

# **PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION**

## **CHAPTER 4**

## 4.0 Public Consultation and Coordination

### 4.1 Public Participation

#### 4.1.1 Scoping

A Notice of Intent to prepare a SEIS was published in the FR on May 29, 2007 (FR Volume 72, Number 102). A public scoping meeting for the SEIS was held in Elko, Nevada, on June 25, 2007. The comments received during the scoping process were considered in developing this SEIS. The BLM Elko District Office issued a press release on June 3, 2007, announcing the public scoping meeting. The press release was distributed electronically to Congressional office staff, local government entities (city/county), federal and state agencies, and various media outlets throughout the proposed project area). The public meeting announcement was published on June 23, 2007, in the Elko Daily Free Press.

A scoping letter was mailed on May 25, 2007, notifying individuals on the Elko District Office mailing list of BLM's intent to prepare a SEIS. The letter included the project description, information about the scoping meeting (date, time, and location) and BLM contact information.

The public scoping meeting at the BLM Elko District Office was conducted in an open house format. Attendees were provided information about the project and given an opportunity to ask resource specialists and BLM representatives questions, as well as express their concerns about the project. Applicant representatives were available to assist in answering specific questions regarding the proposed project. Display boards presented information about the proposed project disturbance, project expansion layout (schematic), and wildlife corridors; a fact sheet was available that highlighted specific project information. Additionally, a continuous-running computer-generated presentation was available for public viewing. Five agency personnel representing the BLM and NDOW, and one member of the public attended the scoping meeting (the "member of the public" was actually a representative from the Elko County Commissioner's office and later became a cooperator in the SEIS process).

The BLM received a total of 10 comment submittals (e.g., letter, email) containing 80 individual comments during the scoping period. Most of the comments came from government agencies and nongovernmental organizations. Scoping comments were used to help determine the scope of issues to be addressed and to help identify the significant issues related to a proposed action (40 CFR 1501.7). The Public Scoping Comment Summary Report prepared for this SEIS (BLM 2008b) provides a detailed table listing each individual comment, its location in the original scoping submittal, BLM's determination of the comment, and where the comment will be addressed in the SEIS. **Table 4-1** describes the distribution of scoping comments by organization.

#### 4.1.2 Public Review of the Draft SEIS

The Draft SEIS will be available for a 45-day public review and comment period from the date the Notice of Availability is published in the *Federal Register*. All who provided scoping input will receive a paper copy of the SEIS or will have access to the document on the BLM Nevada website at [www.blm.gov/nv](http://www.blm.gov/nv), on the Elko District Office NEPA webpage.

### 4.2 Consultation and Coordination with Federal, State and Local Agencies, and Tribes

Issues related to agency consultation and/or review include mining regulation and reclamation, biological resources, cultural resources, socioeconomics, and land and water management. Cultural resource consultations apply to the potential for impacts to important historic, archaeological or traditional sites important to Native Americans; however, a Programmatic Agreement among the BLM, Nevada SHPO, and

**Table 4-1 Scoping Comments Distribution**

| <b>Organization Name</b>                  | <b>Total Number of Comments</b> |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Western Watersheds Project                | 26                              |
| Elko County Board of Commissioners        | 4                               |
| Private Citizens (2)                      | 4                               |
| Centerra (U.S.), Inc.                     | 1                               |
| Humboldt River Basin Water Authority      | 1                               |
| Department of the Interior, USFWS         | 6                               |
| USEPA                                     | 16                              |
| Nevada State Historic Preservation Office | 1                               |
| Nevada Division of State Lands            | 5                               |
| Great Basin Resource Watch                | 32                              |

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation was developed for the previous EIS and included future project expansion. BLM and SHPO consulted and concurred on the data recovery plan.

