



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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In Reply Refer To:
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SCOPING NOTICE

CONSTANTINE METAL RESOURCES LTD'S NEW MINING PLAN OF OPERATIONS FOR CONTINUED EXPLORATION DOI-BLM-AK-A020-2016-0006

Introduction

This information notice summarizes a proposal by Constantine Metal Resources LTD to expand mineral exploration in the Porcupine Mining District near Haines, Alaska. Actions on federally managed lands or waters must be analyzed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other relevant Federal and State laws and regulations to determine potential environmental consequences.

The purpose of this information notice is to inform interested and affected parties of the proposal and to solicit comments to assist with the environmental review of the proposal. The analysis of the proposal is underway and will be documented in a National Environmental Policy Act document. Public comments received in response to this solicitation will be used to identify potential environmental issues related to the proposed action and to identify alternatives to the proposed action that also fulfill the purpose of and need for the project.

Project Area Description

The Porcupine Mining District in Southeast Alaska is located near Haines, Alaska. Ownership of lands surrounding the Porcupine Mining area is State conveyed lands. The lands that the mining claims are on is Bureau of Land Management (BLM) administered lands, and top filed by the State of Alaska. BLM administered lands associated with this proposal include all lands located in the Porcupine Mining area within the S1/2, SE1/4, Section 19, S1/2NE1/4, NE1/4NW1/4, S1/2SE1/4NW1/4, N1/2SW1/4, SE1/4, Section 29, NE1/4, NE1/4NE1/4NE1/4SE1/4, Section 30, SW1/4, Section 31, S1/2, Section 32, S1/2NE1/4, E1/2NW1/4, SE1/4NW1/2, S1/2, Section 33, S1/2 Section 34, E1/2NE1/4NE1/4, S1/2N1/2, S1/2, Section 35, NE1/2, S1/2 Section 36, T. 28 S., R. 53 E, N1/2N1/2N1/2NE1/4, S1/2, SE1/4 Section 1, Section 2-3, E1/2 Section 10, NE1/4NE1/4 Section 11, NW1/4NE1/4, NW1/4, N1/2N1/2N1/2SW1/4, N1/2SE1/4 Section 12, S1/2 Section 14, Section 15, N1/2 Section 22, T. 29 S, R. 53 E, N1/2N1/2N1/2NW1/4 Section 4, N1/2N1/2N1/2NE1/4, NW1/4, Section 5, NE1/4, N1/2NW1/4, Section 6, T. 29 S., R. 54 E., Copper River Meridian.

Preliminary Purpose and Need

The BLM action is to approve, approve with changes, or disapprove Constantine's proposed mine plan. The need for the BLM's action is established by the General Mining Law of 1872, as amended (30 U.S.C. 2), the Federal Land Policy Management Act (FLPMA); and, the 2008 Ring of Fire RMP. The purpose of the BLM's action is to provide an opportunity for Constantine North, Ltd., to expand exploration of potential mineral resources in the Porcupine Mining District in a manner that satisfies the Performance Standards contained in 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 3809.420 and prevents unnecessary or undue degradation (43 CFR § 3809.411(d)(2)).

The BLM will decide whether to approve, approve with changes, or disapprove Constantine's proposed mine plan (43 CFR § 3809.411(d)). If approved, the BLM will also decide under what terms and conditions the mine plan and operator may proceed.

The BLM's decision, including but not limited to, modifications of the plan or conditions of approval, will be based on:

1. the ability of the operation/plan to meet the performance standards specified in 43 CFR § 3809.420, and
2. the prevention of unnecessary or undue degradation of public lands.

The BLM's *Surface Management Handbook* (H-3809-1) defines "unnecessary or undue degradation" as the:

...[result] from conditions, activities, or practices that (1) fail to comply with one or more of the following: the performance standards in 43 CFR 3809.420, the conditions of an approved Plan of Operations, operations described in a complete Notice, and other Federal and state laws for environmental and cultural resource protection; (2) are not reasonably incident to prospecting, mining, or processing; or (3) fail to attain a stated level of protection or reclamation required by law in such areas as the CDCA, wild and scenic rivers, BLM-administered portions of the National Wilderness Preservation System, and BLM-administered national monuments and national conservation areas. (BLM 2012).

Preliminary Proposed Action

Constantine's current and proposed exploration is in an area known as the Palmer Project, located within the Porcupine Mining District. Constantine is currently authorized under the BLM for up to 5 acres of ground disturbance to carry out exploratory activity on their Federal claims. In August of 2015, Constantine submitted a new plan that would expand their existing access road and put Constantine beyond the limits of their current permit. Their new proposal requires further public, stakeholder, and agency review, including a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis.

The new plan proposes up to 2.5 miles of additional road construction and includes the installation of culverts and bridges over gullies and streams in the vicinity of Glacier Creek. It also includes a switchback road with rock fall berms and an area at the terminus of the switchback road to stage equipment and facilities such as temporary work trailers, storage containers, and a portable toilet facility. The proposed road would provide access for up to 40 new exploration drill sites. These drill sites are all planned to occur east of their current mineral exploration areas and would provide a staging

area for helicopter and ground-supported exploration activities. Constantine plans to continue in the exploration phase of their project for the next 5 – 10 years.

Public Input Needed

Your comments and concerns will be considered in the development of an NEPA document for this proposal. Comments will be most useful if they provide information or concerns specific to the Proposed Action. For comments submitted, please identify whether you are submitting comments as an individual or as the designated spokesperson on behalf of an organization.

Please submit your comments on the Proposed Action and other issues to be considered to the address(es) noted below by January 08, 2016.

Please send electronic comments through the BLM National NEPA Register at:

[NEPA Document number: DOI-BLM-AK-A020-2016-0006-EA](#)

Please send U.S. Mail comments to:

Bureau of Land Management

Glennallen Field Office

Attn: Constantine

P.O. Box 147

Glennallen, Alaska 99588-0147

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identification 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 indemnifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

For more information, contact Rick Tankersley, Geologist, at (907) 267-1256.