



United States Department of the Interior  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Winnemucca District Office  
Humboldt River Field Office  
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**NOV 12 2009**

In Reply Refer to:  
3809/1792

Dear Interested Public:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Humboldt River Field Office (HRFO) is seeking public input as it initiates an Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze a proposed mine expansion plan as proposed by Coeur Rochester, Inc. (Coeur) for the Coeur Rochester Mine, located 20 miles northeast of Lovelock, Nevada in Pershing County, Nevada.

The proposed action to be analyzed is the resumption of mining and leaching operations at the Rochester Mine. All proposed activities lie within the currently permitted plan of operations boundary and consisting of:

- Extending the existing Rochester Pit into the existing waste rock facilities located west and southwest by 38.6 acres.
- Constructing a 7 acre layback of the North Highwall within the currently approved pit disturbance boundary.
- Backfilling the lower portion of the Rochester Pit up to an elevation of 6,150 feet above mean sea level, in order to eliminate and preclude a pit lake.
- Construction and conceptual closure of a new heap leach pad, Stage III, resulting in 145.7 acres of new disturbance. Construction of a conveyor and pipeline corridor from the Tertiary Crusher to the Stage III heap leach pad and from the Stage III pad to the process plant, between the Rochester Pit and the existing Stage II heap leach pad.
- Constructing a buttress against the southeast pit wall in order to stabilize this portion of the pit wall to allow construction of a conveyor/pipeline corridor from Stage III heap leach pad to the process plant north of the pit.
- Constructing 2 new lined evaporation ponds at closure occupying approximately 6.5 acres.

Connected Actions:

- Consumption of existing leachate from existing pads during operation of Stage III.
- Conceptual closure of existing facilities in conjunction with the ongoing closure study plan which will lead to a final permanent closure plan.

The Environmental Impact Statement that the Winnemucca District was processing to analyze the impacts for the proposed mine expansion combined with mine closure has been terminated. The current EA will analyze impacts from the resumption of mining operations and expansion of mining related disturbances. A thorough analysis of mine closure will occur at a later date. A

closure study plan has been developed to acquire necessary data and is currently being implemented. Upon completion of the study plan, a final site closure plan will be submitted by Coeur and analyzed in detail.

The BLM is seeking public comment on the Coeur proposal. The 30-day public scoping period will extend from November 12, 2009, to December 11, 2009.

The BLM will hold two public open-house meetings on the proposal from 6-8 p.m. in Winnemucca, Nevada on Monday, November 30, 2009, at the Winnemucca Convention Center, West Hall, located at 50 West Winnemucca Blvd. and in Lovelock, Nevada on Tuesday, December 1, 2009, at the Lovelock Community Center located at 820 6<sup>th</sup> Street. Comment forms will be available at both meetings.

Comments may be submitted through December 11, 2009, to Mr. Bob Edwards, Attn: Coeur-Rochester Plan 8 Amendment EA, BLM Winnemucca District Office, 5100 E. Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca NV 89445-2921.

Comments may also be submitted by email to: [wfoweb@nv.blm.gov](mailto:wfoweb@nv.blm.gov). Email messages should reference "Coeur Rochester EA (Edwards)" on the subject line.

Public comments submitted for this project, including names and addresses of commenters will be available for public review at the WDO during regular business hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except federal holidays. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment-including personal identifying information-may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

If you need additional information please contact Bob Edwards, Project Manager, at the Winnemucca District Office at 775-623-1500.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey D. Johnson  
Field Manager  
Humboldt River Field Office

Enclosure

cc: State Director (NV-910, NV-920)

The Honorable Harry Reid  
United States Senate  
SH-522 Hart Senate Building  
Washington DC 20510-2803