The USFWS engaged in discussions with BLM and ENSR regarding the threatened, endangered, and sensitive species. They also provided comments on the Betze Pit Lake ERA. The USEPA provided comments on the Betze Pit Lake ERA and expressed concern about potential soil salinization in the Boulder Valley after dewatering ceases at the end of mining. It was clarified in the text of the SEIS that Newmont owns the water rights and plans to continue irrigation in the Boulder Valley. USEPA also provided information on the air quality input analysis, and the mercury emissions modeling in particular.

As the state agency with jurisdiction and special expertise related to impacts on wildlife, the NDOW has agreed to participate as a cooperating agency in the preparation of this SEIS. NDOW provided mule deer migration corridor information as well as sage-grouse, mule deer, and antelope use areas for CESA designation.

In addition, the Elko County Commissioner also agreed to participate as a cooperating agency to review an analysis of the socioeconomic impact of mining on the county. Other local agencies that provided information for the socioeconomic impacts were the:

- Eureka County Assessor;
- Elko County;
- City of Elko; and
- City of Carlin.

The following Tribes and Tribal organizations were contacted by letter for the proposed project and are listed in the SEIS Distribution List in Section 4.3.

Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone  
Ely Shoshone Tribe  
Duck Valley Sho-Pai Tribes of Idaho/Nevada  
Wells Band Council  
Elko Band Council  
Duckwater Shoshone Tribe  
Yomba Shoshone Tribe  
Battle Mountain Band Council  
South Fork Band Council  
Western Shoshone Committee of Duck Valley

### **4.3 SEIS Distribution List**

#### Federal Agencies

BLM; Battle Mountain District Office  
BLM; Carson City District Office  
BLM; Ely District Office  
BLM; Las Vegas District Office  
BLM; Nevada State Office  
BLM; Washington, DC Office  
BLM; Winnemucca District Office  
Library of Congress; Washington, DC  
Office of Public Affairs; Washington, DC  
U.S. Department of Energy; Office of Environmental Compliance; Washington, DC  
U.S. Department of the Interior; Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance; Washington, DC  
U.S. Department of the Interior; Natural Resources Library; Washington, DC  
USEPA; Office of Federal Activities; San Francisco, CA  
USEPA; Office of Federal Activities; Washington, DC  
USEPA, Arlington; VA  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; CA/NV Operations Office  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Reno, NV  
USGS; Reston, VA

#### State Agencies

Humboldt River Basin Water Authority  
Nevada Department of Wildlife (Elko, Nevada)  
Nevada Division of Environmental Protection; Bureau of Mining Regulation and Reclamation  
Nevada State Clearing House  
Nevada State Historic Preservation Office

#### Elected Officials

Ensign, John; U.S. Senator  
Gibbons, Jim; Governor  
Goicoechea, Pete; Assemblyman  
Marvel, John; Assemblyman  
Reid, Harry; U.S. Senator  
Rhoads, Dean A; State Senator

### County and Local Agencies

Elko County Board of Commissioners  
Elko County Manager  
Eureka County Commissioners  
Eureka County Department of Natural Resources

### Tribal Organizations

Battle Mountain Band Council  
Duck Valley Sho-Pai Tribes of Idaho/Nevada  
Elko Band Council  
Te-Moak Tribal Council  
Wells Band Council

### Newspapers and Libraries

Elko Daily Free Press  
University of Nevada Libraries, Business and Government Information Center  
University of Nevada Libraries, DeLaMare Library

### Organizations

Great Basin Resource Watch  
Western Mining Action Project  
Western Watersheds Project

### Industry/Business

Barrick Goldstrike Mines, Inc.  
Bullion Monarch Mining  
Cedar Creek Associates  
Centerra (U.S.) Inc.  
JBR Environmental Consultants  
Nevada Mining Association  
Newmont Mining Co.  
Parsons, Behle, and Latimer  
PJH Environmental Inc.  
Royal Gold  
Schafer Limited

### Individuals

Armstrong-Nelson, Joe  
Dubois, Mark  
Laravie, Joseph A.  
Michna, Robert  
Paulsen, Kenneth R.  
Sachau, B.