Prepared for:

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Elko Field Office
3900 East Idaho Street
Elko, Nevada 89801

State of Nevada
Division of Environmental Protection
Mining Regulation/ Reclamation Bureau
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Carson City, Nevada 89701

PLAN of OPERATIONS AMENDMENT

TRANSITION FROM UNDERGROUND DEVELOPMENT AND EXPLORATION
TO
FULL UNDERGROUND MINE PRODUCTION

HOLLISTER MINE PROJECT

UPDATED NOVEMBER 2012

GREAT BASIN GOLD LIMITED

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Hand Delivered

November 8, 2012

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Re: PLAN OF OPERATIONS AMENDMENT
Transition from Existing Underground Exploration and Development Activities to Full Underground Mine Production
Hollister Underground Mine – Elko County, Nevada

Dear Mr. Adams:

Attached please find the current updated version of our Plan of Operations Amendment for the Hollister Underground Mine Project in Elko County, Nevada.

We prepared this document to update the administratively complete June 2009 Plan of Operations Amendment that was on file with your agency.

This document is the latest update, and incorporates changes and edits that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has requested, as explained in the following:

- Early updates based on the BLM's August 5, 2008 and November 19, 2008 questions and comments to the original March 28, 2011 Rodeo Creek Gold (RCG) amendment submittal to the BLM.
- Updates resulting from the March and May 2009 verbal requests from Ms. Janice Stadelman of your office, that included her request that this amendment be reorganized to conform to the BLM's Voluntary (undated) Nevada 3809 Plan of Operations Format.
- Updates based on the numerous amendment clarifications that have resulted from 2009 to present based on questions and comments received from the BLM and AECOM during work to assemble the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for our proposed expansion plans.

As you know, the RCG past and ongoing Hollister operations focused on gaining underground access to various vein systems for the purpose of better understanding the geometry, mineralization and ore grades of the deposit. Our underground exploration and development work has and continues to involve drilling into the vein systems from the underground drill stations, bulk sampling of the various vein systems, and test mining to determine the geotechnical and rock mechanics of the ground where future full-scale mining will occur. Although exploration and development work will continue at the site, we have now identified a sufficient mineral system that can be economically mined using underground mining methods such that full-scale underground production is warranted.

The ultimate transition to full mine production will require only minor additions to the existing Hollister Project infrastructure. Most of the existing on-site surface infrastructure used to facilitate the underground exploration activities will remain in place for future mining. The majority of the new and upgraded surface infrastructure needed for mining will principally be located within pre-Hollister Project disturbances created by past open-pit mining operations undertaken in the early 1990s. The only Hollister Mine site infrastructure included with this Plan of Operations Amendment that will be located outside areas of previous disturbance will be the installation of an electric transmission line so that diesel generated power can be curtailed at the mine site.

We remain excited about our planned transition to full production, and we look forward to the timely receipt of the Record of Decision for the Hollister Underground Mine Project. If you have questions regarding the attached document, please contact me at 775-623-5760.

Respectfully submitted,

Teresa Conner
Environmental Manager,
Nevada Operations

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SUMMARY

Rodeo Creek Gold Inc. (RCG) has prepared this Plan of Operations (PoO) Amendment for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to present the plans to transition the Hollister Block Development Project from underground exploration, development and test mining to full scale underground mine production. This plan of operations amendment does not change the scope of the existing, authorized surface and underground exploration and test mining activities, which will continue during the review of this amendment.

The Hollister Mine site is located approximately 47 miles northwest of Elko, 38 miles northeast of Battle Mountain, and 64 miles northeast of Winnemucca on lands administered by the BLM Elko District Office. See **Figure 1, General Location Map**.

RCG will officially refer to future operations at the site as the "Hollister Mine", as the name "Hollister Development Block Project" is an artifact from the project's former joint venture between Hecla Ventures Corporation (Hecla) and Great Basin Gold Limited (GBG), RCG's parent company. The joint venture was dissolved in 2007 when GBG purchased Hecla's interests in the project.

The purpose of full scale underground mine production will be the economic recovery and sale of precious metals (gold and silver) from the Hollister Mine, while the purpose of continued surface and underground exploration activities is to obtain information regarding the gold and silver resources within the project area to further enhance and consolidate future mine plans.

For purposes of the BLM's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review, RCG estimates that mine production will continue for up to 20 years. This estimate is based upon the current knowledge of the resource, the forecast for the future precious metal market, and the promise of identifying and defining additional economic resources at the site. However, it is important for the BLM to remember that the eventual operation and longevity of the Hollister Mine involves various factors, including the estimates of mineable reserves, mining rates, market conditions, revenues, costs, expected returns to shareholders and investors, and the associated economic, technical, regulatory and political risks that face the mining business.

Since 2005, operations at the Hollister Mine site have focused on gaining underground access to various vein systems at the site for the purpose of better understanding the geometry, mineralization, and ore grades of the deposit. Extensive drilling has occurred into the vein systems from the underground drill stations; bulk samples have been obtained by drifting along certain veins; and test mining has been undertaken to determine the geotechnical aspects and rock mechanics of the ground where possible future full-scale mine production will occur.

The transition to full-scale mine production will require only minor additions to the existing project infrastructure. Most of the existing on-site surface infrastructure used to facilitate the underground exploration activities will remain in place for future mining. The majority of the new and upgraded surface infrastructure needed for mining will be located within pre-Hollister Project disturbances created by open-pit mining operations undertaken in the early 1990s. The

only major Hollister Mine site infrastructure included with this PoO Amendment that will be located outside areas of previous disturbance will be the installation of an electric transmission line to the site, and this installation will eliminate the diesel generators as the primary power source at the operation.

The various Hollister Mine components are illustrated on **Figure 2, Project Overview**. Additional on-site surface disturbance required to achieve full mine production will be minimal. See **Table 1, Disturbed Area Comparison**.

Project History

The original Hollister PoO was submitted to the BLM Elko District Office in December 2002 and approved in January 2004. The approved plans included development of underground workings to facilitate underground drilling, test mining, and bulk sampling of the vein systems. In compliance with NEPA, the BLM analyzed potential environmental effects of the project and prepared a comprehensive environmental assessment (EA) in March 2004.

Following the 2004 BLM approval and receipt of various permit approvals from the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP), construction of surface facilities in the East Pit area of the past surface mine was undertaken, and the development of the decline to access the vein system commenced. The 3,000-foot decline required over a year to complete.

In 2005, underground exploration drilling commenced, along with the construction of a lateral drift parallel to the known vein systems. A series of drill stations were established along this lateral to allow for underground exploration drilling. Drilling has continued to date from these drill pad locations. Beginning In 2006, access cross cuts were driven perpendicular to the main lateral to intersect the Gwenivere and Clementine vein systems, followed by drifts that were driven in the veins themselves to test mining conditions and obtain bulk samples for shipment to off-site mills for testing and processing.

Throughout the underground exploration and test mining work, which continues today, experience and knowledge were, and continues to be, gained about the geologic, hydrologic and geotechnical aspects of the deposit. To facilitate the success of the ongoing activities, as well as to maintain safety and enhanced environmental management, RCG upgraded and modified infrastructure and facilities.

Table 1 - Disturbed Area Comparison

COMPONENT	CURRENTLY AUTHORIZED DISTURBANCE AREA			AREA FOR FULL MINE PRODUCTION			TOTAL DISTURBANCE (acres)
	Public (acres)	Private (acres)	Existing Total (acres)	Public (acres)	Private (acres)	Proposed Total (acres)	
MINING FACILITIES							
Existing WRSF[1] and Ore Stockpile Storage	7.2	-	7.2	-	-	-	7.2
West Pit WRSF[1]	-	-	-	8.0	-	8.0	8.0
HPS[2]	-	-	-	5.0	-	5.0	5.0
East Raise	0.4	-	0.4	-	-	-	0.4
West Raise	0.4	-	0.4	-	-	-	0.4
Laydown Areas	10.0	-	10.0	10.0	-	10.0	20.0
SUBTOTAL[3]	**18.0**	**-**	**18.0**	**23.0**	**-**	**23.0**	**41.0**
ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION LINES AND ASSOCIATED COMPONENTS							
Rodeo Creek Substation[4]	-	-	-	-	2.0	2.0	2.0
East Pit Switchgear Facility	-	-	-	0.1	-	0.1	0.1
Transmission Line Pads (24.9 kV)[5][6]	-	-	-	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2
Transmission Line Pads (120 kV)[5][7]	-	-	-	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2
Temporary Access Roads (24.9 kV)[5][8]	-	-	-	13.7	1.5	15.2	15.2
Temporary Access Roads (120 kV)[5][8]	-	-	-	7.9	7.1	15.0	15.0
Laydown Areas (24.9 kV)[5]	-	-	-	1.0	-	1.0	1.0
Laydown Areas (120 kV)[5]	-	-	-	1.0	-	1.0	1.0
SUB-TOTAL[9]	**-**	**-**	**-**	**23.9**	**10.8**	**34.7**	**34.7**
WATER MANAGEMENT FACILITIES							
Water Management Ponds[10]	2.0	-	2.0	-	-	-	2.0
Water Tanks & Treatment[11]	2.0	-	2.0	-	-	-	2.0
New Water Tanks	-	-	-	0.3	-	0.3	0.3
Water Well #1	0.5	-	0.5	-	-	-	0.5

COMPONENT	CURRENTLY AUTHORIZED DISTURBANCE AREA			AREA FOR FULL MINE PRODUCTION			TOTAL DISTURBANCE (acres)
	Public (acres)	Private (acres)	Existing Total (acres)	Public (acres)	Private (acres)	Proposed Total (acres)	
Rapid Infiltration Basins	3.0	5.0	8.0	-	-	-	8.0
RIB[12] Monitoring Wells	6.5	0.1	6.6	-	-	-	6.6
Buried Pipelines[13]	-	-	-	20.4	-	20.4	20.4
NPDES[14] Discharge Outfall	-	-	-	0.5	-	0.5	0.5
Proposed Stormwater Diversion Channel[15]	-	-	-	0.4	-	0.4	0.4
Mine Site Monitoring Wells	2.0	-	2.0	1.0	-	1.0	3.0
Overburden Stockpile for RIBs[12]	6.0	1.8	7.8	-	-	-	7.8
Growth Medium Stockpiles for RIBs[12]	0.5	1.5	2.0	-	-	-	2.0
SUB-TOTAL	**22.5**	**8.4**	**30.9**	**22.6**	**-**	**22.6**	**53.5**
ROADS							
Misc. Roads & Parking	3.1	-	3.1	-	-	-	3.1
East Pit Spur Road (1,215-ft length)	-	-	-	0.7	-	0.7	0.7
Little Antelope Creek Road	6.0	1.1	7.1	-	-	-	7.1
HPS[2] Access Road Upgrade[16]	-	-	-	6.0	-	6.0	6.0
Miscellaneous[17]	6.7	-	6.7	1.0	-	1.0	7.7
SUB-TOTAL	**15.8**	**1.1**	**16.9**	**7.7**	**-**	**7.7**	**24.6**
ANCILLARY FACILITIES							
De-Silting Facilities	0.4	-	0.4	-	-	-	0.4
Wash Bay	0.1	-	0.1	-	-	-	0.1
Explosives Storage[18]	0.0	-	0.0	-	-	-	-
East Pit Offices[19]	1.0	-	1.0	-	-	-	1.0
Mine Office Complex	-	-	-	4.0	-	4.0	4.0

COMPONENT	CURRENTLY AUTHORIZED DISTURBANCE AREA			AREA FOR FULL MINE PRODUCTION			TOTAL DISTURBANCE (acres)
	Public (acres)	Private (acres)	Existing Total (acres)	Public (acres)	Private (acres)	Proposed Total (acres)	
Misc. East Pit Facilities[20]	10.1	-	10.1	-	-	-	10.1
SUB-TOTAL	**11.6**	**-**	**11.6**	**4.0**	**-**	**4.0**	**15.6**
TOTAL	**67.9**	**9.5**	**77.4**	**81.2**	**10.8**	**92.0**	**169.4**

NOTES:

1) WRSF = waste rock storage facility.
2) HPS = Hatter Production Shaft.
3) All proposed disturbance associated with mining facilities, water management facilities, road, and ancillary facilities will be located on existing disturbance.
4) Includes temporary laydown area that will be reclaimed after facility construction.
5) kV = kilovolts
6) Pad acreage estimates for the proposed 24.9-kV electric transmission line will be less than 0.1 acre.
7) Pad acreage estimates for the proposed 120-kV electric transmission line will be less than 0.1 acre.
8) Assume 20-foot width for temporary access roads that essentially parallel the electric transmission lines. Also assume spur roads at a maximum of one every mile for access to the transmission line where topography or existing road will be difficult to access.
9) The proposed disturbance associated with electric transmission lines will be mostly located on previously undisturbed land.
10) This includes the north surge pond, the south recycle pond, and the stormwater basin pond.
11) This includes the septic holding tank, potable water tank, utility water tank, RO (reverse osmosis) water treatment plant, de-silting system, and potable water treatment plant.
12) RIB = rapid infiltration basin.
13) Includes a 20-foot wide temporary disturbance from (1) the West Raise to the RIBs (15.9 acres); (2) the water treatment facility to the HPS (2.5 acres); and (3) from underground water management (dewatering) wells to the NPDES discharge outfall (2.0 acres).
14) NPDES = National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
15) Assumes a 15-foot wide permanent disturbance for the diversion channel.
16) Assumes a 18-foot running width with 5-foot shoulders and 1.0 acres extra for turnouts.
17) Includes service roads, main gate, guard shack, storage areas, diversion channels, and other authorized disturbance.
18) Explosives storage was moved underground. The original explosives storage area located on surface is now covered with waste rock.
19) Includes connex storage, lube/oil storage, maintenance shop, and office trailers.
20) Includes walkways amongst East Pit facilities, laydown areas, storage, parking, etc.

