



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Egan Field Office
HC33 Box 33500 (702 N. Industrial Way)
Ely, Nevada 89301-9408
http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/ely_field_office.html

In Reply Refer To:
3809 (NVL0100)
NVN-91957

September 4, 2013

Dear Interested Party:

You are receiving this letter because you have expressed interest in the following proposal or you have expressed interest in past Federal actions pertaining to public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Ely District.

The BLM Ely District, Egan Field Office is soliciting written comments regarding a Midway Gold US Inc. proposal to construct and operate a gold mine. Known as the Gold Rock Project, the proposed mine would be located on mining claims administered by the BLM. The BLM is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate all feasible and reasonable alternatives, and potential impacts of the proposed project.

The proposed project would be located in the southern Newark Valley and northern Railroad Valley, in White Pine County, Nevada, approximately 50 miles west of Ely and 30 miles southeast of Eureka. The proposed project would include an open pit; a heap leach pad and associated ponds, process facility, and refinery; a mill; a carbon-in-leach (CIL) plant; waste rock dumps; a tailings storage facility; water supply wells; haul roads; ancillary facilities; and a 69 kV transmission line. Electrical power would be obtained from Mt. Wheeler Power. For the Gold Rock Project, a 69-kV transmission line would be extended from the Pan Mine approximately 6 miles across the valley to tie into the west side of the Gold Rock Project electric system. Approximately 250 to 300 people would be employed during facility construction, and approximately 150 to 250 people would be employed during operations. Construction and operation of the mine would result in approximately 3,749 acres of disturbance that includes the previously authorized exploration disturbance of 267 acres. Upon completion of mining, the operation would be reclaimed.

Your comments will help guide development of the EIS, including the identification of relevant issues and possible alternatives. Written comments should be addressed to the BLM Ely District Office, HC 33 Box 33500, Ely, NV 89301, Attn: Dan Netcher. Comments should be postmarked or otherwise delivered to the Ely District Office by Monday, October 7, 2013, to ensure full consideration. Comments may also be faxed to Dan Netcher at (775) 289-1910 or submitted electronically to Gold_Rock_EIS@blm.gov. Please make your comments as specific as possible.

The BLM has scheduled three public scoping meetings in Nevada, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Dates and locations are:

- Tuesday, September 24, 2013, Bristlecone Convention Center, 150 Sixth Street, Ely
- Wednesday, September 25, 2013, Eureka Opera House, 31 S. Main St., Eureka
- Thursday, September 26, 2013, Best Western Plus Reno Airport Plaza, 1981 Terminal Way, Reno

A project webpage has been developed on the National NEPA Registrar web page at https://www.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/nepa/nepa_register.do. To navigate to this project webpage (from the link above), scroll down to and select “Nevada” in the “State(s)” list, this will populate the “Office(s)” list, select “NV-Egan FO”. Under “Fiscal Year(s)”, select “2013” and then click the “Search” button on the right of the screen. Find and select DOI-BLM-NV-L010-2013-0028-EIS to display the project webpage. Navigate through the project webpage using the links on the left. Scoping information can be found in “Home”.

The BLM will use the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) public participation requirements to assist the agency in satisfying the public involvement requirements under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (16 U.S.C. 470(f) pursuant to 36 CFR 800.2(d)(3). The information about historic and cultural resources of value within the area potentially affected by the proposed action will assist the BLM in identifying and evaluating impacts to such resources in the context of both NEPA and Section 106 of the NHPA.

Additional information is available online at <http://www.blm.gov/nv/>. Click on the Ely District map and then click on the Gold Rock Project under “In the Spotlight.” Project materials may also be viewed at the BLM Ely District Office, 702 N. Industrial Way, Ely, NV, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Pacific Time, Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – would be part of the public record for the project, and may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask the BLM in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we would be able to do so.

For more information, contact Dan Netcher, Project Manager, at (775) 289-1872 or dnetcher@blm.gov.

