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17-04016

**Public Utilities Commission of Nevada
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Submitted: 11/16/2017 5:08:52 PM

Reference: 872a60d1-3b5e-46df-ad31-a637698ec5bf

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Filed For: Round Mountain Gold Corporation

In accordance with NRS Chapter 719,
this filing has been electronically signed and filed
by: /s KatieBertrando

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This filing has been electronically filed and deemed to be signed by an authorized
agent or
representative of the signer(s) and
Round Mountain Gold Corporation

KINROSS

Round Mountain
A Joint Venture with Barrick

Round Mountain Gold Corporation
A Kinross company

1 Smoky Valley Mine Road, PO Box 480
Round Mountain, Nevada, USA 89045

phone: (775) 377-2366
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November 16, 2017

Ms. Sabrena Cusick
Public Utilities Commission of Nevada
1150 E. William Street
Carson City, NV 89701

RE: Docket No. 17-04016. Application of Round Mountain Gold Corporation for a Permit to Construct a Utility Facility under the Utility Environmental Protection Act and Request for Expedited Treatment.

Dear Ms. Cusick:

Accompanying this letter, for filing with the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada (the "Commission") and pursuant to the Nevada Utility Environmental Protection Act, is the Application of Round Mountain Gold Corporation for a Permit to Construct a Utility Facility and request for Expedited Treatment.

Please contact me at 775-343-2851 if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,
Round Mountain Gold Company



Jay Dixon
Principal Permitting Engineer

Enclosure:

Application of Round Mountain Gold for a Permit to Construct a Utility Facility under the Utility Environmental Protection Act and Request for Expedited Treatment

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF NEVADA

Notice of application for permit to construct under the Utility Environmental Protection Act to relocate approximately 13,003 feet of existing 230 kV transmission line into a proposed 230 kV Powerline Right of Way corridor to accommodate a planned mine expansion project located in Round Mountain, Nye County, Nevada	Docket No. 17-04016 APPLICATION OF ROUND MOUNTAIN GOLD FOR A PERMIT TO CONSTRUCT A UTILITY FACILITY UNDER THE UTILITY ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT AND REQUEST FOR EXPEDITED TREATMENT
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Pursuant to NRS 704.870(2)(b) and NAC 703.423, Round Mountain Gold Corporation (“RMGC”) hereby files with the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada (“Commission”) an Application for a Permit to Construct a Utility Facility under the Utility Environmental Protection Act and Request for Expedited Treatment (“Application”). Pursuant to NRS 704.870(2)(a), the notice to relocate a portion of an existing 230kV transmission line, owned and operated by NV Energy, was submitted to the Commission on or about April 20, 2017. The Final Environmental Assessment (“EA”), Decision Record, and Finding of No Significant Impact (“FONSI”) from the Bureau of Land Management (“BLM”) were issued on October 23, 2017. Thus, RMGC files this Application pursuant to NRS 704.870(2)(b).

RMGC requests expedited treatment because the relocation of the transmission line discussed herein is critical to the continued and uninterrupted operations at RMGC’s Round Mountain Mine. Continued operation of the mine is vital to the economic health of RMGC and its ability to provide quality employment and tax benefits in Nye County for the foreseeable future. As such, RMGC respectfully requests the expedited review of this Application for a Permit to Construct

BACKGROUND

Under the Phase W Project, RMGC plans to relocate a portion of existing 230kV transmission line, which is currently located within the Round Mountain Mine Plan Boundary in Nye County, near the town of Carvers, Nevada, to a Right of Way (“ROW”) corridor located to the west of the Round Mountain Mine Plan Boundary. The portion of 230kV transmission line to be relocated required a ROW grant from the United States BLM, pursuant to the Federal Land Policy Management Act (“FLPMA”). As such, an EA has been conducted pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (“NEPA”), 42, U.S.C. § 4321 et seq. The Final EA, Decision Record, and FONSI for the Phase W Project from the BLM were issued on October 23, 2017, and are included as *Exhibit A*, *Exhibit B*, and *Exhibit C*, respectively.