Of this total (92 acres), 32.4 acres will be located on lands previously disturbed by past mining activities (non-Hollister), 51.5 acres will be new disturbance, and 8.1 acres will be on existing disturbed and non-reclaimed land.

Approval of several plan amendments and permit revisions were obtained from the BLM and NDEP to account for new conditions discovered during the program and to respond to increased scrutiny and oversight by the U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA).

Over the past several years, RCG initiated PoO amendments and permit revisions, including the following:

- Development of a second decline in the East Pit;
- Installation of a “wet well” beneath the waste rock storage facility (WRSF) to correct a “floating liner” that developed in the waste rock evaporation sump and to allow for improved management of the WRSF;
- Construction of a reverse osmosis (RO) plant and a de-silting facility to allow for improved water quality released in the rapid infiltration basins (RIBs);
- Installation of emergency escape raises to respond to MSHA’s expanded scrutiny of underground mining operations and to provide a strategically-located secondary escapeway for underground miners;
- Installation of additional RIB capacity to augment the original RIBs;
- Expansion of the WRSF to contain the increased volume of rock material excavated underground to allow the installation of the aforementioned escapeway raise and the drifts required to access the raise location and to facilitate test mining and bulk sampling;
- An application for the construction of a concrete batch plant to advance the test mining at the site and to implement ground control practices that MSHA requires for full production; and,
- Elimination of the approved second decline in the East Pit area, substituting that previous approval with an equal amount of underground development to access the Hatter area east of the existing underground operations.

Every plan amendment or revision was accompanied by an updated closure and reclamation cost estimate to ensure proper site bonding for the Hollister Project site.

1.0 OPERATOR AND CLAIMANT INFORMATION

1.1 OPERATOR INFORMATION

1.1.1 Operator Name

Rodeo Creek Gold Inc. (RCG) is the operator of the Hollister Mine located in Elko County, Nevada.

1.2 CORPORATE INFORMATION

Rodeo Creek Gold Inc. is a Nevada corporation and is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Great Basin Gold Limited.

1.3 CLAIMANT AND CLAIM INFORMATION

1.3.1 Claimant(s) Name

RCG controls the Hollister mining claims.

1.3.2 Primary Commodities

The primary mineral commodities involved with the Hollister claims are gold and silver.

1.3.3 Claim Type

The Hollister claims are both lode and mill site claims.

1.3.4 BLM Serial Numbers for Mining Claims

The Hollister claims (with BLM serial numbers) are graphically shown on **Figure 3, Claims Map**, and listed in **Appendix A, Claim Information**.

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2.0 DESCRIPTION OF OPERATIONS

2.1 LEGAL DESCRIPTION

The Hollister Mine and the associated exploration activities is and will continue to be located in parts of Sections 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 16, 17, 21, 28, 33, 34, 35, and 36 of Township 37 North, Range 48 East and parts of Sections 32 and 33 of Township 38 North, Range 48 East, and parts of Sections 29 and 30 of Township 37 North, Range 49 East. Although there are areas of private ownership where some mine facilities will be located (see **Table 1, Disturbed Area Comparison**), most of the lands at the Hollister Mine site are administered by the BLM Tuscarora Field Office.

2.2 COUNTY

The Hollister Mine is located in Elko County, Nevada.

2.3 DESCRIPTION OF EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

Because the limits of the Hollister ore body are not fully defined, RCG will continue surface and underground development and exploration work on the Hollister claims to further delineate known ore zones and to target potential mineralized resource areas. Surface exploration will be conducted on the previously-approved areas identified as the Craig Notice, Hatter Notice, and Ivanhoe Plan of Operations areas. **See Table 2, Surface Exploration Plans and Notices**. RCG proposed to consolidate the surface exploration plan and two notices into this plan of operations with the project area. Underground exploration will be from underground drill stations accessed from existing workings. RCG will use the same drilling methods and same type of equipment that are presently employed.

Table 2 - Surface Exploration Plans and Notices

BLM Number	Reference
NVN-71014	Ivanhoe Plan of Operations
N-71201	Hatter Notice
N-75619	Craig Notice

RCG expects to establish 30 to 40 surface drill sites per year, with exploration drilling activities being conducted through the projected 20 years of active underground mining life. New drill sites may be established with other selected drill sites being reclaimed concurrently as drill targets are evaluated. There may be up to four drill rigs on site at any one time.

Drill pads will be approximately 50 by 85 feet (about 0.1 acre in size). Each drill site will be pre-approved by the BLM, and RCG will erect a temporary perimeter fence around the drill site prior

to mobilization of the drilling rig. Each drill site will be utilized to drill one or more exploration holes.

RCG will use existing "two-track" roads and overland travel wherever possible to access drill sites. New access ways will be constructed to an approximate width of 12 feet and will also be pre-approved by the BLM before initiation of drilling activities.

RCG will employ core drilling techniques; however, in areas where the depth of the mineralized zones are known, RCG may use reverse circulation drilling to access the area above the known mineralized zones, before switching to core drilling.

Core diameter will be an estimated 2.5 inches. Core holes are commonly cased up to 50 feet. Some core drill holes may reach 3,000 feet or more, but the average drill hole depth will typically range from approximately 900 to 1,000 feet.

Reverse-circulation drill holes will have a diameter of approximately six inches, with the normal depths for reverse-circulation drill holes ranging from 500 to 1,500 feet. These reverse-circulation holes will be cased with steel casing.

RCG will collect drill cuttings and fluid in portable sumps (tanks) and recycle the fluids back to the drill rig or will install straw bale catchment basins or other best management control practices to meet BLM standards. Sumps will only be excavated on selected drill sites after BLM approval.

Drilling support equipment will include water trucks, crew trucks, portable sumps, pipe trucks or skids, portable toilets, light plants, and product storage pallets.

RCG has established a 0.5 acre (150 feet by 150 feet) storage laydown area to support and to facilitate the drilling programs. See **Figure 7, Proposed Facilities**.

The bulk of the material stored in the surface exploration laydown area will consist of general, non-hazardous types of drilling additives such as bentonite clay, biodegradable detergents, viscosity modifiers, biodegradable polymers and cement. Drill pipe, mobile equipment, and driller supply trailers will also be stored at the laydown areas.

2.4 DESCRIPTION OF UNDERGROUND MINING

The planned mining at the Hollister operation will occur from about 500 feet to more than 2,000 feet below the surface and will involve underground mining techniques specifically designed for narrow veins. See **Figure 4, Typical Narrow Vein Underground Mining Techniques**. Discussion of possible mining techniques to be used at the Hollister Mine is set forth in **Appendix B, Narrow-Vein Underground Mining Techniques**.

Targeted ore production will average around 750 tons per day for a total of up to 275,000 tons per year. Daily ore production will vary based on the geometry and grade of the deposit and may reach 1,000 tons per day. Depending on the results of ongoing exploration work, RCG expects that the Hollister Mine will have a project life of approximately 20 years.

The Hollister Mine will use the same equipment that has been utilized at the site for underground exploration and test mining work. See **Table 3, Mobile Equipment List**. RCG does not anticipate the need to add any new types of equipment as the operation transitions to mining. However, certain equipment will be replaced during the life of the mine as the older equipment reaches its useful life, and the equipment may be modified during the mine life depending on site-specific conditions and needs.

Table 3 - Mobile Equipment List

EQUIPMENT TYPE
Underground Equipment
Loaders (2 & 6 cubic yard capacities)
Truck (15-30 ton capacities)
Drill Jumbos
Slushers
Transmixer/Cement Truck
Underground Grader
Personnel Tractors
Rock Bolter
Jackleg Drills (hand-held pneumatic drills)
Longhole Drills
Portable Electric Substations
Fork Lift
Flatbed Truck
Lube Truck
Powder (Explosive-Delivery)Truck
Pumps
Underground Refuge Stations
Surface Equipment
Backhoe
Dozer*
Motor Grader*
Crane
Fork Lift
Front End Loader (7-8 cubic yards)
Water Truck
Supply Truck (flatbed truck)
Light Vehicles (pickups)
Note: * This equipment will be contracted and used on an as-needed basis.

RCG engineers selected narrow vein methods of underground mining based on experience gained from actual test mining at the Hollister Project, in combination with rock mechanics analyses and detailed mine feasibility study work.

2.5 HATTER FACILITIES (SHAFT, RAISE OR RAMP)

To access mineralized zones on the east side of the Hollister site, RCG proposes the construction and installation of one of the following:

- Hatter Production Shaft
- Hatter Raise
- Hatter Access Ramp

The actual decision as to the type of access will depend on the geology and the associated costs as related to capital and operating expenditures. The Hatter Production Shaft will probably create the most impacts of the three options, given the height of the headframe (visual impact) and size and amount of surface disturbance associated with the shaft.

Discussion on the three options is set forth in the following subsections.

2.5.1 Hatter Production Shaft

To minimize underground truck haulage at the Hollister Mine site and to serve as the future ore and waste rock haulage from the mine, RCG would install a vertical production shaft (estimated at 2,000 feet deep but structurally capable of a deeper depth). This shaft will be rectangular in cross section (approximately 8 feet by 24 feet) and be located in an area of previous disturbance, east of the heap leach facility that was used during past surface mining operations.

Prior to construction, RCG will remove growth medium material and stored the material adjacent to the site, but on previously disturbed ground

This production shaft will be sunk using conventional drill and blast techniques, with the waste rock excavated during shaft construction being hauled and placed in one of the WRSFs. The production shaft will be lined with concrete or shotcrete with rock bolts and steel mesh, and it will contain various compartments to be used for ore/waste rock hoisting, ventilation and mine services, and supply movement into and out of the mine. Although the production shaft will be available for emergency personnel escape from the mine, it will not serve as the primary personnel ingress/egress into the mine; that function will continue to be served by the existing decline in the East Pit.

The production shaft will be supported by surface facilities, principally be a hoist house and headframe. The Hatter hoist house will be steel sided building constructed on a concrete foundation. The color of the siding will be selected to blend in with colors in the surrounding landscape. The headframe will be approximately 100 to 120 feet tall placed over the shaft. See **Figure 5, Typical Hoist House and Hoist Headframe**.

Ventilation, drainage, back-up power supply, and communications will be provided into the shaft to the underground working areas Power will be supplied through an overhead powerline originating from the Hollister switchgear facility.

Ore and/or waste rock material hoisted from the underground mine will be temporarily stored on a concrete pad area (approximately 200 feet by 200 feet). Drainage from this concrete pad will be directed to an adjacent lined sump, from which any excess water can be routed into the existing Hollister surge ponds or the existing RO water treatment facility. Ore material will be hauled and temporarily stored on top of the WRSF prior to the ore being transported to an off-site mill. Any waste rock removed from the production shaft will also be transported and placed in the existing WRSF.

2.5.2 Hatter Raise or Access Ramp

The raise or the access ramp would be sited in the same area as the shaft. Growth medium material will be removed and stockpiled for later reclamation use. The raise and the access ramp will be driven using conventional drill and blast extraction techniques, with the excavated waste rock being hauled and placed in one of the site's WRSFs. RCG will use shotcrete, with rock bolts and steel mesh, for support. Dimensions of either type of access would be 16 feet by 17 feet.

Facilities associated with either a raise or an access ramp will include a laydown area, a building with office space not to exceed the height and dimensions of a hoist house (average size of 75 feet by 130 feet), and temporary waste rock and ore stockpiles (200 feet by 200 feet).

Similar to a shaft, ventilation, drainage, back-up power supply, and communications will be provided into either the raise or the ramp to the underground working areas Power will be supplied through an overhead powerline originating from the Hollister switchgear facility.

