



United States Department of the Interior



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In Reply Refer To:

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OCT 28 2011

Dear Reader:

Enclosed for your review and comment is the Newmont Mining Corporation, Phoenix Copper Leach Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), prepared by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Mount Lewis Field Office. The DEIS analyzes the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts associated with the proposed construction and operation of the Phoenix Copper Leach Project.

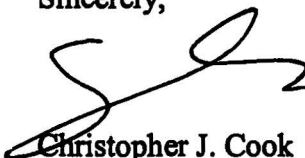
The 45-day public comment period begins October 28, 2011. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, might be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. In addition, information will be posted online at the BLM website, <http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en.html>.

Comments on the DEIS can be mailed to the above address, Attention: Dave Davis, Phoenix Project Manager; faxed to (775) 635-4034; or e-mailed to CU_Leach@blm.gov.

Comments should be postmarked or otherwise delivered to the Mount Lewis Field Office by close of business, Monday, December 12, 2011 to ensure full consideration.

A Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) will be prepared that will consider the public comments received during the public review and comment period. If you would like any additional information, please contact Dave Davis, Phoenix Project Manager, at (775) 635-4150.

Sincerely,



Christopher J. Cook
Field Manager

**DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
NEWMONT MINING CORPORATION
PHOENIX COPPER LEACH PROJECT**

Lead Agency: U. S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Battle Mountain District
Mount Lewis Field Office

Cooperating Agencies: Nevada Department of Wildlife

Project Location: Lander County, Nevada

**Correspondence Regarding This DEIS
Should be Directed to:** Dave Davis, Phoenix Project Manager
Bureau of Land Management
50 Bastian Road
Battle Mountain, NV 89820
(775) 635-4150

ABSTRACT

Newmont Mining Corporation has submitted proposed amendments to its current gold mining Plan of Operations for the Phoenix Copper Leach Project to the Bureau of Land Management. The Proposed Project would be located in north-central Nevada approximately 12 miles southwest of the Battle Mountain, Nevada. The Proposed Project would be located on both public and private lands in Lander County, Nevada. The Proposed Project would involve the expansion and operation of the existing Phoenix Mine to include copper leaching/beneficiation of copper oxide rock material that previously has been permitted for disposal on currently permitted waste rock facilities. Active mining and processing for the Project would last approximately 24 years; overall closure and reclamation activities are anticipated to extend approximately a minimum of 13 years beyond the operational phase. A minimum of 13 years of revegetation and reclamation monitoring are required following mine closure. Additionally, 600+ years of post-closure monitoring would follow final reclamation. The Phoenix Copper Leach Project would mine approximately 158 million tons of copper ore for processing resulting in approximately 245 million pounds of recoverable copper during the ore processing timeframe. New surface disturbance associated with the Project would total 902 acres. The majority of the proposed facilities would occur in areas that have previously been approved for surface disturbance.

The Phoenix Copper Leach Project would consist of the following primary components: 1) expansion of the existing Plan of Operations boundary; 2) development and operation of two copper heap leach facilities; 3) construction of six new process ponds; 4) construction and operation of a copper solvent extraction-electrowinning facility; 5) designation of a new optional use area that could be developed as a copper heap leach facility and borrow area; 6) establishment of an additional clay borrow area; 7) development of new water monitoring wells; 8) construction of a new haul road, pipeline, and utility corridor; 9) development of a new production well; and 10) conversion of five process ponds to evaporation ponds during reclamation.

This Draft Environmental Impact Statement analyzes the environmental effects of the Proposed Project's site-specific impacts for all affected resources; one action alternatives, the Reona Copper Heap Leach Facility Elimination Alternative; and the No Action Alternative.

Responsible Official for EIS: Christopher J. Cook
Field Manager
Mount Lewis Field Office