THE APPLICANT

RMGC is owned by Kinross Gold Corporation. RMGC's principal place of business and mailing address are:

1 Smoky Valley Mine Road
PO Box 480
Round Mountain, Nevada 89045

All correspondence related to this Application should be sent to the undersigned:

Jay Dixon
Principal Permitting Engineer
1 Smoky Valley Mine Road
PO Box 480
Round Mountain, Nevada 89045
Email: jay.dixon@kinross.com
Phone: 775-377-2366

INFORMATION REQUIRED BY NAC 703.423

a. A description of the location of the proposed utility facility as required by subsection 1 of NRS 704.870, including:

a. A general description of the location of the proposed utility facility, including a regional map that identifies the location of the proposed utility facility;

The proposed transmission realignment is located in sections 11, 12, 14, and 23 of Township 10 North, Range 43 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian, directly to the north of Jett Canyon Road and east of Highway 376 in Nye County, Nevada. A regional map identifying the existing 230kV transmission line and the proposed 230kV transmission line realignment are included in **Figure 1**, **Figure 3**, and **Figure 4** of the Plan of Development (*Exhibit D*).

b. For electric lines, a detailed description of the site;

A detailed legal description of the 230kV transmission line realignment is included as **Table 1** and included in the Plan of Development (*Exhibit D*).

Table 1: Legal Description of Right of Way Location of the 230kV Transmission Line Realignment

Township/Range	Section Number	Aliquot Part
T10N, R43E	12	SW ¼ NE ¼
		SE ¼ NW ¼
		SW ¼ NW ¼
		NW ¼ SW ¼
	11	SE ¼ NE ¼
		NE ¼ SE ¼
		NW ¼ SE ¼
		SW ¼ SE ¼
		SE ¼ SE ¼
	14	NW ¼ NE ¼
		NE ¼ NE ¼
		SE ¼ NE ¼
		NE ¼ SE ¼
		SE ¼ SE ¼
	23	NE ¼ NE ¼
		NW ¼ NE ¼
SW ¼ NE ¼		
NW ¼ SE ¼		

c. Appropriately scaled site plan drawings of the proposed utility facility, vicinity maps and routing maps.

Appropriately scaled site plan drawings of the proposed facility, vicinity maps and routing maps are included in **Figure 1** through **Figure 4** in the Plan of Development (*Exhibit D*).

b. A description of the proposed utility facility, including:

a. The size and nature of the proposed utility facility;

As specified in the EA (*Exhibit A*) and the Plan of Development (*Exhibit D*), a 13,003 foot-long portion of existing 230kV transmission line N 25341, which is owned and operated by NV Energy, is located within RMGC’s authorized Mine Plan Boundary and needs to be moved in order to accommodate activities associated with the Round Mountain Phase W Expansion Project, all of which

will occur within the Mine Plan Boundary. The relocated portion of the proposed 230kV transmission line is 15,835 feet long, and will be relocated approximately 0.5 miles to the west of its existing location into a ROW corridor that is outside of the RMGC Mine Plan Boundary.

b. The natural resources that will be used during the construction and operation of the proposed utility facility;

RMGC anticipates minimal uses of natural resources during construction and operation. Water will be utilized for dust control. The only other natural resources RMGC anticipates using are those natural resources incorporated into construction materials (e.g., steel and concrete).

c. Layout diagrams of the proposed utility facility and its associated equipment;

Figures of the proposed facility layout and associated equipment are included as **Figure 3** and **Figure 4** in the Plan of Development (*Exhibit D*).

d. Scaled diagrams of the structures at the proposed utility facility;

Scaled diagrams of the structures to be used for the proposed 230kV transmission line realignment are included as exhibits in Chapter 5 of the Plan of Development (*Exhibit D*).

e. A statement concerning whether the proposed utility facility is an electric generating plant or the associated facilities of an electric generating plant that uses renewable energy as its primary source of energy to generate electricity.

The proposed facility is not an electric generating plant or the associated facilities of an electric generating plant that uses renewable energy as its primary source of energy to generate electricity.

c. A copy and summary of any studies which have been made of the environmental impact of the proposed utility facility.

Potential environmental impacts associated with the relocation of the portion of proposed 230kV transmission line have been evaluated under a federal EA (DOI-BLM-NV-B020-2017-0013-EA) (*Exhibit A*) through the Bureau of Land Management, Tonopah Field Office. Actions identified in the EA have been determined to not significantly affect the quality of the human environment and a FONSI was issued on October 23, 2017 (*Exhibit C*).

d. A description of any reasonable alternate locations for the proposed utility facility, and description of the comparative merits or detriments of each location submitted, and a statement of the reasons why the location is best suited for the proposed utility facility.