2.6 ORE PROCESSING – OFF SITE MILLING

After considering concerns voiced by members of the Western Shoshone Tribes regarding on-site mineral processing and tailing disposal, RCG decided not to provide plans for an on-site mill or associated tailings facility at the Hollister Mine. Ore material will be hauled from the site and processed at off-site mills that are or will be operated under separate federal and state authorizations.

2.7 ON-SITE ORE STORAGE, CRUSHING, AND HAULAGE

RCG will temporarily store ore material removed from the underground mine on a concrete pad constructed on leveled areas on top of the WRSF (which is an engineered and fully lined facility) or on a concrete pad adjacent to the proposed Hatter shaft, raise or ramp. Such ore material will be regularly hauled from the site.

The generation of acid from temporary ore storage is not likely to occur. Given the regular transport of ore to an off-site mill and the limited length of time that ore will be on the storage

pad area, there will be insufficient time for the sulfide minerals in the ore to oxidize and initiate acid formation.

Placement of the ore within the fully lined footprint of the WRSF or on a concrete pad will allow RCG the ability to manage draindown without any adverse environmental effects in the event that the ore would generate acid.

Any draindown water for ore stockpiled on the existing WRSF will be collected in the synthetically-lined wet well sumps beneath the WRSF, and the collected draindown water will be pumped and treated, if required, in the on-site reverse osmosis plant or removed from site for proper disposal. A lined collection basin will be established to collect any draindown from ore material stockpiled on the concrete pad next to the production shaft, and this water would, if necessary, be routed as indicated above. The clean water will then be routed to the existing NDEP approved RIBs (under the Water Pollution Control Permit NV2003114) located near the confluence of Little Antelope Creek and Antelope Creek or discharged into Little Antelope Creek just south of the East Pit, under a Nevada Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit issued by the Nevada Bureau of Water Pollution Control.

The on-site ore storage area will include a small portable crusher. This unit will crush ore to produce a representative sampling of the high grade ore. The crusher will be sized to accommodate approximately 100 tons per hour.

The ore haulage trucks will have an expected capacity of approximately 38 tons. Trucks and trailers will be highway-legal with side-dumping tubs to preclude leakage of ore during shipment. At an estimated 750 to 1,000 tons per day of ore production, 18 to 25 roundtrips per day from the mine site are expected. Under adverse weather conditions, ore may be hauled in campaigns (12 to 15 trucks traveling together), which may temporarily increase the roundtrips per day but will lower the number of ore haulage days per month and allow for highway and truck driver safety.

The ore haulage will require two 10-hour shifts per day, up to seven days per week. The actual haulage schedule will be dependent on the facility selected to process the Hollister Mine ore.

2.8 ACCESS AND ORE HAULAGE ROADS

The official Hollister Mine access road is the Ivanhoe/Tuscarora/Midas road from the town of Golconda to the site. Most employees and independent contractors working at the Hollister Mine site are and will continue to be based out of Winnemucca. These workers currently participate and will continue to participate in company provided transportation. RCG will not, however, regulate personnel using public roads.

RCG plans to maintain a 9-mile segment of the Midas-Tuscarora road from the Midas Mine to the Ivanhoe Road turnout and the 9-mile segment of the Ivanhoe road to the Hollister Mine. RCG will upgrade these road segments as needed to enhance public safety, reduce the risk of ore haulage incidents, minimize sediment reaching local streams, and reduce dust generation

from the road. Guardrails will be installed as necessary along certain sections of this road to adhere to safety standards of the Mine Health and Safety Administration (MSHA). In the vicinity of the mine and new office complex areas, a turnout from the Ivanhoe Road will be added to access the planned truck scales. Good weather maintenance will include grading ("blading"), addition of gravel as surfacing material where necessary, and use of dust suppressants. Bad weather maintenance will consist of snow removal and blading.

The Ivanhoe Road connects to the Midas-Tuscarora road, which connects to a paved road to Golconda and Interstate 80 beyond that point.

Ore will be hauled from the Hatter Production Shaft (HPS) to the Hollister temporary ore stockpile in the East Pit. This small section of roadway will be maintained and upgraded, as necessary, to facilitate ore haulage; such upgrade will be similar to what RCG addressed above for the existing Ivanhoe road.

RCG will maintain the existing Little Antelope Creek road from the Hollister Mine site to the RIBs and proposed Rodeo Creek substation, and the access roads to the East and West Raises. This maintenance that will involve blading and possible snow removal is not intended to widen the existing road but to provide and promote efficient and safe access. Gravel will placed on these roads as needed to promote safe and efficient use during site activities.

RCG does not anticipate using the Mud Springs road between the Hollister Mine site and the Dunphy road near the existing Rossi Mine, the main Antelope Creek Road, or the Silver Cloud road between the Ivanhoe and Antelope Creek roads for any ore or supply truck traffic. These roads, however, similar to the access roads to the east and west raise facilities, will be periodically used for light vehicle access, and RCG may provide minor maintenance of these roads such as blading.

2.9 EAST PIT FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Only minor changes and additions are planned for the existing Hollister site facilities and infrastructure as the Project transitions from exploration and development work to full-scale mining and production. The existing approved East Pit facilities and infrastructure will continue to be used during full-scale commercial mining operations. See **Figure 6, Site Plan Layout**.

2.9.1 Trailers

Upon completion of the new office, dry and warehouse (see Section 2.10, New Mine Office Complex), existing office and change room trailers in the East Pit will be phased out. Some of these trailers will remain or be replaced to serve as a mine foreman's trailer, a mine rescue/safety trailer, and for contractors use or storage.

The office trailers in the East Pit area are not placed on permanent foundations. Following below are the estimated sizes of these office trailers.

- Current General Foreman Office (8 x 40 feet)
- Current Administration Offices (12 x 56 feet and 24 x 60 feet)
- Current Foreman Office (12 x 60 feet)

2.9.2 East Pit Access – Spur Road within East Pit

RCG will continue to access the East Pit via the existing access road, but a second short spur road, at a length of approximately 1,215 feet and a width of approximately 30 feet, will be constructed on the west side of the East Pit to provide for "loop" traffic into the pit area. See **Figure 6, Site Plan Layout, and Figure 7, Proposed Facilities**.

This short spur road will bifurcate from the existing access road near the entrance to the West Pit, be constructed in an area above the existing stormwater pond, and will connect to the top of the WRSF, thereby allowing RCG to maintain right hand traffic with a safe and efficient traffic flow for ore and supply trucks entering and exiting the East Pit.

Prior to the construction of this 0.2-mile stretch of road known as the East Pit spur, RCG will investigate the nature and extent of the underlying waste rock or low grade ore to determine the potentially acid generating (PAG) nature of the material. If the waste rock or low grade ore in this area is determined to be PAG, one of the following preventative measures (or a combination of the two measures) will be used to construct this spur road to prevent acid generation:

- The waste rock or ore material will be excavated to a depth of three feet and non-PAG rock will be used to fill the area of excavation for the spur road. The excavated material will be placed in the WRSF.
- Three feet of non-PAG material will be used as fill to construct the East Pit spur road.

Regardless of the construction technique selected, RCG will place a gravel overlay on a crowned running surface of the road and route any drainage off the road and into the existing stormwater pond via ditches. Gravel and clean (non-PAG) fill material will be hauled from an off-site location, mostly likely the remote, existing gravel pit located on private property near the town of Midas.

2.9.3 Waste Rock

Waste rock consists of rock material removed during underground mining that contains no gold or silver values or with gold and silver content below the economic grade. Waste rock removal and disposal will be an integral and necessary part of the future Hollister underground mining activities.

RCG will handle and dispose of waste rock in three locations:

- Underground as backfill in mined-out areas;
- Existing approved surface waste rock storage facility (WRSF) in the East Pit; and,
- West Pit area.

During mining, RCG expects that daily waste rock production will range from 935 to 1,250 tons, or approximately 1,100 tons per day for an average of 250 days per year. At 1,100 tons per day for 250 days, the annual total waste rock production at full production estimated to be 275,000 tons per year. See **Table 4, Waste Rock Production**.

Table 4 - Waste Rock Production

Mining Year(1)	Production Schedule(2) (Percent of Full Production)	Waste Rock Production(3) (tons)	Waste Rock Production(4) (loose cubic yards)	Waste Rock for Mine Backfill (5) (loose cubic yards)	Waste Rock for Surface Disposal(6) (loose cubic yards)
1	50%	138,000	83,000	46,000	37,000
2	70%	193,000	116,000	64,000	52,000
3	90%	248,000	149,000	82,000	67,000
4 – 17	100%	4,400,000	2,640,000	1,452,000	1,188,000
18	75%	206,000	124,000	68,000	56,000
19	50%	138,000	83,000	46,000	37,000
20	20%	69,000	41,000	23,000	18,000
	TOTAL	**5,392,000**	**3,236,000**	**1,781,000**	**1,455,000**

Notes and Assumptions:

1) Twenty year mine life for Hollister site.

2) Three years to ramp up to full waste rock production, using percentage estimates set forth in this column. Less waste rock will be produced at the end of the mine life during last three years of operations due to lower mine development activities.

3) Average waste rock production figure of 1,100 tons per day for an average of 250 days per year. At 1,100 tons per day for 250 days, the annual total waste rock production at full production estimated to be 275,000 tons per year. Multiple the full production rate of 275,000 tons times the percentages in second column.

4) Waste rock density = 0.08 tons/ft^3. To determine loose cubic yards, assume 30% swell.

5) Estimated that 50 to 60% of waste rock material would remain underground or be returned underground over the life of the mine based on the type of underground mining to be conducted at the Hollister Mine. For this calculation, assume 55% to be returned underground.

6) The permitted surface WRSF in East Pit designed to contain approximately 612,000 cubic yards of material. Assume approximately 300,000 loose cubic yards of storage room remaining within the existing East Pit WRSF so proposed West Pit WRSF can contain the remaining approximate 1.1 million yards of additional waste rock material designated for surface placement at the Hollister site.

Waste rock hauled to the surface from the ongoing underground development and exploration operations, as well as from the existing onsite de-silting facility located in the East Pit, will continue to be deposited in the existing WRSF. A portion of the underground waste rock will be

directly backfilled in underground mined-out areas. The West Pit will be used for long-term waste rock storage.

The BLM previously approved the existing WRSF in the East Pit based on a Plan of Operation Amendment submitted by RCG on December 20, 2007. The design capacity of the approved waste rock facility is approximately 612,000 cubic yards. Waste rock will be added to the facility over the course of the mine life. RCG has no current plans to expand the approved height or footprint of the facility.

Because the majority of the rock placed within the East Pit WRSF is PAG, RCG will manage the East Pit WRSF in accordance with the approved Nevada Department of Environmental Protection (NDEP) Water Pollution Control Permit (WPCP #NEV2003107) as follows:

- The area beneath the East Pit WRSF is lined with a low permeability barrier and synthetically lined wet well sumps.
- Dolomite material is placed above the barrier.
- Any draindown water in the East Pit WRSF is collected and contained in wet well sumps.
- Any standing water in the wet well sump is sampled, collected, and either treated in the Hollister RO plant or the de-silting facility, as needed, or removed from the site and properly disposed of, so that this water will not adversely affect “waters of the State”.
- Treated water will be discharged in accordance with NDEP WPCP NEV2003114 into existing RIBs.

An alternative for future waste rock disposal will be to use the West Pit for additional waste rock storage. The West Pit was excavated by previous operators during the surface mining operations in the early 1990s and is in an ideal location for waste rock storage for the following reasons:

- There will be no new disturbance as a result of the use of the existing West Pit for waste rock disposal;
- Waste rock from the Hollister Mine will partially backfill the existing West Pit, which will reduce visual impacts from the West Pit when the facility is reclaimed;
- The pit walls will provide natural containment; and,
- The disposal of waste rock in the West Pit WRSF should help mitigate pre-existing water quality impacts to groundwater in the vicinity of the West Pit.

Waste rock from the Hollister Mine is characterized as PAG based on past and ongoing geochemical analyses. Specialized design and construction techniques would be implemented for the proposed West Pit WRSF to control and prevent acid rock drainage (ARD) from impacting the environment. These techniques would include the use of a wet well, a liner system beneath the disposal area, and intermixing of dolomite rock into the waste rock during construction of the disposal facility, the same measures previously approved by the BLM and the state of Nevada for the construction of the existing East Pit WRSF. The West Pit WRSF will also be

reclaimed in a similar manner as the existing East Pit WRSF to ensure long-term stability, provide for effective reclamation, and reduce the overall visual impact.

