

5.0 CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

This chapter reviews agency and public consultation and coordination that occurred prior to and during preparation of this EIS. It also includes the list of agencies and individuals who received the draft document.

5.1 Public Participation and Scoping

This environmental document was prepared in consultation and coordination with various federal, state, and local agencies, organizations, and individuals. Agency consultation and public participation have been accomplished through a variety of formal and informal methods, including scoping meetings, responses to e-mails, meetings with individual public agencies and interest groups. This section summarizes these activities.

Public involvement in the EIS process includes the steps necessary to identify and address public concerns and needs. The public involvement process assists agencies in: 1) broadening the information base for decision making; 2) informing the public about proposed actions and potential long-term impacts that could result from the projects; and 3) ensuring that public needs are understood by the agencies.

Public participation in the EIS process is required by NEPA at four specific points: scoping period, review of Draft EIS, review of Final EIS, and receipt of the ROD.

- **Scoping:** The public is provided a 30-day scoping period to disclose potential issues and concerns associated with the Proposed Action. Information obtained by the agencies during public scoping is combined with issues identified by the agencies and this forms the scope of the EIS.
- **Draft EIS Comment Period:** A 45-day Draft EIS comment period is initiated by publication of NOA for the Draft EIS in the FR. A public meeting will be held in Hadley and Tonopah, Nevada, during the 45-day comment period.
- **Final EIS Review:** A 30-day Final EIS review period is initiated by publication of NOA for the Final EIS in the FR.
- **ROD:** Subsequent to the 30-day review period for the Final EIS, ROD would be prepared.

The BLM initiated the public scoping process by publishing a NOI to prepare an EIS in the FR on December 26, 2006 (FR volume 71, Number 247). Public scoping meetings were held on January 16, 2007 in Hadley, and January 17, 2007 in Tonopah, Nevada, to obtain input on issues and concerns to be evaluated in the EIS. The scope of the EIS reflects input received from the public and from appropriate government agencies. The scoping comments were summarized and included in the EIS Preparation Plan.

The following are the key scoping issues identified for the proposed project.

- Potential groundwater and surface water impacts from pit dewatering.
- Potential water quality impacts from acid-generating waste rock.
- Potential impacts related to pit lake formation.

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- Potential impacts related to mercury in the ore.
- Potential impacts to cultural resources.
- Development of a mitigation plan to protect cultural resources and access.
- Backfilling of existing and proposed pits with waste rock.
- Closure of heap leach pads.
- Seed mixes to be used for rehabilitation.
- Utilize consistent lighting mitigation measures that follow Dark Sky lighting practices.
- Utilize consistent mitigation measures that address logical placement of improvements and use of appropriate screening and structure colors.
- Noxious weeds in the project area.
- Big game and upland game species presence in the project area.
- Use fencing to prevent big game access to heap leach pads.
- Potential impacts to bat species and habitat and the development of appropriate mitigation.
- Potential impacts to federal- and state-listed species.
- Potential noise impacts from mining equipment.
- Relocation of a 230-kV transmission line, which will require a permit.
- Potential impacts to water quality, air quality, noise levels, safety, land values, and access to private property.

5.2 List of Contacts

The following agencies, businesses, organizations, and individuals were contacted in the course of preparing this EIS.

5.2.1 Federal Agencies

Bureau of Land Management
Mojave South - Great Basin Resource Advisory Council
Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. Air Force, 98th Range Wing, Nellis Air Force Base (98th RANW/XPL)
U.S. Air Force (HQ-USAF/LEEV)/Environmental Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers/Regulatory Section
U.S. Department of Energy/Office of Environmental Compliance (EH-23)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. EPA, Region IX
USAF, Office of the Deputy A/S Environment, Safety, Occupational Health
USDA, Humboldt Toiyabe National Forest
USDI, Bureau of Reclamation/Denver Federal Center (D-150)
USDI, Geological Survey/Environmental Affairs Program
USDI, National Park Service (2310)/Division of Environmental Quality
USDI, Natural Resources Library
USDI, Office of Environmental Policy & Compliance
USDI, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

5.2.2 State Agencies

Nevada Outdoor Recreation Association
Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Natural Heritage Program
Nevada Department of Transportation
Nevada Department of Wildlife
Nevada Division of Environmental Protection/Bureau of Air Pollution Control
Nevada Division of Environmental Protection/Bureau of Mining Regulation and Reclamation
Nevada Division of Environmental Protection/Bureau of Waste Management
Nevada Division of Minerals
Nevada Legislature
Nevada State Historic Preservation Office
State of Nevada/Department/Admin. State Clearinghouse
Wild Horse Commission

5.2.3 Local Agencies

Kingston Town Board
Nye County Commissioner
Nye County Environmental Department
Smoky Valley Chamber of Commerce
Tonopah Chamber of Commerce
Tonopah Public Utilities
Tonopah Town Board
Town of Manhattan
Town of Round Mountain

5.2.4 Tribal Organizations

Ely Shoshone Tribe
Duckwater Shoshone Tribe
Timbisha Shoshone Tribe
Yomba Shoshone Tribe

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5.2.5 Private Organizations and Companies

Nevada Cattlemen's Association
Nevada Miner's & Prospector's Association
Nevada Mining Association
Nevada Outdoor Recreation Association
NVEnergy

Western Shoshone Descendants of Big Smoky Valley

5.3 List of Agencies, Organizations, and Persons to Whom Copies of this Statement are Sent

The following comprises the mailing list for the distribution of the EIS.