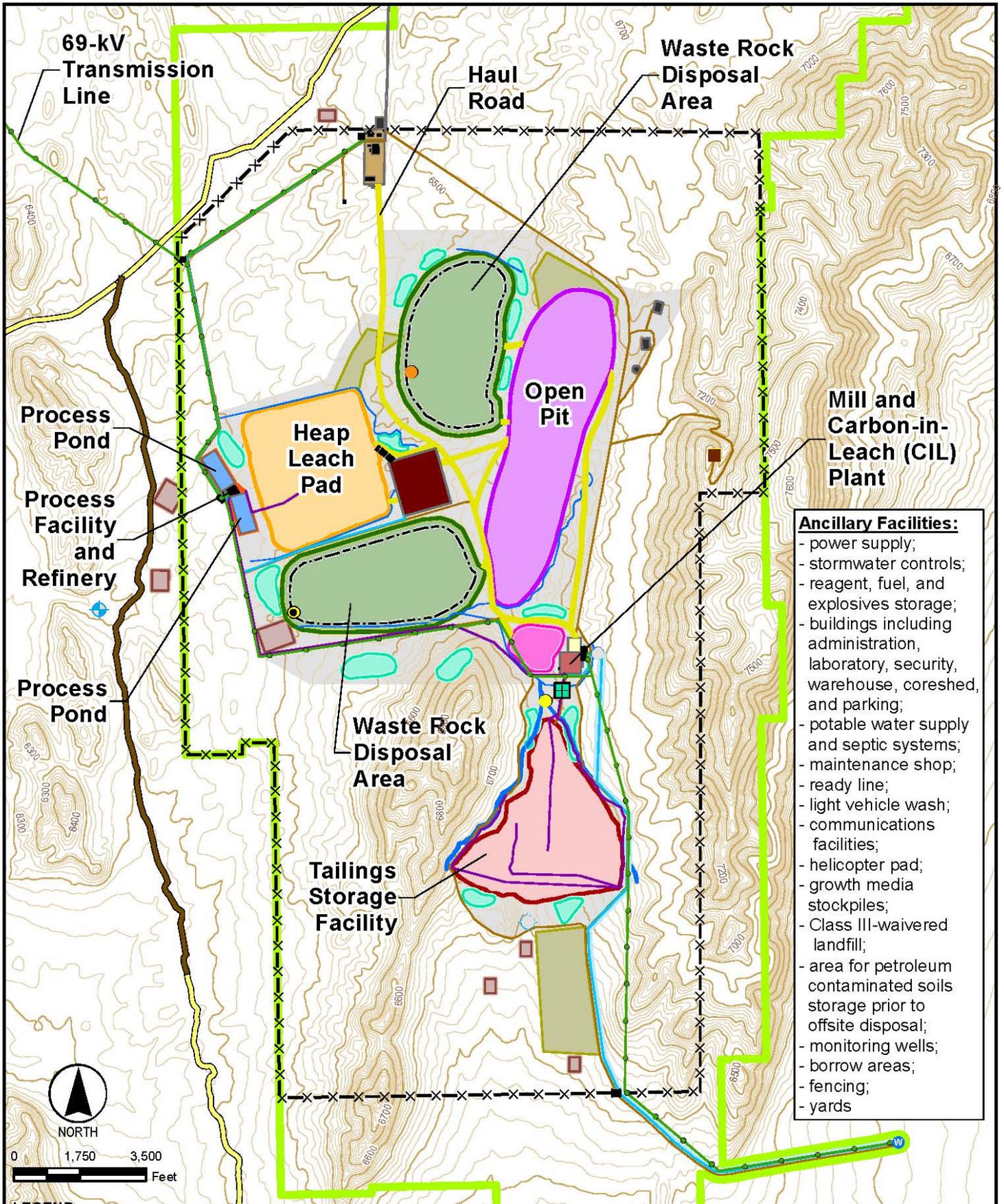
Sincerely,

/s/ Jill A. Moore

Jill A. Moore
Field Manager
Egan Field Office

Enclosures

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- Ancillary Facilities:**
- power supply;
 - stormwater controls;
 - reagent, fuel, and explosives storage;
 - buildings including administration, laboratory, security, warehouse, coreshed, and parking;
 - potable water supply and septic systems;
 - maintenance shop;
 - ready line;
 - light vehicle wash;
 - communications facilities;
 - helicopter pad;
 - growth media stockpiles;
 - Class III-waivered landfill;
 - area for petroleum contaminated soils storage prior to offsite disposal;
 - monitoring wells;
 - borrow areas;
 - fencing;
 - yards

LEGEND

WATER SUPPLY WELL	CRUSHING FACILITY	INTER-FACILITY
PROPOSED MONITORING WELL	CRUSHING AND AGGLOMERATION	EXISTING BLM ROAD
PLAN BOUNDARY	YARD	EXISTING COUNTY ROAD
FENCE/MINE PLAN BOUNDARY	GROWTH MEDIA STOCKPILE	WATER PIPELINE
POTENTIALLY ACID GENERATING WASTE ROCK BOUNDARY	STOCK PILE	DOUBLE WALL PIPE
	BORROW AREA	STORMWATER CONTROL
	SEDIMENT BASIN	SECONDARY ROAD

GOLD ROCK PROJECT EIS

Proposed Facilities