The West Pit WRSF will be constructed as follows:

- A 10- to 12-inch polyvinyl chloride (PVC) underliner pipe will be placed along the existing access road into the West Pit to the approximate lowest point within the pit. The pipe will be wrapped in geotextile filter blanket and will be located on compacted subgrade or native material. It will be bedded in filter sand. The purpose of this underliner pipe will be to gather samples of water (if present) beneath the wet well. The piping will extend beyond the area of proposed waste rock disposal. An inclined submersible pump will be placed at the bottom of this pipe for water removal and sampling purposes. This pump will be situated such that it can be removed from the pipe if necessary for maintenance or replacement.
- Approximately 5 to 6 feet of compacted (non-PAG) aggregate material will be placed in the bottom of the West Pit. The total amount will be adjusted to be sufficient to cover water (if present) in the pit. If necessary to facilitate the placement of the underliner pipe and aggregate material, any water present will be pumped from the West Pit into the existing surge ponds and processed through the on-site water treatment facility.
- A layer of silt material will be placed on top of the aggregate. This layer will form the base for a geotextile blanket and the synthetic liner that will cover the bottom of the pit. The aggregate material will be shaped upward on the outer edges of the pit (i.e., the toe of the existing highwall) so that liner anchor trenches can be installed to secure the synthetic liner in place.
- Similar to the underliner pipe, another 10- to 12-inch PVC pipe will be placed on top of the synthetic liner to serve as the sample mechanism for the actual wet well. Another inclined submersible pump will be placed at the bottom of this pipe. The pipe will be wrapped in geotextile filter blanket and bedded in filter sand. This pump will serve to sample water from the wet well for testing purposes.
- A layer of dolomite will be placed on top of the layer of filter sand. Dolomite also will be layered within the waste rock at intervals and at the mixing percentage previously approved by the NDEP and the BLM for the waste rock disposal at the Hollister site.
- The highwall will be coated (sprayed) with shotcrete in horizontal layers of approximately 8 to 12 feet around the pit walls. As waste rock is disposed of in the West Pit, shotcrete will continue to be sprayed on the walls prior to each subsequent lift of waste rock. It is expected that shotcrete will be required on the highwall up to a height of approximately 40 to 50 feet above the bottom of the West Pit to form a sufficient seal in the disposal site to create a bowl-shaped protection area. Given the clayey nature of the waste rock, it is expected that waste rock will compact such that long-term permeability through the waste rock will be very low.

- Once mining is completed, the waste rock in the West Pit will be shaped to allow drainage off the facility and will be capped according to BLM- and NDEP-approved waste rock disposal capping and reclamation protocols.

Mined waste rock will be hauled into the West Pit via an existing surface mine ramp within the pit. The WRSF will be constructed in a series of lifts within the interior of the existing West Pit. Waste rock will be placed by end-dumped lifts, progressing horizontally across the waste rock disposal site. During construction, working dump faces will be maintained at an overall angle of repose.

An access ramp will be constructed on the west side of the pit, and this ramp will wrap around to the north as subsequent waste rock lifts are added to the facility. This road will remain in place until the dump reaches the approximate 5,726-foot elevation (amsl) and contains a volume of slightly more than 900,000 cubic yards. At this point, the existing ramp will be closed, and the final filling of the West Pit will be completed from the top of the WRSF that would be accessed from a road external to the West Pit. Another 200,000 cubic yards of waste rock will be required to completely fill the West Pit.

The West Pit WRSF can accommodate up to 1.1 million cubic yards of waste rock. With this volume, the maximum height of waste rock above the floor of the West Pit would be approximately 175 feet, and the maximum crest elevation of the facility would be approximately 5,726 feet (amsl). The maximum height of the facility will be below the rim of the West Pit.

To control erosion and for long-term stability of the West Pit WRSF, RCG will construct appropriate storm water controls and grade the waste rock pile to control storm water runoff and run-on. Storm water will be routed to the existing storm water facility just south of the West Pit.

RCG will add dolomite or similar material to the waste rock for in-situ neutralization of ARD. Such material would be mixed with PAG waste rock upon placement in the West Pit. Acid base accounting test results indicate that the estimated total pyritic sulfur content would be 1.26 percent for the final WRSF configuration. The buffering capacity ratio of 3:1, neutralizing material to acid-generating material, as required by BLM, would be adhered to in the construction of the West Pit WRSF alternative.

RCG has and will continue to submit quarterly waste rock characterization reports to NDEP, with copies to BLM. RCG has also established groundwater monitoring wells down-gradient of the WRSF. RCG has and will continue to submit quarterly groundwater monitoring reports to NDEP, with copies to BLM. These reports will verify that both East and West Pit WRSFs are operating as designed.

2.9.4 Expanded Shop Facilities

Additional maintenance shop capacity will be created within the East Pit area, at the site of the existing shop, to provide suitable capability and space for onsite equipment maintenance work,

as well as to improve the efficiency of the on-site maintenance crews. It is planned that the interior working space for the maintenance facility will double over what is currently available. The existing "tent" maintenance facility will be replaced by the new structure.

The proposed maintenance facility will consist of a building (approximately 100 x 160 feet), with a wash bay (approximately 50 x 60 feet), a drain sump (approximately 20 x 80 feet), and a truck pad/storage area (approximately 30 x 70 feet). The maintenance building will be of steel frame construction with metal siding and roofing. Concrete footings and slabs will be reinforced with rebar. The building will have external concrete slabs and ramps. There will be no sidewalks around the perimeter of the building.

2.10 NEW MINE OFFICE COMPLEX

Given space constraints with the East Pit area (where most of the existing Hollister Project infrastructure is currently located), RCG plans to construct a new main office, miner change facility (dry), and receiving warehouse in an area of previous disturbance created by past (i.e., pre-Hollister) open-pit mining activities. See **Figure 7, Proposed Facilities**, and **Figure 8, Proposed Mine Office Complex Conceptual Design**.

The area designated for the new Hollister mine office complex was utilized previously by the surface mining contractor during the past surface mining activities as an office and maintenance facility complex, with room for mine equipment parking and general storage.

Because of its past use for similar facilities, this site is ideal for the construction of new office facilities for the Hollister Mine. Given its level pad area, only minor grading work will be required to prepare the site. This site has been reclaimed, so, prior to any facility installation, RCG will remove the replaced growth medium material and place this material in a stockpile northwest of the proposed mine rescue building. Upon completion, RCG will seed this stockpile with the BLM and NDEP approved reclamation seed mixture set forth in Section 3.0, Reclamation Plan.

Once growth medium material is removed and stockpiled, RCG will evaluate the substrate material beneath the office complex and lay-down area to determine its suitability for use. Should it be refractory or mineralized rock material, a low permeability barrier may be required with an overlay of gravel or non-reactive waste rock. Care will be exercised during the plant growth medium removal so as to not mix it with the potentially refractory substrate. Following the evaluation of the area for refractory of mineralized rock material, RCG can level and compact the pad area for facility construction and installation.

The location of the mine office complex will not impact the existing permanent diversion ditch. However, to avoid potential visual impacts from Big Butte, the main building could be moved closer to the northern hillside which may affect the uppermost portion of the ditch. Should that occur, a temporary connecting ditch will be constructed to capture stormwater runoff.

The existing bioremediation pad located in this area will be reclaimed by the previous operator.

The mine office complex buildings will be constructed on permanent concrete foundations and slabs, reinforced with rebar. Sidewalks will be installed around the buildings as appropriate. Buildings will be constructed from metal siding and roofing, and they will be coated (painted) with an earth-tone color, such as desert beige, to blend with the general surrounding color shade and hue of the existing terrain.

The parking area at the mine office complex will be graveled. The gravel will come from a remote and independently operated gravel pit located on private property near the town of Midas.

The mine office complex will accommodate supply trucks. The outside warehouse yard will be fenced.

Propane will be used at the mine office complex (and in trailers and buildings in the East Pit) to heat hot water and provide heating. Propane will be delivered to the buildings via buried pipelines from a tank located northwest of the mine office building.

Electricity will be supplied to the mine office complex via an overhead powerline routed from the switchgear facility around the north rim of the East Pit. See Section 2.17, Power.

The existing telephone system will be expanded to include the mine office complex. An additional micro-wave receiver will be erected near the mine office complex to receive signal from the existing receivers located above the East Pit near the present water system tanks. The components will include a two-foot receiver antenna rod and a possible 12 to 15 foot high mast. The actual installation location will depend on signal strength and line of sight from the existing antenna. The antenna will be mounted on the side or roof of the office building which will eliminate the need for a separate mast.

2.10.1 Mine Office

The office will be a one-story (up to approximately 20-foot high) building of modular or steel construction placed on a concrete slab. The building will contain approximately 5,000 square feet, with offices, reception area, conference room, utility room, men's and women's bathrooms, and a training room. Parking will be adjacent to the mine office for company, supplier, and visitor vehicles.

2.10.2 Miner Change Facility (Dry)

The miner change facility (dry) will be located in the same building that will house the receiving warehouse. The dry will contain about 7,500 square feet of space, with lockers and baskets, showers, and lavatory facilities. There will be separate facilities for men and women. The dry will be a steel constructed building with ample ceiling height (15 to 20 feet) to accommodate drying capabilities for the baskets and miners' gear. Buses and/or vans will deliver miners and other workers to the dry from Winnemucca. Vans will transport workers from the dry to the portal area to start the shift.

2.10.3 Warehouse

The warehouse will be part of the same building that houses the dry. The warehouse floor space will contain about 4,000 square feet of interior space for parts storage. The warehouse will be configured for ease of delivery with a loading dock and an adjacent outdoor, fenced storage area.

2.10.4 Mine Rescue Building

The mine rescue building will be located northeast of the mine office and will contain emergency equipment and supplies. It will be approximately 80 feet by 80 feet in size.

2.10.5 Contractor Trailers and Lay-Down Storage Area

RCG will contract for the construction of the office, dry and warehouse facilities. An area will be made available for temporary contractor office trailers, with adjacent lay-down areas. The contractor trailers and storage area will be located on the same pad planned for use for the mine office complex, with a separate but adjacent lay-down area located to the south of the mine office complex. See **Figure 7, Proposed Facilities**.

RCG expects that four to six temporary trailers will be placed on temporary wood-cribbed foundations and sided with sheeting. Electricity will be supplied by a temporary portable 200 kW generator. A 500-gallon diesel fuel tank will be used to power the generator, and this tank will be contained in a HDPE-lined facility, capable of containing 110 percent of the volume contained in the tank. A propane tank may also be placed central to the trailers to facilitate the heating systems for wintertime operations. Temporary portable sanitary facilities will be located throughout the area.

The contractor trailers will be phased out and removed as construction is completed and the permanent facilities are commissioned, which is estimated to be approximately one year. Upon removal, the area on which the temporary contractor trailers were placed will be used for permanent mine supply storage.

Available plant growth medium material will be removed from the planned lay-down area and stockpiled prior to use of this area as a contractor area or to store supplies. There will be a single access point from the main access road into and out of this area. As required by MSHA, safety berms will line the lay-down area along the access road, and a small “windrow” will delineate it to the north and east.

An investigation of the area’s substrate will evaluate whether there is a potential for the material underlying the planned laydown area to generate low pH drainage while the area is being used as the temporary contractor office and laydown area. If the investigation discloses PAG material, RGC will implement measures to manage it appropriately. One of those management measures will be to crown the area to facilitate stormwater drainage. Another measure will be the addition of a dolomite surface to the area, which will serve to provide an

"all weather" driving and storage surface, as well as to ameliorate potential low pH drainage generation.

2.10.6 Truck Scale

RCG will install a truck scale near the mine office building adjacent to the Ivanhoe Road as shown on **Figure 8, Proposed Mine Office Complex Conceptual Design**. The scale will be approximately 120 feet long by 10 feet wide and will be used to weigh ore truck shipments from the mine. See **Figure 9, Truck Scale Schematic**.

2.10.7 Guard Shack and Security

As needed, portable guard shack(s), approximately 15 feet by 25 feet, will be placed on the road at the entrance to the Hollister Mine site.

Temporary fences will continue to be used around exploration drill sites. Except for temporary exploration fencing and a new fence around the HPS, no new fencing is proposed for the project. All fences will have access gates. Signs will be revised, as required, or added to reflect new facility locations or safety information.

2.11 SURFACE FACILITY WATER MANAGEMENT

The existing water management facilities at the Hollister Project site will be upgraded for the full-scale mining operation. A graphic representation of the existing water management facilities is shown as **Figure 10, Water Management System**.

2.11.1 Potable Water

Potable water demands will increase from its current use of about three gallons per minute (gpm) capacity for underground exploration to an average use of 12 gpm for mining operations. The existing potable water treatment facility has the capacity to treat this increased volume of water. The facility includes a greensand filter to treat iron and manganese, with arsenic filtration through a media, and chlorination. Any sludge resulting from the water treatment plant will be sampled, analyzed, and disposal of appropriately.