5.3.1 Federal Agencies

Bureau of Land Management
Mojave South - Great Basin Resource Advisory Council
Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. Air Force, 98th Range Wing, Nellis Air Force Base (98th RANW/XPL)
U.S. Air Force (HQ-USAF/LEEV)/Environmental Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers/Regulatory Section
U.S. Department of Energy/Office of Environmental Compliance (EH-23)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. EPA, Region IX
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USAF, Office of the Deputy A/S Environment, Safety, Occupational Health
USDA, Humboldt Toiyabe National Forest
USDI, Bureau of Reclamation/Denver Federal Center (D-150)
USDI, Geological Survey/Environmental Affairs Program
USDI, National Park Service (2310)/Division of Environmental Quality
USDI, Natural Resources Library
USDI, Office of Environmental Policy & Compliance
USDI, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

5.3.2 State Agencies

Nevada Outdoor Recreation Association
Nevada Department of Wildlife
Nevada Department of Transportation
Nevada Division of Environmental Protection/Bureau of Air Pollution Control
Nevada Division of Environmental Protection/Bureau of Mining Reg. and Reclamation
Nevada Division of Environmental Protection/Bureau of Waste Management
Nevada Division of Minerals
Nevada Legislature
Nevada State Historic Preservation Office

State of Nevada/Department/Administration State Clearinghouse
Wild Horse Commission

5.3.3 Elected Officials

Joni Eastley, Nye County Commissioner
John Ensign, U.S. Senator
Ed Goedhart, Assemblyman
Jim Gibbons, Governor
Dean Heller, U.S. Congressman
Harry Reid, U.S. Senator
Lorinda Wichman, Nye County Commissioner

5.3.4 County and Local Agencies

Kingston Town Board
Nye County Environmental Department
Smoky Valley Chamber of Commerce
Tonopah Chamber of Commerce
Tonopah Public Utilities
Tonopah Town Board
Town of Manhattan
Town of Round Mountain

5.3.5 Tribal Organizations

Ely Shoshone Tribe
Duckwater Shoshone Tribe
Timbisha Shoshone Tribe
Yomba Shoshone Tribe

5.3.6 Newspapers and Libraries

Round Mountain Junior-Senior High School
Round Mountain Public Library
Tonopah Times – Bonanza
University of Nevada, Reno/Mackay School of Earth Science and Engineering
University of Reno/Graduate Program in Environmental Sciences and Health

5.3.7 Other Organizations

Earthworks
Friends of Nevada Wilderness
Great Basin Resource Watch
High Country Hay
Lahontan Audubon Society
Nevada Cattlemen's Association

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Nevada Miner's & Prospector's Association
Nevada Mining Association
Sierra Club
Nevada Wildlife
Truckee River Ranches
Western Mining Action Project
Western Watersheds Project

5.3.8 Industry/Business

Balfour Holdings
Haas & Associates
Kinross Gold USA
Kuipers and Associates
Mackay School of Earth Science & Engineering
Minex Resources, Inc.
NVEnergy
Round Mountain Gold Corporation

5.3.9 Individuals

Robert Angrisano
Virginia Anne
Dan and Monica Antunovich
Linda Baker
Janet Bair
Lisa Belenky
Russel (Jim) Berg
Bob Bottom
Jim Butler
Barbara Culbertson
John Darrough
Ken Darrough
Neva Darrough
Norma Darrough
Annette George
Darlene Hooper Dewey
Stanley Hooper
Felix Ike
Steve Johnson
Don Osterhoudt
Ron Osterhoudt
Cindy Marques
Rob Mrowka
Darlene Murphy
Ben Reilly

Marge Sill
Burton and Daisy Smith

5.4 Public Comments and Responses

5.4.1 Draft EIS Public Review

A 45-day public comment period for the Round Mountain Expansion Project Draft EIS commenced on July 31, 2009, with the publication of the Draft EIS Notice of Availability in the Federal Register.

Two public meetings were held for the Draft EIS; a meeting was held in Hadley on August 18, and a meeting was held in Tonopah on August 19. A total of 35 people signed the sign-in sheets at the public meetings.

5.4.2 Draft EIS Public Comments

The BLM received the following comments during the public comment period:

- *Agency comments*
 - *Federal agencies – 2*
 - *State agencies – 3*
 - *Local agencies – 2*
- *Tribal comment – 1*
- *Organization – 1*
- *Business – 1*
- *Individuals – 12*

Unique written comments are reproduced in Appendix F of this Final EIS. Each comment is identified by a bracket and a letter and comment reference number in the left margin. The response to each comment accompanies the letter in the right margin and is identified by the reference number of the respective comment.

Table F-1 in Appendix F lists each of the comment letters and the assigned comment letter number. Each letter has been reviewed in its entirety and considered by the BLM in determining the BLM Preferred Alternative (Section 2.11) for the proposed project.