



# United States Department of the Interior



## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Mount Lewis 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)

In Reply Refer To:  
3809 (NVB0100)  
NVN-067930 (12-1A)

**SEP 29 2015**

Dear Interested Public:

You are receiving this letter because you have expressed interest in the following proposal or you have expressed interest in past Federal actions pertaining to public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Battle Mountain District.

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing NEPA, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Mount Lewis Field Office (MLFO) will be preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) which will analyze the impacts of the proposed Greater Phoenix Mine Project in Lander County, Nevada. The EIS would identify, describe and evaluate direct, indirect, residual, and cumulative impacts from the proposed action including resource protection measures for mitigating the possible impacts from the proposal. An interdisciplinary approach will be used to develop the EIS, in order to consider the variety of resource issues and concerns identified.

Under Greater Phoenix Mine Project (Project), Newmont Mining Corporation, Inc. (NMC) is proposing to expand and continue to operate the Phoenix Mine, which is located on BLM-administered lands. The proposed Project consists of a modification to an existing mining Plan of Operations (PoO) and would include the following:

- Extend the mine life from 2040 to 2063;
- Expand the PoO boundary;
- Expand the Phoenix Pit area through consolidation of existing pits areas;
- Expand the Natomas Waste Rock Facility;
- Expand the Tailings Storage Facility;
- Expand the Copper Heap Leach Pad;
- Expand the Clay Borrow Area;
- Develop an additional borrow area; and
- Modify the mine closure approach to include pit water put to beneficial use.

New surface disturbance would include approximately 3,245 acres, which includes 2,285 acres of surface disturbance on public land administered by the BLM, and 960 acres of surface disturbance on private land controlled by NMC. The BLM has identified the following preliminary issues and resource concerns: water resources; cultural resources; air quality; loss of

habitat for wildlife, including Greater sage-grouse; noise; grazing management; and access and land use.

The BLM is seeking your input regarding issues that may be analyzed in the EIS. The public scoping meeting provides the public and other interested agencies and organizations an opportunity to learn about the Project and to help identify issues, provide input, and propose alternatives to be addressed in the EIS before BLM begins drafting it. Early public involvement is crucial to identify various issues that may be addressed through the process.

A Notice of Intent (NOI) was published in the Federal Register on September 29, 2015, formally opening the public scoping period for the EIS. Written comments on the scope of the EIS must be postmarked or otherwise hand delivered by 4:30 PM on or before October 29, 2015; faxed to ATTN: Chris Worthington, Project Manager Greater Phoenix EIS Project; or e-mailed to: [blm\\_nv\\_bmdo\\_GreaterPhoenixProject@blm.gov](mailto:blm_nv_bmdo_GreaterPhoenixProject@blm.gov). A public scoping meeting will be held:

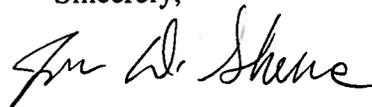
- October 14, 2015, 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the BLM Battle Mountain District Office 50 Bastian Road, Battle Mountain, NV 89820.

Representatives from NMC and BLM personnel will be present at the scoping meeting to explain the environmental review process, the mining regulations, and the proposed plan amendment and the associated EIS. You may submit comments on issues in writing to the BLM at the public scoping meeting or you may submit them to the BLM using one of the methods outlined above. Comments received and a list of attendees at the scoping meeting will be available for public review.

Comments and documents pertinent to this proposal, including names and addresses of respondents, may be viewed at the Mount Lewis Field Office during regular business hours (7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays). Comments may be published as part of the EIS. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised 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 from public review your personal identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

For more information please contact Chris Worthington, Planning and Environmental Coordinator at (775) 635-4000 or [blm\\_nv\\_bmdo\\_GreaterPhoenixProject@blm.gov](mailto:blm_nv_bmdo_GreaterPhoenixProject@blm.gov).

Sincerely,



Jon D. Sherve  
Field Manager  
Mount Lewis Field Office