Mine water or water from water well #1 is pumped to the existing plant for treatment and then will be pumped to a new 10,000-gallon potable water holding tank located above the mine office complex. See **Figure 7, Proposed Facilities**. Tank dimensions will be approximately 10 feet in diameter by 16 feet high. The concrete foundation for this tank will be approximately 14 feet square and two feet thick.

From the new tank, potable water will be supplied to the mine office, dry, warehouse, and foreman/safety trailers. This water system will be permitted through the applicable NDEP bureaus.

2.11.2 Fire Water

To meet local, state and MSHA fire protection codes, RCG will use water from the potable water storage tank, proposed 35,000-gallon fire water tank, and/or the existing utility water tank above the East Pit. In case of a fire, water from these tanks can be supplied to a series of fire hydrants located at the mine office complex and adjacent to facilities within the East Pit. RCG does not plan to install fire hydrants and water pipelines at the Hatter shaft, raise or ramp site.

2.11.3 Water Pipelines

Water pipelines from the East Pit area to the potable and fire water tanks will be buried adjacent to the existing main access road, at a minimum depth of four feet (below the frost zone).

A four-inch HDPE pipeline will supply the potable water tank, and a six-inch HDPE pipeline will supply the firewater tank. There will one valve box for each pipeline located at the upper end of the pipelines. The valve boxes will be constructed of concrete with steel covers. They will be installed below-ground and covered with about one-foot of gravel. No new actions are planned for existing water well #5.

2.12 SOLID AND SANITARY WASTE

A new sewage disposal system will be installed to service the mine office, dry, and warehouse facilities. See **Figure 7, Proposed Facilities**, and **Figure 8, Proposed Mine Office Complex Conceptual Design**. This system will consist of a 10,000-gallon septic tank, associated dosing tanks, and a leach field (approximately 80 feet by 90 feet). RCG will obtain NDEP approval for the engineering designs and specifications prior to construction. RCG will provide copies of the NDEP approved designs and specifications to BLM.

The existing septic system within the East Pit area will continue to be used during mine operations, although, with the relocation of the dry to the upper bench area, the need to regularly pump from the East Pit area septic system tanks for haulage to the Winnemucca sewage treatment system will be reduced from its present weekly basis to once every 8 to 10 weeks.

RCG will continue to use onsite trash receptacles during mining operations. Solid, non-hazardous material will be removed from the site and disposed at an appropriate approved facility. The Hollister operation will continue to be a Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator (defined by Federal regulations as a facility generating less than 200 pounds of hazardous waste per month). The program of recycling (used oil, batteries, used antifreeze, etc.) and/or haulage to an approved licensed facility for disposal will continue during full-scale mining operations.

The only Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) hazardous waste anticipated to be generated at the Hollister Mine will be “universal wastes”, which include florescent bulbs,

aerosol paint can residue and filters, and batteries including mine light, NiCad and lithium types. The majority of the hazardous materials used on site will be spent or consumed during operations. Materials that are not spent or consumed (e.g., petroleum, oils, antifreeze, etc.) will be recycled, to the extent possible, or disposed of off-site in an approved depository in accordance with RCG's existing Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Plan and applicable federal and state regulations.

2.13 CHEMICALS, FUELS AND EXPLOSIVES

Chemicals, fuels and explosives will continue to be used as the Hollister operation transitions to mine production. No additional chemical, fuel or explosive storage capacity will be needed for mining operations over what presently exists at the site.

The reportable and non-reportable chemicals and fuel used and stored at the Hollister Mine are set forth in **Table 5, List of Chemicals.** This information is updated on an annual basis as required by the Hollister Fire Marshal Hazardous Materials Permit. It should be noted that Homeland Security regulations prohibit public disclosure of the quantity and type of explosives used or shipped.

Table 5 - List of Chemicals

Hollister Mine – List of Chemicals Used at the Site						
Chemical Name	**Common Name/ Other Name**	**Quantity**	**Location**	**Area Used**	**Rate of Use Per Year**	**Shipment Quantities**
Sodium Hydroxide	Caustic Soda	2,400 gal	Water Treatment Plant	Water Treatment Plant	800 gal	800 gal
Petroleum Hydrocarbon Mixture	Gasoline	5,000 gal	Fuel Storage Area (surface)	Surface Mobile Equipment	7,100 gal	4,000 gal
Sodium Hypochlorate	Same	55 gal	Water Treatment Plant	Water Treatment Plant	55 gal	55 gal
Petroleum Napha	Solvent/Degreaser	55 gal	Maintenance Shop	Maintenance Shop	500 gal	55 gal
Acetylene	Same	900 cu ft	Maintenance Shop	Maintenance Shop	-	10 cyl
Oxygen	Oxygen	2,490 cu ft	Maintenance Shop	Maintenance Shop	-	6 cyl
Petroleum Hydrocarbon Mixture	Diesel	30,000 gal	Fuel Storage Area (surface)	Surface & UG Equipment	510,000 gal	7,400 gal
Propane	Odorized LPG	575 gal	Office Complex	Office Complex	500 gal	200 gal
Ammonium Nitrate/Fuel Oil	ANFO	*	UG Explosive Mag	Mining	*	*
Ammonium Nitrate	Unigel	*	UG Explosive Mag	Mining	*	*
Ammonium Nitrate	Magnasplit	*	UG Explosive Mag	Mining	*	*

Ammonium Nitrate	Magnafrac	*	UG Explosive Mag	Mining	*	*
Pentaerythritol	Cordex Detonation Cord	*	UG Explosive Mag	Mining	*	*
CS-141	Concrete Stripper	55 gal	Surface Containment Area	Mining	55 gal	55 gal
Chemco #1	Cleaner Degreaser	55 gal	Maintenance Shop	Mobile Equip.	55 gal	55 gal
Hydrogen Sulfate (20%)	Sulfuric Acid	1,650 gal	Water Treatment/ Desilting Plant	Water Treatment/ Desilting Plant	38,400 gal	4,000 gal
Choline Chloride	Kla Gard	490 gal	Laydown Area @ Main Gate	Surface & UG Drilling	21,840 gal	240 gal 2 pallets
Mineral Oil	Rod Coat B 700	70 gal	Laydown Area @ Main Gate	Surface Drilling	5,460 gal	240 gal 2 pallets
Anionic Polyacrylamide	Poly-plus 2000	80 gal	Laydown Area @ Main Gate	Surface & UG Drilling	10,920 gal	160 gal 2 pallets
Vegetable Oil	Rod Ease	0	Laydown Area @ Main Gate	Surface & UG Drilling	21,840 gal	240 gal 2 pallets
Copolymer of Sodium Acrylate	Insta-vis	250 gal	Laydown Area @ Main Gate	Surface & UG Drilling	10,920 gal	160 gal 1 pallet
Copolymer of Sodium Acrylate	Insta-pac	200 gal	Laydown Area @ Main Gate	Surface Drilling	10,920 gal	160 gal 1 pallet
Pentaerythritol Tetranitrate	Non-electric Detonator	*	UG Explosive Mag	Mining	*	*
Hydrochloric Acid	Hydrochloric Acid/HCL	300 gal	Water Treatment/ Desilting Plant	Water Treatment/ Desilting Plant	800 gal	400 gal
Calcium Hydroxide	Hydrated Lime	47,000 lbs.	Water Treatment/ Desilting Plant	Water Treatment/ Desilting Plant	20,000 lbs.	20,000 lbs.
Ethylene Glycol	Anti-freeze	220 gal	Maintenance Shop	Mobile Equip	3,600 gal	300 gal/mo.
Flocculent	Flocculent	800 gal	Water Treatment/ Desilting Plant	Water Treatment/ Desilting Plant	7,300 gal	800 gal

*Note: U.S. Office of Homeland Security regulations do not allow mine operators to report explosive quantities.

Diesel fuel use will decrease as the two existing diesel-fueled generators are replaced by electricity supplied by the proposed new transmission line. Gasoline usage at the site will remain approximately the same; Hollister vans and light trucks are and will continue to be

fueled at Winnemucca gas stations. The amount of lubricating oil, propane, antifreeze and miscellaneous solvents will increase at the Hollister Mine. Although no extra storage capacity will be needed, RCG will construct new fuel and lubricant storage facilities. The same handling and environmental protection safeguards now employed by RCG will continue at the site. RCG reports chemical use volumes under the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) program, as required by Section 313 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA).

Explosives will be stored underground.

RCG will be responsible for clean-up of releases of hazardous substances and or oil associated with the Proposed Action in accordance with the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Contingency Plan (40 CFR 300). RCG will notify the BLM Authorized Officer, the NDEP, and the National Response Center of all reportable quantities of hazardous substances and or oil released on public land as required. Spills will be cleaned up in accordance with local, state and federal regulations

2.14 SPILL PREVENTION PLAN

RCG maintains a Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan (SPCC) for the Hollister Mine. See **Appendix C, Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan**.

Prior to the initiation of the proposed project, RCG will amend, as necessary, the existing plan to encompass the proposed new or expanded facilities. The plan will be maintained and implemented, as needed, throughout the life of the project. This plan will describe the prevention, response, containment, and safe cleanup of any spills or discharges of substances that potentially may degrade the environment, in addition to discovery, notification and general cleanup procedures.

2.15 STORMWATER PLAN

Engineered stormwater diversions will be designed and constructed to divert runoff away from project facilities as needed based on anticipated stormwater runoff calculations. RCG maintains a Stormwater Pollution and Prevention Plan (SWPPP) for the Hollister site. This plan was prepared pursuant to NAC 445A.236 and fulfills the requirements under the General Permit NVR3000000 Stormwater Discharges Associated with Industrial Activity from Metals Mining to Waters of the U.S. The plan will be updated as necessary and will include the best management practices (BMPs) to reduce erosion and sediment transport from disturbed areas. See Appendix D, Stormwater Plan.

RCG plans to construct a 1,200-foot diversion channel to divert and direct stormwater runoff along the main access road near the 90 degree turn west to the secondary diversion channel that was originally constructed by Newmont Mining Company (NMC). This short section will redirect stormwater runoff from approximately 28 acres of watershed and away from the West Pit.

The proposed stormwater drainage channel around the west side of the project area will mostly likely be a trapezoidal cross-section and will not be lined. In accordance with NDEP guidelines, it will be designed to accommodate the peak flow from the 25-year, 24-hour runoff event with freeboard. No water exchange is expected with the historic and reclaimed South Overburden Stockpile. Stormwater management practices, including diversion channels and other program features, will be implemented in accordance with the current SWPPP approved by the NDEP.

A secondary temporary stormwater diversion will also be installed around the mine office complex to manage stormwater for the life of the project. This channel will drain into an existing stormwater channel along the proposed East Pit spur road

Temporary diversions will be constructed as needed to manage stormwater runoff. Channels will be constructed in accordance with NDEP requirements and will periodically be inspected as part of the ongoing stormwater management plan.

2.16 MINE WATER HANDLING AND MANAGEMENT

Dewatering and water management at the Hollister Mine will consist of two separate systems: (1) a new dewatering program and (2) the continuation of the current mine water handling system. Both are technically dewatering systems. However, to differentiate between the two, the new system is referred to as the dewatering system and the existing system is referred to as the mine water management system.

The existing mine water handling and management facilities will continue in use as the project transitions to full-scale mining. The current mine water handling facilities and operations, including underground grouting activities and use of the existing RIBs, will remain unchanged from the current operations.

To supplement the existing mine water handling and management program, RCG plans to install 8 to 12 underground dewatering wells and an associated mine dewatering infrastructure to improve the capabilities of handling water from the underground workings. See **Figure 10, Water Management System**.

RCG anticipates a maximum dewatering rate of approximately 1,100 gpm on a continuous basis for the approximate 20-year mine life. The dewatering system (wells, pumps, pipelines, and tanks) will prevent groundwater from contact with the underground workings or from commingling with mine water that is handled by the existing water management system. See **Figure 11, Underground Mine Dewatering Schematic**.

The deepest working depth of the Hollister Mine will be at approximately 2,000 feet. However, pumping water out at this depth may not be necessary because water is only pumped out when encountered, and, with proper dewatering, there should be minimal water at this depth.

Water produced from these underground dewatering wells will be routed to underground pumping stations through dedicated pipelines that will vary from 6 to 8 inches in diameter.

Water will then be pumped from the mine to the surface through pipelines in the east raise and/or in the planned HPS or West Raise. Upon reaching the surface, this water will be gravity-fed in a buried pipeline to the RIBs or to the proposed engineered National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) discharge outfall on Little Antelope Creek..

The proposed discharge rate to RIBs and Little Antelope Creek will be approximately equal to the dewatering rate. However, RCG may use between 100 and 150 gpm to support Hollister Mine operations.