An alternative identified as the “RMX Authorized Utilities Alternative” was evaluated in the EA (*Exhibit A*). The RMX Authorized Utilities Alternative differs from the proposed facility realignment as follows:

- Temporary disturbance associated with the RMX Authorized Utilities Alternative would generate an additional 6.6 acres of temporary disturbance relative to the proposed facility realignment. There would be no change to the permanent disturbance;
- The alignment of the 230kV transmission line under the RMX Authorized Utilities Alternative would encroach on a pre-existing 40-acre Nevada Department of Transportation (“NDOT”) ROW (CC0226012) for a materials (borrow) source immediately west of the authorized Mine Plan Boundary, and the 230kV transmission line would not be consolidated into a single corridor which would be shared with a realigned AT&T communication line and 24.9kV distribution line; and
- The RMX Authorized Utilities Alternative would not allow for the use of approximately 9 acres of existing land disturbance and existing access roads from State Route 376 and County Road 875 to support construction and maintenance activities associated with the power facilities.

The proposed location of the 230kV realignment described in this Application is more suitable than the RMX Authorized Utilities Alternative for the following reasons: 1) The proposed location has fewer acres of construction-related disturbance; and 2) The proposed location does not affect existing land use authorizations.

Additional information is included in the Finding of No Significant Impact (*Exhibit C*).

e. A copy of the public notice of the application and proof of the publication of the public notice.

A copy of the public notice of the Application and proof of the publication of the public notice are included as *Exhibit G*.

f. Proof that a copy of the Application has been submitted to the Nevada State Clearinghouse within the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Proof that a copy of the Application has been submitted to the Nevada State Clearinghouse within the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is included as *Exhibit F*.

g. An explanation of the nature of the probable effect on the environment, including:

a. A reference to any studies described in subsection “c”, above, if applicable, and

As specified in subsection “c” above, potential environmental impacts associated with the relocation of the portion of proposed 230kV transmission line have been evaluated under a federal EA (DOI-BLM-NV-B020-2017-0013-EA) (*Exhibit A*), through the Bureau of Land Management, Tonopah Field Office. Actions identified in the EA have been determined to not significantly affect the quality of the human environment and a FONSI was issued on October 23, 2017 (*Exhibit C*).

b. An environmental statement that includes:

i. The name, qualifications, professions and contact information of each person with primary responsibility for the preparation of the environmental statement;

The names, qualifications, and professions of each person with primary responsibility for the preparation of the environmental statement are included as a “List of Preparers” identified in Chapter 5.1 of the EA (*Exhibit A*).

Each person can be contacted at their listed place of business, as identified below:

Bureau of Land Management
Battle Mountain District
Tonopah Field Office
1553 South Main Street, PO Box 911
Tonopah, NV 89049-0911
(775) 482-7800

SRK Consulting (U.S.), Inc.
5250 Neil Road
Suite 300
Reno, NV 89502
(775) 828-6800

Air Sciences, Inc.
150 Capital Drive
Golden, CO 80401
(303) 988-2960

WSP/Parsons Brinckerhoff
c/o John Rupp
9060 Double Diamond Boulevard, Unit B1
Reno, NV 89521
(503) 632-0248

ii. The name, qualification, professions and contact information of each person who has provided comments or input in the preparation of the environmental statement;

Persons who provided comments or input in the preparation of the environmental statement are inclusive of the individuals listed in subsection (i) above and identified in Chapter 5.1 of the EA (*Exhibit A*). In addition to the aforementioned individuals, the following individuals/organizations also provided comment on the environmental statement:

D. Bradford Hardenbrook
Supervisory Habitat Biologist
Nevada Department of Wildlife, Southern Region
4747 Vegas Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada 89108
(702) 486-5172

Sue Gilbert
Nevada Division of Water Resources
901 S. Stewart Street, Suite 2002
Carson City, NV 89701
(775) 684-2800

Rebecca Lynn Palmer
State Historic Preservation Officer
901 South Stewart Street, Suite 5004
Carson City, NV 89701
(775) 684-3443

iii. A bibliography of materials used in the preparation of the environmental statement; and

A bibliography of materials used in the preparation of the environmental statement is included in Chapter 6 of the EA (*Exhibit A*).

iv. A description of:

