

Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Hollister Underground Mine Project

Elko District Office, Tuscarora Field Office, Nevada



Bureau of Land Management

June 2013



BLM Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Bureau of Land Management to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

BLM/NV/EK/EIS/13-9+1793



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/elko_field_office.html

In Reply Refer To:
3809(NVE02000)
NVN-076802

MAY 21 2013

Dear Reader:

Enclosed for your review is the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Elko District, Tuscarora Field Office for Rodeo Creek Gold Inc.'s (RCG) proposed Hollister Underground Mine Project (Project). This proposal is to transition an underground exploration project to an underground gold and silver mining operation while continuing to conduct underground and surface exploration.

The proposed action also includes the construction of 11.6 miles of electric transmission lines to provide electric power to the proposed mine site. The proposed action would create an additional 117 acres of surface disturbance for a total of approximately 222 acres of surface disturbance for the project. The life of the proposed project is twenty years. The Project is located approximately 47 miles northwest of Elko and 64 miles northeast of Winnemucca in Elko County, Nevada.

The EIS analyzes the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts associated with the proposed mining development activities. The Final EIS has been prepared in an abbreviated format and must be used in conjunction with the Draft EIS issued in June 2012. Together, the Draft and Final EIS constitute the complete EIS. The Final EIS includes responses to comments received during the public review period on the Draft EIS and updates to the Draft EIS.

Following a 30-day Final EIS availability and review period, a Record of Decision (ROD) will be issued. The decision reached in the ROD is subject to appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals. The 30-day appeal period begins with the issuance of the ROD.

Copies of the Hollister Underground Mine Project Draft and Final EIS documents are available in the BLM Elko District Office at the above address, and on line at http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/elko_field_office.html.

Sincerely,

Richard E. Adams
Field Manager
Tuscarora Field Office

**FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS)
HOLLISTER UNDERGROUND MINE PROJECT**

Project Name: Final Environmental Impact Statement
Rodeo Creek Gold Inc.
Hollister Underground Mine Project

Lead Agency: U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Elko District Office, Tuscarora Field Office
Elko, Nevada

Cooperating Agencies: Nevada Department of Wildlife
Elko County Board of Commissioners

Project Location: Elko County, Nevada

**Correspondence on this EIS
Should be Directed to:** Janice Stadelman, EIS Project Coordinator
Bureau of Land Management
Tuscarora Field Office
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Elko, Nevada 89801

ABSTRACT

The Environmental Impact Statement analyzes potential impacts associated with Rodeo Creek Gold Inc.'s proposal to develop the Hollister Underground Mine Project (Proposed Action). The Proposed Action consists of transitioning from underground exploration activities to a full-scale producing underground gold and silver mine, including continued surface exploration. The Hollister Underground Mine Project is located in the northern end of the Carlin Trend, approximately 47 miles northwest of Elko and 64 miles northeast of Winnemucca, Nevada. The Proposed Action includes underground mining; construction of a shaft, ramp, or raise; haul roads; electric power transmission lines and ancillary facilities; water removal from the underground workings and discharge into Little Antelope Creek and the rapid infiltration basins; backfilling the west open pit with waste rock material; and continued surface exploration. The proposed surface disturbance is 117 acres. The total surface disturbance for the Project is approximately 222 acres. The proposed mine life is 20 years. The agency-preferred alternative is the Proposed Action and Backfill Alternative.

Responsible Official for Final EIS: Richard E. Adams
Field Manager
Tuscarora Field Office