RCG has applied for an NPDES permit from NDEP Bureau of Water Pollution Control to allow a surface discharge into Little Antelope Creek. Water discharged into Little Antelope Creek via the NPDES location will be treated, if necessary, to attain NDEP water quality standards for Rock Creek (water in Little Antelope Creek flows into Antelope Creek which empties into Rock Creek).

The NPDES outfall will be NDEP-approved and will not require an energy-dissipating structure to prevent scouring of the streambank of Little Antelope Creek due to the presence of bedrock in the outfall area. An 18-inch diameter water pipeline will be anchored to prevent movement and will discharge water onto bedrock material to prevent splash-over flow. Natural rock materials already exist in the Little Antelope Creek channel bottom, which has sideslope size gradations ranging from 6 to 48 inches. This existing condition and configuration will be adequate to ensure channel stability at the proposed NPDES outfall location at the maximum anticipated discharge rate of 1,100 gpm. Routine monitoring of the outfall will ensure continued stability. If monitoring identifies any erosion concerns at the outfall location, additional riprap will be placed to provide more energy dissipation.

2.17 POWER

As the Hollister Project transitions to mine production, RCG will switch from diesel-generated electric power to “line” electric power provided from NV Energy. The proposed new powerline alignment to the Hollister Mine will be approximately 11.6 miles in length, originating from an existing 120-kilovolt (kV) line that originates at the Coyote Creek substation north of the Rossi Mine. See **Figure 2, Project Overview**.

At the existing Coyote Creek substation, electric power is currently downgraded from the main 345 kV line to a 120-kV power. From the existing 120-kV line southwest of the Coyote Creek substation, a new 120-kV overhead line will be routed for approximately 5.4 miles to a new substation (identified as the “Rodeo Creek” substation) located on private property near the existing east RIB. At this new Rodeo Creek substation, electric power will be reduced from 120-kV to 24.9-kV, and a new 24.9-kV overhead distribution line will be constructed in a northward direction for a distance of about 4.5 miles (essentially parallel to Little Antelope Creek). This line will transmit electric power to an updated switchgear facility (approximately 20 feet by 40 feet) located on the highwall of the East Pit, where the voltage will be further reduced and routed to various surface facilities and the underground mine workings for approximately 1.7 miles, as shown on **Figure 7, Proposed Facilities**.

Transmission line structures will be steel with steel cross-arms. The 120-kV line will be a H-frame (two poles with one-steel cross bar). The 24.9-kV transmission line will have a single steel pole with double support crossbars. RCG will use Avian Power Line Interaction Committee (APLIC) raptor-deterring design measures and/or grounded hardware in eagle use areas as well as insulating or cover up materials for perch management.

A temporary construction lay-down area of approximately 1 acre will be established on private property, adjacent to the planned Rodeo Creek substation to facilitate temporary storage of pole structures, line spools, and miscellaneous powerline supplies. This temporary laydown yard will be reclaimed upon completion of powerline construction.

New powerline construction will disturb an approximate 4x4-foot area for each pole on the 24.9-kV line with an estimated 20 poles per mile, and an approximate 6x6-foot area for the 120-kV line poles with an estimated 14 poles per mile. Temporary and existing roads, with estimated width of approximately 20 feet, will be used to gain access for transmission line construction and maintenance. Spur roads (estimated at one every mile of transmission line length) will connect the transmission line structures to established or existing roads. Temporary roads will be reclaimed upon completion of the transmission line.

The transmission line and substation designs will be based on NV Energy electrical standards for material and construction. The final powerline design is dependent on the final route selection . NV Energy will be responsible for the ownership and maintenance of the transmission line (the 120-kV line) and will obtain the necessary right-of way (ROW) approval and private land easement for that portion of the line. RCG will assume responsibility for the 24.9-kV distribution line and the Rodeo Creek Substation.

The existing diesel generators at the Hollister Mine will remain on site to serve as emergency electric power back-up in the case of a transmission line, distribution line, or substation failure.

2.18 WORKFORCE

Currently, approximately 160 people work at the Hollister site. It is anticipated that the transition will require up to 60 additional workers for full production and construction of facilities and other site preparation activities. Approximately 45 of the additional 60 workers would be temporary hires to construct new facilities; 15 workers will be permanent hires to support full scale mine production.

Not all of the workforce will be on site at one time. Similar to the underground exploration program currently underway, RCG will utilize a rotating crew schedule and have two shifts per day, 20 hours per day, 365 days per year.

The expected full production schedule will accommodate two mining crews per day, operating on a rotating basis of 10 hours per day, seven days per week. The day shift will likely occur between the hours of 7:00 AM and 5:00 PM, while the night shift will cover the hours from 9:00

PM to 7:00 AM. Preventative maintenance mechanics and electricians will probably work a 12-hour shift that will also span the day and night rotating crew's shifts.

Much like the current on-site workforce, the mine personnel will include managerial, mining, maintenance, electrical, geologic, engineering, safety, and environmental personnel. RCG plans to maintain its Winnemucca administration office and parking area, from where employees and independent contracted workers will be transported to and from the mine site via buses, vans, and other vehicles.

RCG does not plan to establish a man camp for the Hollister Mine.

2.19 PROJECT SCHEDULE

RCG will continue with underground exploration and test mining and surface exploration at the Hollister Mine site until the BLM approves this full production plan of operations amendment. Once approved, RCG expects that the transition to full production and the construction of the full production facilities will require approximately 9 to 18 months.

The mine will be active year-round for an estimated 20 years. Up to 3 years may be required for final site closure, reclamation, and reclamation management and monitoring.

3.0 RECLAMATION AND SITE CLOSURE

The original reclamation plan for the Hollister Mine Project site (January 23, 2004 Revised Plan of Operations for the Proposed Underground Exploration Program) was submitted by Hecla (RCG's predecessor) and approved by both the BLM and NDEP. As part of subsequent operational and exploration activities, as discussed in Section 1.0, Introduction, Hecla and RCG submitted appropriate plan amendments and permit revisions, including updates for the reclamation plans, to both the BLM and NDEP, which have all been approved.

RCG will implement reclamation practices and procedures consistent with the requirements of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC 519A regulations, BLM's surface management regulations at 43 CFR 3809, and the Final Version of the Revised Guidelines for Successful Mining and Exploration Revegetation (Memorandum No. NV-99-013). Once the full-scale underground production plans are approved by BLM and NDEP, RCG will update the reclamation cost estimate to include the additional facilities and disturbance at the Hollister Mine.

RCG considers reclamation to be an integral and important component of the Hollister Mine. The overall purpose of reclamation is to restore the site to a beneficial post-mining land use, prevent undue or unnecessary degradation of the environment, and reclaim disturbed areas so they will be compatible with surrounding topography.

The current land use around the Hollister Mine site is primarily rangeland for livestock (cattle) grazing, wildlife habitat, and recreation. However, most of the area to be used for Hollister Mine surface facilities and infrastructure has been previously disturbed by open pit mining and subsequently reclaimed by other operators. RCG's reclamation plan includes closing and sealing mine portals, escape raises, and the HPS, removing surface facilities and infrastructure, and establishing a vegetative community on the surface areas disturbed by the underground activities and operations.

The final grading plan for the project is designed, in part, to minimize the visual impacts of unnatural lines and landforms. Slopes will be regraded to blend with surrounding topography and to facilitate revegetation. Waste rock facilities will have rounded crests and variable slope angles to more closely resemble natural landforms. The conceptual post-mining topography is shown on **Figure 12, Post-Mining Topography**.

Revegetation of disturbed areas would be conducted as soon as practicable to reduce the potential for wind and water erosion. Following construction activities, areas such as cut and fill embankments and growth media stockpiles will be seeded. Concurrent reclamation will be conducted to the extent practicable to accelerate revegetation of disturbed areas. All sediment and erosion control measures and revegetated areas will be inspected periodically (such as after high precipitation events) to ensure long-term erosion control and successful reclamation

Reclamation practices to be implemented at the Hollister Mine have been developed and successfully utilized at other mining and exploration operations in northern Nevada, as well as throughout the western United States. However, because reclamation practices and

technology are continually evolving and improving, RCG will take advantage of future opportunities to explore new reclamation techniques or implement improved reclamation measures.

3.1 PROPOSED RECLAMATION SCHEDULE

Upon completion of mining, final reclamation of facilities will be completed pursuant to the final closure plan and schedule that will be submitted to the BLM and NDEP for approval. Each facility component will be evaluated at the end of their operating life to determine the potential for degradation of waters of the State, pursuant to NAC 445A.447 and would conform with the NDEP-WPCP regulations in effect at the time of closure.

3.2 POST-MINING LAND USE AND RECLAMATION GOALS

The primary existing land uses in the project vicinity include mineral exploration and development, livestock grazing, wildlife habitat, and dispersed recreation. Following closure and final reclamation, the site will support the multiple uses of livestock grazing, wildlife habitat, and recreation. The identified post-closure land uses will conform to the BLM Elko Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Elko County ordinances.

The goals of the reclamation program are as follows:

- Provide a stable post-mining landform that will support defined land uses;
- Minimize erosion and protect water resources through stormwater runoff control;
- Establish post-reclamation surface soil conditions conducive to the regeneration of a stable plant community through stripping, stockpiling and reapplication of growth media;
- Revegetate disturbed areas with a diversity of plant species to establish productive long-term plan communities compatible with post-mining land uses;
- Maintain public safety by stabilizing or limiting access to man-made landforms that could constitute a public hazard; and,
- Maintain continued enjoyment and visitation of Tosawihi Quarries for Western Shoshone and other people.

3.3 GROWTH MEDIA STOCKPILING AND SALVAGE

Where possible, growth media will be removed from areas to be affected by any new Hollister Mine surface facilities. The material will be stockpiled for final reclamation and protected from wind and water by seeding and establishment of a vegetation cover to minimize any erosion. During the first full planting season following the development of the growth media stockpile, the stockpile will be seeded with a seed mixture developed from the list set forth in **Table 6, Reclamation Plant List**.

Table 6 - Reclamation Plant List

Common Name	Species Name
Grasses	
Bluebunch wheatgrass	*Pseudoroegneria spicatum*
Thickspike wheatgrass	*Elymus lanceolatus*
Western wheatgrass	*Pascopyrum smithii*
Crested wheatgrass	*Agropyron cristatum*
Slender wheatgrass	*Elymus trachycaulus*
Sandberg bluegrass	*Poa sandbergii*
Canby bluegrass	*Poa canbyi*
Big bluegrass	*Poa ampla*
Great Basin wild rye	*Leymus cinereus*
Indian ricegrass	*Oryzopsis hymenoides*
Webber ricegrass	*Oryzo[psis webberi*
Idaho fescue	*Festuca idahoensis*
Sheep fescue	*Festuca ovina*
Green needlegrass	*Stipa vindula*
Bottlebrush squirreltail	*Elymus elymoides*
Sand dropseed	*Sporobolus cryptandrus*
Alkali sacaton	*Sporobolus airoides*
Forbs	
Cicer milkvetch	*Astragalus cicer*
Northern sweetvetch	*Hedysarum boreale*
Buckwheat	*Eriogonum spp.*
Common sainfoin	*Onobrychis vicciaefolia*
Annual ryegrass	*Lolium perenne spp. Multiflorum*
Western yarrow	*Achillea millefolium*
Blue flax	*Linum lewisii*
Small burnet	*Sanguisorba minor*
Gooseberry leaf globemallow	*Sphaeralcea grossulariaefolia*
Scarlet globemallow	*Sphaeralcea coccinea*
Desert globemallow	*Sphaeralcea ambigua*
Arrowleaf balsamroot	*Balsamhoriza saggitata*
Palmer penstemon	*Penstemon palmeri*
White sweetclover	*Melilotus alba*
Alfalfa	*Medicago sativa*
Shrubs	
Wyoming big sagebrush	*Artemisia tridentata ssp. Wyomingensis*
Big sagebrush	*Artemisia tridentate*
Black sagebrush	*Artemisia nova*
Antelope bitterbrush	*Purshia tridentate*
Serviceberry	*Amelanchier (ainifolia) utahensis*
Winterfat	*Ceratoides lanata*
Chokecherry	*Prunus virginiana*
Snowbrush	*Ceanothus spp.*
Fourwing saltbrush	*Artiplex canescens*
Prostrate kochia	*Kochia prostrate*
Rubber rabbitbrush	*Chrysothamnus nauseosus*
Currant	*Ribes spp.*
Wood rose	*Rosa woodsii*
Snowberry	*Symphoricarpos spp.*

Source: Bureau of Land Management

3.4 SEED MIXES

Prior to seeding, disturbance areas will be recontoured, surfaces will be ripped or scarified (where conditions warrant), and growth media will be redistributed. Where possible, seedbed preparation will be performed prior to seeding to allow seed placement prior to soil compaction. Seedbed preparation will consist of scarification. Seed will be applied with either a rangeland drill or with mechanical broadcaster and harrow, depending on accessibility. A hand-held broadcaster will be used on minor disturbed areas such as drill pads or access roads. Seedbed preparation and seeding will take place in the fall after grading and growth media replacement.

