will be taken to control the spill, and the BLM, NDEP, and/or the Emergency Response Hotline will be notified, as required. If any oil, hazardous material, or chemicals are spilled during operations, they will be cleaned up in a timely manner. After clean up, the oil, toxic fluids, or chemicals and any contaminated material will be removed from the site and disposed of at an approved disposal facility (see Appendix D for the Spill Prevention Plan). No hazardous materials will be left on site.

Self-contained, portable, chemical toilets will be used for human waste. The human waste and toilet chemicals will not be buried on site.

### **5.3 Provisions for the Storage or Removal of Equipment, Supplies and Structures**

Not applicable.

### **5.4 Measures to Maintain the Project Area in a Safe and Clean Condition**

The Project Area will remain trash free and open sumps will be backfilled or left in a safe condition. Routine road maintenance may be required and will consist of smoothing ruts, filling holes with fill material, grading, and re-establishing waterbars when necessary.

Periods of non-operation are not anticipated; however, if temporary closures are required, the drill rig will vacate the Project Area and sumps will be adequately fenced. Once the sumps have dried out, they will be backfilled.

The BLM and NDEP will be notified in writing within 90 days after work is suspended at the operation for more than 120 days. The Notice will state the nature and the reason for the

suspension of work, the anticipated duration of the suspension, and any event that will reasonably be expected to result in either the resumption of activities or the abandonment of the operation. Miranda will not be required to notify the BLM or NDEP of a temporary closure caused by weather conditions.

No other issues related to periods of non-operation are evident. As a matter of normal practice, all trash will be hauled off site and there will be no exploration materials left on site. All drill sites will be patrolled with hand rake and shovel after Project completion to scatter and cover any cuttings piles, fill ruts, and to perform general clean up. No core samples will be left on site during periods of non-operation or after the completion of Project activities.

**5.5 Plans for Monitoring Site Conditions During Periods of Non-operation**

The measures outlined in Section 5.4 will be conducted during periods of non-operation, except as limited by weather and ground conditions.

**5.6 A Schedule of Anticipated Periods of Temporary Closure During Which You Will Implement the Interim Management Plan, Including Provisions for Notifying BLM and NDEP of Unplanned or Extended Temporary Closures**

Should periods of temporary closure or non-operation occur, Miranda will notify the BLM and NDEP verbally and in writing. Periods of temporary closure or non-operation could be caused by severe winter weather conditions.

**5.7 In Cases of Temporary or Seasonal Closure, You must Provide Adequate Maintenance, Monitoring, Security, and Financial Guarantee, and BLM May Require You to Detoxify Process Solutions**

Not applicable as this is an exploration project.

## **6 STATEMENT OF ASSUMPTION OF RECLAMATION RESPONSIBILITY**

Miranda agrees to accept the responsibility for reclamation of all surface disturbances associated with the Project detailed under this Plan. Miranda will establish a statewide bond for the appropriate amount upon receiving notification from the BLM and BMRR that the RCE is sufficient to conform with the completion of reclamation activities outlined in this Plan, as per 43 CFR 3809.400 and NAC 519A.35075, to cover a total of 9.5 acres of proposed surface disturbance under Phase I of this Plan, which includes the disturbance within the Project Area associated with Notice N-084102.

## **7 RECLAMATION COST ESTIMATE**

The reclamation cost estimate (Appendix B), as required by 43 CFR 3809.552, will be attached to this Plan. The official Nevada Standardized Reclamation Cost Estimator (SRCE) software that was developed in accordance with the Nevada Standardized Unit Cost Project, a cooperative effort between the NDEP, the BLM, and the Nevada Mining Association (NvMA) to facilitate accuracy, completeness, and consistency in the calculation of costs for mine site reclamation will be used to estimate the cost of reclamation.

The total reclamation cost estimate for the 9.5 acres of authorized disturbance within the Project Area associated with Notice N-084102 and proposed Phase I surface disturbance under this Plan will be calculated upon completion of the Environmental Assessment (EA) which will be completed to satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The total reclamation cost estimate will be included with the final version of the Plan. The statewide bond will be established for the appropriate amount in order to cover the bond total associated with this Plan upon receiving concurrence from the BLM and BMRR that the amount is satisfactory.

## 8 PERMIT APPLICATION FEE

The State Permit for Reclamation application fee is structured such that different rates are used to calculate the fee based on the total affected acres (i.e., acres of surface disturbance) and the type of application (i.e., new, minor modification, and major modification). The Project will affect up to 60 acres. Cashier's check (#3754505881) in the amount of \$60.00 was submitted to the NDEP BMRR with the original copy of the Plan. An additional \$30.00 will be submitted in order to account for the increase in proposed surface disturbance, for a total payment of \$90.00.

\$1.50 per acre public x 60 acres =	\$90.00
\$2.50 per acre private x 0 acres =	<u>\$ 0.00</u>
	\$90.00

## **9 EFFECT OF PROPOSED RECLAMATION ON PUBLIC SAFETY**

No unnatural hazards will exist during or after reclamation in the disturbed/reclaimed areas.

## 10 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

It is understood that should the nature of the operation change, a modified or supplemental plan of operations and reclamation plan may be required.

It is understood that approval of this Plan of Operations does not constitute: (1) Certification of ownership to any person named herein; and (2) Recognition of the validity of any mining claim herein.

It is understood that a bond equivalent to the actual cost of performing the agreed upon reclamation measures will be required before this Application can be approved. Bonding and any bond reduction amounts will be set on a site-specific basis by the lead agency in coordination with the cooperating agencies.

It is understood that approval of this Application does not relieve the undersigned of responsibility to comply with any other applicable state or federal laws, rules or regulations.

It is understood that any information provided with this Application that is marked confidential will be treated by the agency in accordance with that agency's laws, rules, and regulations.

On behalf of Miranda U.S.A., Inc., I have reviewed and agree to comply with all conditions in the plan of operations and reclamation plan, including the recommended changes and reclamation requirements. I understand that the bond will not be released until the BLM or the state agency in charge gives written approval of the reclamation work. I further understand that all fees required to be paid annually to the State of Nevada are to be paid until such time as written approval of the reclamation work has either been provided to the state or the state has given its own approval.

**Miranda U.S.A., Inc.**

By \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## 11 REFERENCES

Bureau of Land Management (BLM). 1989. *Surface Management of Mining Operations (NSO) Handbook H-3809-1*.

\_\_\_\_\_. 1992. *Solid Minerals Reclamation Handbook #H-3042-1*.

\_\_\_\_\_. 1999. *Revised Guidelines for Successful Mining and Exploration Revegetation*.

Nevada Division of Environmental Protection and the Nevada Division of Conservation Districts. 1994. *Handbook of Best Management Practices. Adopted by the State Environmental Commission*. December 7, 1994.

Nevada Standardized Reclamation Cost Estimator (SRCE) software developed in accordance with the Nevada Standardized Unit Cost Project, a cooperative effort between the NDEP, the BLM, and the Nevada Mining Association (NvMA). 2012.



## APPENDIX A

### Figures

## APPENDIX B

### Reclamation Cost Estimate

RCE to be provided upon completion of the EA.

## APPENDIX C

### Claim Information

## APPENDIX D

### Spill Prevention Plan