



United States Department of the Interior



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Dear Interested Public:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Winnemucca District, Humboldt River Field Office is seeking public input as it initiates an Environmental Impact Statement for a modification to a Plan of Operations submitted by Marigold Mining Company (MMC), a wholly owned subsidiary of Silver Standard Resources, Inc.

The proposed project modification is located at the existing Marigold Mine in the northern Battle Mountain Range, in Humboldt County, Nevada, approximately 35 miles southeast of Winnemucca, Humboldt County, Nevada; and 13 miles northwest of Battle Mountain, Lander County, Nevada. Proposed changes to the mine include the following:

- Total authorized disturbance at the mine with this proposal would increase from 5,720 to 7,613 acres. The 1,893 acres of new disturbance would consist of approximately 843 acres of public land and 1,050 acres of private land.
- Expansion, deepening, and combining of four pits (Target 1, Target 2, Target 3, and East Hill) to become a single, large open pit to be called the Mackay Pit.
- Expansion, deepening, and combining of two pits (Terry Zone North and Section 8) to become a single, large open pit to be called the Mackay North Pit.
- Increase the size of the authorized Section 5 North Pit.
- Dewatering of the Mackay and Mackay North Pits at a rate of up to 6,000 gallons per minute (gpm) with an average rate of about 1,500 to 2,000 gpm.
- Construction and operation of six rapid infiltration basins (RIBs) with associated roads, pipelines, and monitoring wells.
- Construct and operate new production, dewatering, and monitoring wells with associated roads, power, and above-ground pipelines.
- Creation of one new waste rock storage area (Section 5 North) and expansion of two WRSAs (Northeast and Northwest Expansion).
- Construct and operate heap leach processing pad (HLP) cells 22, 23, and 24.
- Construct new process ponds on existing disturbance.
- Construct two new carbon column trains on existing disturbance.

- Relocate the county road, called Buffalo Valley Road, to accommodate the mine changes.
- Re-establish a private land access road to land holdings in Section 30.
- Move the planned location of the authorized but not yet constructed utility corridor.
- Relocate the existing 120-kV power line (right-of-way held by NV Energy).
- Increase the mine life by up to ten years as a result of the above optimization strategies.

The Mackay and Mackay North pits would have a combined length of approximately 15,000 feet and have a maximum width up to 5,000 feet. These pits are proposed to extend below the water table at seven separate locations. Six of the locations are planned to be backfilled above the water table but the seventh would create a pit lake that is currently estimated to be less than 200 surface acres in size and approximately 500 feet deep.

The public is invited to submit comments in writing on the proposal and to attend one of the two public open-house meetings. The BLM will hold meetings on the proposal from 5-7 p.m. in the following locations: Winnemucca, Nevada on Tuesday, March 22, 2016, at the Humboldt County Library, located at 85 East 5th Street; and in Battle Mountain, Nevada on Wednesday, March 23, 2016, at the Battle Mountain Civic Center, in the East Room, located at 625 S. Broad Street. A project introduction and a slide presentation will be given at the beginning of each meeting, followed by an open-house.

Participation is encouraged, and comment forms will be available for your input at these meetings. Comments or comment forms may be submitted at the public meetings or by April 7, 2016, either by mail to Ms. Jeanette Black, project lead, at the above address or by e-mail at wfoweb@blm.gov with "Marigold Mackay Project (Black)" in the subject line. This letter and additional information, including project maps, are available through the links available on our NEPA webpage at <http://1.usa.gov/1PKqIbI>.

Public comments submitted for this project, including names and addresses of commenters will be available for public review at the WDO during regular business hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except federal holidays. 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.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Jeanette Black at (775) 623-1794 or at the address above.



Stephen Sappington
Field Manager
Humboldt River Field Office