- 1. The environmental characteristics of the project area existing at the time the application is filed with the Commission;**
Environmental characteristics of the project area existing at the time of application are specified in Chapter 3 of the EA (*Exhibit A*).
- 2. The environmental impacts that the construction and operation of the proposed utility facility will have on the project area before mitigation; and**
Environmental impacts to effected resources resulting from the construction and operation of the proposed utility facility before mitigation (i.e. short-term impacts) are identified in Chapter 3 of the EA (*Exhibit A*).
- 3. The environmental impacts that the construction and operation of the proposed utility facility will have on the project area after mitigation.**
Environmental impacts to effected resources resulting from the construction and operation of the proposed utility facility after mitigation (i.e. long-term impacts) are identified in Chapter 3 of the EA (*Exhibit A*).

h. An explanation of the extent to which the proposed utility facility is needed to ensure reliable utility service to customers in this State, including:

The existing 230kV transmission line N 25341, which is owned and operated by NV Energy, is located within RMGC's authorized Mine Plan Boundary, as specified in the Plan of Development included as *Exhibit D*. A portion of this existing transmission line will need to be moved in order to accommodate activities associated with the Round Mountain Phase W Expansion Project, all of which will occur within the Mine Plan Boundary.

The proposed realignment of the portion of 230kV transmission line N 25341 identified in *Exhibit D* is critical to the continued and uninterrupted operations at RMGC's Round Mountain Mine. Continued operation of the mine is vital to the economic health of RMGC and its ability to provide quality employment and tax benefits in Nye County for the foreseeable future.

i. An explanation of how the need for the proposed utility facility as described in subsection "h" balances any adverse effects on the environment as described in subsection "g".

Although an EA (*Exhibit A*) and associated FONSI (*Exhibit C*) have been issued for this project, the limited and insignificant potential effects to the environment are balanced with the fact that the proposed realignment of the portion of 230kV transmission line is critical to the continued and uninterrupted operations at RMGC's Round Mountain Mine. Continued operation of the mine is vital to the economic health of RMGC and its ability to provide quality employment and tax benefits in Nye County for the foreseeable future.

j. An explanation of how the proposed utility facility represents the minimum adverse effect on the environment, including:

a. The state of available technology;

Structures associated with the portion of realigned 230kV transmission line will be constructed to conform with those practices described in the *Suggested Practices for Raptor Protection on Power lines Manual*, as discussed in the Plan of Development (*Exhibit D*). Additionally, NV Energy and RMGC have committed to the Environmental Protection Measures specified in Chapter 2.2.7 of the EA (*Exhibit A*) and Chapter 8.2 the Plan of Development (*Exhibit D*).

b. The nature of various alternatives; and

As specified above, an alternative identified as the "RMX Authorized Utilities Alternative" was evaluated in the EA (*Exhibit A*). The RMX Authorized Utilities Alternative differs from the proposed facility realignment as follows:

- Temporary disturbance associated with the RMX Authorized Utilities Alternative would generate an additional 6.6 acres of temporary disturbance as the Proposed facility. There would be no change to the permanent disturbance;
- The alignment of the 230kV transmission line under the RMX Authorized Utilities Alternative would encroach on a pre-existing 40-acre Nevada Department of Transportation ("NDOT") ROW (CC0226012) for a materials (borrow) source immediately west of the authorized Mine Plan Boundary, and the 230 kV transmission line would not be consolidated into a single corridor which would be shared with a realigned AT&T communication line and 24.9kV distribution line; and
- The RMX Authorized Utilities Alternative would not allow for the use of approximately 9 acres of existing land disturbance and existing access roads from State Route 376 and County Road 875 to support construction and maintenance activities associated with the power facilities.

The proposed location set forth in this Application is more suitable than the RMX Authorized Utilities Alternative for the following reasons: 1) The proposed location has fewer acres of construction-related disturbance; 2) The proposed location does not affect existing land use authorizations.

Additional information is included in the Finding of No Significant Impact (*Exhibit C*).

c. The economics of various alternatives.

Economics of the proposed realignment and the RMX Authorized Utilities Alternative were not substantively different.

k. An explanation of how the location of the proposed utility facility conforms to applicable state and local laws and regulations, including a list of all permits, licenses and approvals required by federal, state and local statutes, regulations and ordinances. The explanation must include a list that indicates:

a. All permits, licenses and approvals the applicant has obtain, including copies thereof, and

Potential environmental impacts associated with the relocation of the portion of proposed 230kV transmission line have been evaluated under a federal EA (DOI-BLM-NV-B020-2017-0013-EA) through the Bureau of Land Management, Tonopah Field Office. The Final EA, Decision Record, and FONSI for the Phase W Project from the BLM were issued on October 23, 2017, and are included as *Exhibit A*, *Exhibit B*, and *Exhibit C*, respectively.