A reclamation seed mixture and application rate will be crafted for specific areas based on reclamation experience at other mining and exploration operations in northern Nevada and agency requirements. See **Table 6, Reclamation Plant List**. The actual mixture will be BLM-approved and will be selected to provide forage and cover species similar to the pre-disturbance conditions, facilitating the post-mining land uses of livestock grazing and wildlife habitat. In addition, the actual seed mixture will be determined based on the species' effectiveness in providing erosion protection, the ability to grow within the constraints of the low annual precipitation experienced in the region, its suitability for site aspect, and the elevation and soil type. Broadcast seeding will be conducted at 1.5 to 2 times the proposed seed application rate for a rangeland drill.

The species selected for reclamation will be dependent on availability and cost, and will be applied at a rate ranging from approximately 11 to 15 pounds PLS (pure live seed) per acre. Modifications in the seed list, application rates, cultivation methods, and seeding techniques could occur based on success of concurrent reclamation. Seedlings may be substituted for seeds. The seed mix selected will represent a reclaimed desired plant community, and the mix will be appropriate for each ecological site in the project area.

3.5 NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT

RCG will continue to maintain its noxious weed monitoring and control program for the Hollister Mine. RCG uses the results of the annual monitoring program to update the plan and develop annual treatment programs. RCG actively monitors and manages weed populations at the Hollister site using prevention, training, monitoring and eradication techniques. Disturbed ground is kept to a minimum to discourage weeds from establishing.

Noxious Weed and Non-Native Invasive Plant Control. Invasive and noxious weeds can assault disturbed areas, both in the short and long term. Scotch thistle *(Onopordum acanthium L.*) has been identified around the Hollister Project site. RCG proposes a noxious weed program to identify and treat Scotch thistle and other noxious and invasive weeds. RCG's noxious weed and non-native invasive plant species management program consists of the following general measures:

- Hand pulling and/or hand digging may be used to remove noxious weeds.

- BLM-approved herbicides will be used to prevent and restrict the spread of noxious and invasive weeds.
- Earthmoving equipment will be washed before mobilizing onto the site for exploration and construction operations.
- Areas traversed by equipment, including water trucks and pickup trucks, will be inspected for noxious weeds and appropriately treated.
- Certified noxious weed-free mulch and seed mixtures will be used to reclaim disturbed areas and control the spread of invasive and noxious weeds.
- Noxious weed and non-native invasive plant monitoring and control will be implemented during operations and until the BLM releases RCG from reclamation responsibility at the Hollister Mine site.

3.6 HOLLISTER MINE FACILITY RECLAMATION

Surface disturbance associated with underground mining activities will be contoured and vegetated and returned to the configuration shown on **Figure 12, Post-Mining Topography**. During reclamation, the side slopes of the WRSFs will be graded to achieve an average final slope not steeper than 2.5 horizontal to 1 vertical (2.5H:1V). Water treatment ponds will be reclaimed by folding in the pond liners to create an envelope. Pond areas then will be backfilled, regraded to blend with adjacent topography, and covered with 12 inches of growth media, where possible.

3.6.1 Drill Hole and Water Well Abandonment

RCG will abandon and plug exploration drill holes, water wells, and water monitoring wells in accordance with NAC 534 regulations. Exploration drill holes, as well as drill holes used for water monitoring, production, or dewatering, will be abandoned according to State of Nevada regulations. As appropriate to prevent possible contamination between different water zones in drill holes, RCG will seal water-bearing zones to comply with the requirements of the NDWR. In addition, each drill hole, water well, and monitoring well collar will be plugged or sealed to prevent surface water of foreign objects from entering the drill hole.

3.6.2 Closure of Underground Operations

Underground facilities will be closed in phases starting at the lowest point of the underground mine working up to the surface.

Removal of water management equipment will consist of the following steps in accordance with applicable rules and regulations:

- Dewatering holes and core holes will be cemented.
- Underground and surface piping, pumps, tanks and pumping equipment will be removed and salvaged, or disposed of in an approved waste disposal facility.
- Piping that cannot be salvaged for reuse will be dismantled as required for backfill placement and left underground.

- Fans, motors, pumps, compressors, power supply, electrical distribution equipment, ventilation curtains and ducts, and other equipment will be removed, as practicable, and salvaged for use at another facility or disposed of in an approved waste disposal facility.
- Non-reactive equipment (e.g., HDPE pipe) may be left underground.
- Remaining fuel, lubricants and explosives will be removed from the underground workings and transported to other sites or disposed of according to federal and state standards and regulations.

To prevent future access to underground workings, the Hollister site portal, production shaft, and escape raises will be closed and sealed upon permanent cessation of mining operations in a manner similar to the detail shown on **Figure 13, Portal Closure**, and **Figure 14, Escape Raise and Shaft Closure**.

A concrete, cemented cinder block or similar constructed bulkhead will be installed inside the portal. The portal area will be backfilled with waste rock material, extending from the portal bulkhead to outside the actual portal. A permanent informational plaque will be erected at the portal to identify the site.

The production shaft and escape raises will be closed and sealed with engineered concrete plugs, consisting of reinforced concrete slabs placed on firm ground over the opening and anchored into solid bedrock. These concrete plug structures will be constructed as follows:

- An I-beam will be placed over the opening.
- A ½-inch thick steel plating will be welded to the framework.
- A concrete plug (6-inches thick) will be poured on top of the steel plate and reinforced with rebar.
- 4 to 5 feet of non-PAG rock will be placed on top of the concrete. An additional 10 to 15 percent volume of material will be placed to allow for possible future settlement. This rock material will then be graded to provide for drainage away from the covered opening.
- 6 to 18 inches of growth media will be placed on top of the non-PAG rock.
- The site will be seeded with the BLM-approved mixture.

3.6.3 Reclamation of Waste Rock Facilities

The reclamation goals for the RCG WRSFs include stabilizing slopes, ensuring mass stability, shaping the edges to minimize visual impacts, revegetating surfaces and erosion control. Reclamation of the WRSFs will entail the following:

- Lime or dolomite amendments to the PAG material in a ratio approved by BLM.
- Shaping the entire area to geomorphically stable configuration to ensure proper and positive drainage and to ensure that no ponding occurs on, behind and around the WRSF.

- Use of an appropriate soil evapotranspiration (ET) cover of 36 inches of non-PAG cover material over the PAG waste rock material to reduce or eliminate infiltration of water and oxygen.
- Use of 6 to 12 inches of growth media cover placed over the ET cover.

As areas of WRSF reach their ultimate configuration and become inactive, the waste rock facility face will be regraded. After regrading, the surface and sides of the WRSF will be covered with non-PAG material and growth media, and seeded with the BLM-approved seed mixture to meet the post-mining land use objectives. RCG will maintain positive drainage at toe and transition crest areas, with grades of 2% or greater. To minimize erosion until vegetation is established, RCG will use silt fences, sediment traps, waddles, or other appropriate best management practices (BMPs).

3.6.4 Reclamation of Roads and other Compacted Areas

RCG will rip or disk compacted areas such as roads, parking lots and the East Pit facilities area, or otherwise leave these areas in a roughened condition prior to growth media material replacement and revegetation. Typically, a motor grader, with a scarifier unit, will be used to "rip" the compacted areas. Given the cultural sensitivity of the area, RCG will consult with and get approval from the BLM prior to ripping any road outside of the areas disturbed by the past surface mining operations.

Upon permanent closure, the Ivanhoe and Little Antelope roads will remain, but RCG will no longer maintain these roads, so they will revert to their pre-mining nature. RCG will remove any mile markers, fences, guardrails, and signs upon permanent closure.

3.6.5 Demolition and Disposition of Buildings and Ancillary Facilities

During final mine closure, salvageable equipment, instrumentation and personal property will first be removed from the site prior to actual removal of structures and facilities. Temporary trailers and structures will be dismantled or demolished, and materials will be salvaged or disposed of in permitted off-site landfills. After demolition and salvage operations have been completed, RCG will regrade, scarify and cover the disturbed sites with grow media material, and reseed the site.

Unless ongoing post-mining use is authorized by BLM at the close of reclamation, project site structures and other facilities will be demolished and/or dismantled and removed from the site at the time of permanent closure. This will include office and maintenance structures, the compressor facility, water and fuel storage tanks, generators, substation, switchgear, powerline, temporary trailers, and ancillary and storage facilities.

With facility closure, the sewage system and associated tanks will be decommissioned. Sewage remaining in the septic tanks will be pumped out by a licensed contractor and hauled to an appropriate site for disposal. Exposed components of the sewage system will be dismantled and

buried at a minimum depth of 5 feet in the existing RCG WRSF or removed from the site and disposed of in an approved site.

Upon permanent mine closure, pumping of water from the underground operation will cease, and water will be allowed to fill the workings. Given that the pre-exploration groundwater (potentiometric) surface was beneath the portal levels, post-mining groundwater levels will not reach the portal, thus there will be no discharge of groundwater to the surface.

Salvageable equipment and trailers will be moved to another project, sold, or properly disposed of off-site. Unsalvageable portions of any facilities, such as a concrete pad used at the office complex and the maintenance shop, will be broken up and buried on site, either in the bottom of the existing recycle ponds or within the final lifts of the WRSF. The burial would occur prior to final recontouring and would be at a depth suitable to ensure that the materials are not exposed in the future A minimum of 5 feet of cover will be placed over the concrete within the recycle ponds or the WRSF. Should the concrete be subjected to a hazardous substance or oil during the operations, a cleaner or polymer will be applied to neutralize any deleterious residue. If required, RCG will obtain a NDEP Class III landfill waiver prior to initiating this activity.

The Rodeo Creek substation and the switchgear facility will be disconnected, disassembled, and hauled off site. The transmission line will be removed upon permanent mine closure. Lines will be disconnected, reeled onto spools, and removed from the site. Poles will be cut at the base (below ground surface), loaded onto flatbed trucks and removed for disposal at an approved off-site location. Holes where structures once were will be filled or covered, then re-seeded with BLM-approved seed mixtures. Any two-track spur roads accessing pole sites will be scarified and seeded.

3.6.6 Reclamation of Stormwater and Surge Ponds

RCG will remove equipment and surface piping associated with stormwater and surge ponds. The pond liners will be folded into the pond bottom and overlain with concrete from building foundations to prevent liners from floating to the surface. These ponds will be graded to obtain positive drainage and to blend with the surrounding topography, covered with growth media material, and reseeded with a BLM-approved mixture.

The RIBs near Little Antelope Creek will be reclaimed. Concrete energy dissipation structures will be demolished and buried in the RIBs. RIBs will be refilled with overburden material (removed at the time of construction), graded to obtain positive drainage and to blend with the surrounding topography, covered with growth media, and seeded with a BLM-approved mixture. The buried pipeline between the mine and the RIBs will be plugged and abandoned in accordance with NAC 534. Any above-ground pipelines and valve boxes will be removed and properly disposed of on or off-site.

3.7 RIPARIAN MITIGATION

No disturbance of riparian habitat is proposed. Water released into Little Antelope Creek as part of a future NPDES permit may temporarily enhance the riparian vegetation within this drainage during the course of mining operations. Obviously, when the discharge is discontinued, riparian vegetation will revert to pre-discharge conditions.

3.8 WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES HABITAT REHABILITATION

The limited footprint of the Hollister Mine and the fact that most of the surface disturbance is confined to an area disturbed by an historical open pit mine, the project will not have a significant impact on wildlife habitat. Moreover, there are no fisheries habitats within the project area or in the Little Antelope Creek. Therefore, the Hollister reclamation practices do not include measures specifically designed to address wildlife or fisheries rehabilitation. However, one of the main objectives of the Hollister Mine reclamation plan is to consider that the area will be used by livestock and wildlife following exploration and mining activities.

3.9 TOPSOIL HANDLING AND APPLICATION

See Section 3.6, Hollister Mine Facility Reclamation.

3.10 REVEGETATION

See Section 3.6, Hollister Mine Facility Reclamation.

3.11 ISOLATION, REMOVAL AND CONTROL OF ACID-FORMING MATERIAL

The BLM and NDEP have previously approved an underground development waste rock management plan for the Hollister Project site that involves placement of waste rock into an engineered waste rock disposal facility. See the January 23, 2004 Hecla Plan of Operations and the 2008 WRSF Plan Amendment. The approved WRSF has the capacity to handle the waste rock to be generated during full production. Discussion on the geochemical nature of the underground waste rock material is set forth in the BLM 2004 Hollister EA document. Upon permanent closure of operations, RCG will reclaim the waste rock disposal facilities as described in **Section 3.6, Hollister Mine Facility Reclamation**.

3.12 REMOVAL OR STABILIZATION OF BUILDINGS, STRUCTURES AND SUPPORT FACILITIES

See Section 3.6, Hollister Mine Facility Reclamation.

3.13 POST-CLOSURE MANAGEMENT

Following site closure, RCG will conduct berm and site maintenance, site inspections, and any other necessary monitoring for the period of reclamation responsibility.

Post-mining groundwater quality will be monitored according to the requirements established by NDEP-BMRR, and included in the WPCP. Monitoring will consist of quarterly groundwater and surface water sampling, analysis, and reporting the NDEP-BMRR. After the post-reclamation monitoring period is complete, RCG will close and abandon monitoring wells in accordance with NDWR regulations.

RCG will monitor reclamation success annually for a minimum of three years following implementation and completion of revegetation activities, or until reclamation success has been achieved.

RCG will evaluate vegetative cover and species composition. Adjacent undisturbed vegetation communities and vegetation reference areas may be established to serve as a means of comparing project revegetation with natural vegetation. The reference area will be selected from representative undisturbed plant communities adjacent to the disturbed areas.

Vegetation cover will be estimated using a foliar and basal cover measured by the line intercept method. In addition, as part of the determination for successful revegetation of disturbed areas, the following guidelines will be considered:

- Successful establishment of the desired species;
- Evidence of vegetative reproduction processes;
- Evidence of overall site stability; and,
- Indication that revegetation cover of reclaimed sites is trending toward and/or matching the vegetation cover found in the adjacent reference area.

3.14 TOPOGRAPHIC MAP

See **Figure 12**, **Post-Mining Topography,** for the post-mining topography of the Hollister mine site area.

3.15 ACREAGE DISTURBED

See **Table 1, Disturbed Area Comparison**.

3.16 PROSPECTING AND EXCAVATION TECHNIQUES

RCG will conduct surface exploration operations in accordance with previously-approved exploration techniques, as described in **Section 2.3, Description of Exploration Activities**.

3.17 POST-MINING LAND USE

The goal of reclamation activities will remain the same as previously approved by BLM and NDEP, that being post-mining land uses of grazing, wildlife habitat, mineral exploration activities, and dispersed recreation. See **Section 3.2, Post-Mining Land Use and Reclamation Goals**.

3.18 PROPOSED RECLAMATION SCHEDULE

See **Figure 16, Hollister Reclamation Schedule**.

3.19 PROPOSED POST-MINING TOPGRAPHY

See **Figure 12, Post-Mining Topography**.

3.20 TECHNICAL CRITERIA FOR FINAL GRADIENT AND SLOPE STABILITY

As stated in **Section 3.6, Hollister Mine Facility Reclamation**, RCG will regrade and reshape disturbed areas as previously approved by BLM and NDEP. RCG will establish the final slopes of the waste rock stockpile facility at or less than 2.5 (horizontal) to 1 (vertical). In reclamation of the waste rock and heap leach slopes at the past surface mining operation, a reclaimed 2.5:1 slope has proven to be stable.

3.21 CONCURRENT RECLAMATION

Because the Hollister Mine is an underground mining operation, only minimal concurrent reclamation opportunities are present.

3.22 RECLAMATION CONSTRAINTS

Because the Hollister site reclamation work will be conducted in areas that have been previously disturbed by past surface mining activities, the major reclamation constraint will involve the scarcity of growth medium material. For reclamation of the WRSFs, RCG will import growth medium material as previously addressed.

3.23 ACCESS ROADS

See **Section 3.6, Hollister Mine Facility Reclamation**.

3.24 PREVENTION OF SEDIMENT LOADING

RCG maintains a stormwater plan that is designed to prevent sediment loading to nearby Little Antelope Creek. See **Section 2.15, Stormwater Plan**, and Appendix D, Stormwater Plan. In addition, RCG has installed an engineered mine water handling and management system that includes a de-silting facility, recycle ponds, and RIBs. See Section 2.16, Mine Water Handling and Management.

3.25 REVEGETATION AND WEED CONTROL

See **Section 3.6, Hollister Mine Facility Reclamation**.

3.26 DISPOSTION OF FACILITIES, EQUIPMENT AND ROADS

See **Section 3.6, Hollister Mine Facility Reclamation**.

3.27 SURFACE FACILITIES TO REMAIN AFTER RECLAMATION

RCG does not plan to leave any surface facilities following reclamation.

3.28 MONITORING

See **Section 4.0, Monitoring Plan**.

3.29 INSTREAM MINING RECLAMATION

No mining will be conducted in streams.

3.30 EFFECT ON FUTURE MINING

RCG does not plan any special effort to accommodate possible future mining. Upon permanent project closure, the site will be reclaimed.

3.31 EFFECT ON PUBLIC SAFETY

RCG will restrict public access into the Hollister mine site and will adhere to MSHA safety regulations. Given such access restrictions, compliance with MSHA regulations and the remoteness of the site, the effect on public safety is expected to be negligible.

Six main RCG company signs mounted on double wood posts are located on the route to the Hollister Mine and will be maintained during operations. These signs identify the Hollister Mine site, distance to the site from the sign location; they also provide instructions to tune to Channel 10 on citizens band radio for safety and informational information. The sign at the main gate directs visitors and vendors to check in at the Administration Office, and to wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). The signs are located at the following sites:

- Junction of Midas-Tuscarora road with State Highway 789;
- Junction of access road to Newmont Mining Corporation's Midas Mine and Tuscarora road;
- Junction of Midas-Tuscarora road and Ivanhoe road;
- Main gate;
- Mud Springs road gate; and,
- Junction of Dunphy road and Mud Springs road.

Other signs are located around the mine site on public lands. Within the East Pit, signs will demark safety hazards, security instructions, general information, traffic directions, flammable materials, waste products, no smoking, etc. Signs are placed where a potential hazard exists and/or as required by MSHA. Perimeter fencing will be signed indicating the safety concerns and the presence of an open pit.

3.32 WASTE ROCK RECLAMATION

See **Section 3.6, Hollister Mine Facility Reclamation**.

3.33 TALINGS POND RECLAMATION

No tailings pond facilities are proposed at the Hollister Mine.

3.34 HEAP LEACH PAD RECLAMATION

RCG does not propose any new heap leach pad facilities.

3.35 OPEN PIT RECLAMATION

No surface open pit mining is planned at the site. The Hollister site has been subjected to past open pit mining, and, to the extent possible, RCG is limiting future disturbance to areas that have been previously disturbed by historic surface mining activities.

During final reclamation, a physical barrier (e.g. berms, fencing or other appropriate barriers) will be installed along the East Pit crest area to control access by people, livestock, and large wildlife. Some barriers will be installed and maintained earlier in the mining operation when access is readily available. Post-mining open pit wall modifications to decrease slope angles are not proposed.

3.36 UNDERGROUND MINE RECLAMATION

See **Section 3.6, Hollister Mine Facility Reclamation**.

4.0 MONITORING PLAN

RCG will continue to use the monitoring measures that have been previously approved by BLM, NDEP and other agencies. The Hollister Project site is presently operating under existing federal and state permit approvals that require practices to reduce or avoid environmental impacts and to reclaim disturbed areas.

Monitoring measures and practices have been used at the Hollister site for over eight years, and these have been used successfully at other northern Nevada mining operations. As permits are renewed or new permits are obtained, RCG will incorporate appropriate new environmental mitigation and monitoring measures into its day-to-day operations at the site. In addition to the requirements set forth under the present BLM-approved Plan of Operation, following is a listing of other current major environmental permits:

- Water Pollution Control Permits
- Class I Air Pollution Control Permit (which is currently being revised and will be reissued as a Class II permit)
- Reclamation Permit
- Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
- Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan
- Industrial Artificial Pond Permit
- Hazardous Materials Storage Permit
- Public Water System Permit

RCG recognizes that environmental and reclamation measures used at mining operations are ever evolving and improving. RCG will take advantage of future opportunities to explore new environmental mitigation and reclamation techniques or to implement improved mitigation and reclamation measures; however, as appropriate, any such new or improved environmental and reclamation measures will receive approval from the BLM and/or NDEP, as appropriate.

RCG requests that the water monitoring wells previously permitted under the Ivanhoe surface exploration PoO be incorporated into this full production PoO Amendment. All wells included in this full production plan of operations amendment, including the wells permitted under the surface exploration plan of operations, are listed in Appendix E, Monitoring Well Completion Summary.

In addition to the existing monitoring wells listed in Appendix E, Monitoring Well Completion Summary, RCG may add up to 11 new groundwater monitoring wells and piezometers to better evaluate the hydrogeological characteristics of the site. Although these new water monitoring wells and piezometers are not required by NDEP at this time, RCG believes that they will add to the overall knowledge of the area's hydrology.

RCG also plans to install a new single well or piezometer in the vicinity of the WRSF to replace two monitoring wells that were abandoned to enlarge the WRSF. This new well will be primarily for water level information.

RCG may install two separate wells (one shallow and one deep) immediately down gradient from the southernmost stream sample location GBG-04. RCG may also install a pair of shallow and deep wells approximately one mile down gradient of the above described wells to measure the extent of potential migration, if any, of contaminants from the historic mining operations. Data from these wells will be used to monitor existing conditions down-gradient from the historic mining operations.

RCG may install a shallow water monitoring well north of the reclaimed heap leach facility to better measure the downstream effects, if any, of water entering Little Antelope Creek.

RCG may also add four to six piezometers in the Hatter area. These piezometers will allow expansion of the hydrologic information base in the Project area. These piezometers would be similar to the borehole (BH) wells currently located above the Clementine and Gwenivere veins. They would be drilled from approved exploration drill pads. See **Figure 15, Groundwater and Surface Water Monitoring Sites**.

5.0 INTERIM MANAGEMENT PLAN

Although RCG does not plan for a temporary or seasonal cessation of operations, circumstances beyond RCG control may require temporary cessation of operations at the Hollister Mine site. Cyclical production trends or slow-downs are unpredictable because they are due to a combination of circumstances including fluctuations in metal prices, labor disputes or costs, production costs, taxes, royalties, company profitability, regulatory constraints, and effects of national, political and economic influences.

5.1 STABILIZATION OF EXCAVATIONS AND WORKINGS

During any temporary cessation of operations, RCG will maintain the portals, raises and production shaft in a stabilized and protected manner, as well as in compliance with MSHA standards, which require ground control plans to be maintained for the operations.

5.2 ISOLATION OF CONTROL OF TOXIC OR DELETERIOUS MATERIALS

Because there will be no milling or ore processing activities at the Hollister Mine site, the presence of toxic or deleterious materials will be limited. During any periods of temporary cessation, the use of any diesel fuel and gasoline will decrease, as will the amount of lubricating oil, propane, antifreeze and miscellaneous solvents. However, RCG will continue to employ the same handling and environmental protection safeguards that are used during operations. No explosives will be used during temporary cessation of operations, and, as appropriate to meet MSHA and Department of Homeland Security standards, explosives will be removed from the site.

5.3 STORAGE OR REMOVAL OF EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIES AND STRUCTURES

Whether equipment or supplies will be removed from the Hollister Mine site will depend on the duration of the temporary cessation. At a minimum, RCG will maintain the necessary equipment and supplies necessarily to maintain safe conditions and the site in an environmentally-sound condition. RCG will not plan to remove any permanent structures from the site during periods of temporary cessation.

5.4 PROJECT AREA MAINTENANCE IN SAFE AND CLEAN CONDITION

RCG will maintain the Hollister Mine site in a safe and clean condition according to MSHA requirements and standards.

5.5 MONITORING DURING PERIODS OF NON-OPERATION

During any temporary cessation or period of non-operation, RCG will continue environmental monitoring on defined schedules, as outlined in appropriate approvals and permits. Environmental reports will be submitted in a timely manner. Regardless of the operating status of the mining, appropriate monitoring will be continued until compliance with permanent closure requirements are attained, unless modified by the appropriate regulatory authorities.

5.6 ANTICIPATED PERIODS OF TEMPORARY CLOSURE

No periods of temporary or seasonal closure are planned; however, in the event of a temporary cessation of mining activities, RCG will notify the BLM and NDEP of the temporary curtailment of the mining activities. This notification will include reasons for the shutdown and the estimated time frame for resuming production, as well as ongoing maintenance and monitoring measures to be employed during the temporary cessation of operations.

5.7 MAINTENANCE, SECURITY AND FINANCIAL GUARANTEE DURING PERIODS OF TEMPORARY CLOSURE

During any temporary shutdown, RCG will continue operational and environmental maintenance and security activities (as well as maintaining the appropriate financial guarantee) to assure the site meets permit stipulations and requirements for environmental protection.