Additionally, a Class II Air Quality Operating Permit for Surface Area Disturbance (“SAD”) (Permit No. AP1629-3889, FIN 9408, Air Case 9408) has been issued to NV Energy for construction of the Project. The SAD permit is included as *Exhibit E*.

b. All permits, licenses and approvals the applicant is in the process of obtaining to commence construction of the proposed utility facility. The applicant must provide an estimated timeline for obtaining these permits, licenses and approvals.

RMGC is in the process of obtaining a UEPA Permit to Construct through this Application. It is anticipated that the UEPA Permit to Construct will be issued no later than January 1, 2017.

No other permits are necessary.

l. An explanation of how the proposed utility facility will serve the public interest, including:

a. The economic benefits that the proposed utility facility will bring to the applicant and this State;

As discussed above, the proposed realignment of the portion of 230kV transmission line is critical to the continued and uninterrupted operations at RMGC’s Round Mountain Mine. Continued operation of the mine is vital to the

economic health of RMGC and its ability to provide quality employment and tax benefits in Nye County for the foreseeable future.

b. The nature of the probable effect on the environment in this State if the proposed utility facility is constructed;

As discussed in the EA (*Exhibit A*), potential environmental effects associated with the proposed relocation of the existing transmission line include short-term effects during construction to wildlife, air quality from dust, noxious weeds, and vegetation. Long term effects to visual resources will occur, but effects will be negligible as relocation of the portion of 230kV transmission line will be in alignment with existing facilities, and will be within the area's Visual Resource Management Class IV objectives.

c. The nature of the probable effect on the public health, safety and welfare of the residents of this State if the proposed utility facility is constructed; and

Effects to air quality from dust would occur during construction, but these effects would be short-term and localized. Dust would be controlled as described in the Plan of Development (*Exhibit D*) and NV Energy's SAD permit issued by the Bureau of Air Pollution Control (*Exhibit E*). Construction disturbance would be reclaimed at the end of construction activities.

Because this facility would be a realignment of an existing facility, there would be no other effects on the public health, safety and welfare of the residents of this State if the proposed utility facility realignment is constructed.

d. The interstate benefits expected to be achieved by the proposed electric transmission facility in this State, if applicable.

Interstate benefits would be indirect, and would result from economic health of RMGC and its ability to provide quality employment to residents.

m. Proof that a copy of the application has been submitted to the Administrator of the Division of Environmental Protection of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (NRS 704.870.3)

A copy of the Application has been submitted to the Administrator of the Division of Environmental Protection of the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. See *Exhibit F*.

n. Proof of service of a copy of the application on the clerk of each local government in the area in which any portion (NRS 704.870.4(a))

A copy of the Draft Notice and EA have been served on the clerk of each local government in the area in which any portion of the facility is to be located. See *Exhibit F*.

- o. Proof that public notice was given to persons residing in the municipalities entitled to receive notice by the publication of a summary of the application in newspapers published and distributed in the area in which the utility facility is proposed to be located (NRS 704.870.4(b))**

A copy of the public notice is attached as *Exhibit G*.

- p. Notice of Proceeding (NAC 703.162)**

A copy of the Draft Notice pursuant to NAC 703.162 is attached as *Exhibit H*.

This Application for a Permit to Construct is respectfully submitted this 16, day of November 2017.

Sincerely,
Round Mountain Gold Company



Jay Dixon
Principal Permitting Engineer

Exhibits List:

Exhibit A: Environmental Assessment

Exhibit B: Decision Record

Exhibit C: Finding of No Significant Impact

Exhibit D: Plan of Development

Exhibit E: SAD Permit

Exhibit F: Proof of Service

Exhibit G: Public Notice

Exhibit H: Draft Notice

Exhibit A: Environmental Assessment

U.S. Department of the Interior

Bureau of Land Management

Environmental Assessment
DOI-BLM-NV-B020-2017-0013-EA
October 2017

Round Mountain Mine Phase W Expansion Project
Environmental Assessment

Location:

Nye County

Applicant/Address:

Round Mountain Gold Corporation
P.O. Box 480
#1 Smoky Valley Mine Road
Round Mountain, Nevada 89045

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Tonopah Field Office
Phone: 775-482-7800
Fax: 775-482-7810

BLM Tonopah Field Office



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