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ITEM 146

[NV-020-4191-03]

Intent to Prepare Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a mining Plan of Operations (POO) for the Trenton Canyon Mine project, Humboldt and Lander Counties, Nevada; and notice of scoping period and public meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102 (2) (c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and to 43 CFR 3809, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will be directing the preparation of an EIS for the proposed gold mine expansion in Humboldt County and Lander County, Nevada. This EIS will be prepared by contract and funded by the proponent, Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation. A public meeting will be held to identify issues to be addressed in the EIS, and to encourage public participation in the review process. Representatives of the BLM and Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation will be summarizing the POO and accepting comments from the audience. The BLM invites comments and suggestions on the scope of the analysis.

DATE: A scoping meeting will be held September 24, 1996 at the Office of the Bureau of Land Management, 5100 E. Winnemucca Boulevard, Winnemucca, Nevada from 7-9 p.m. Written comments on the Plan of Operations and the scope of the EIS will be accepted until October 15, 1996. The Draft EIS is expected to be completed by the end of May, 1997, at which time the document will be made available for public review and comment.

ADDRESS: Scoping comments may be sent to: District Manager, 5100 E. Winnemucca Boulevard, Winnemucca, Nevada 89445; ATTN. Rod Herrick, Project Manager.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rod Herrick, 5100 E. Winnemucca Boulevard, Winnemucca, Nevada 89445 (702) 623-1500.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation of Albuquerque, New Mexico has submitted to the Winnemucca District Office of the BLM, a P00 for expansion of the Trenton Canyon Mine. The P00 describes proposed expansion of Trenton Canyon Project mining operations onto public land in Humboldt and Lander Counties, Nevada. The mining operation was previously permitted on fee land by permit from the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. About 122 million tons of oxide overburden and interburden will be removed to mine about 30 million tons of oxide ore. The proposed expansion would result in additional disturbance to public and private lands of approximately 1,872 acres. Future key

production facilities would include mine pits, waste rock disposal piles, heap leach pads, solution/overflow ponds, access and haul roads, and a carbon-column circuit. Loaded carbon will be transported to the nearby Lone Tree Mine for gold stripping. Nonprocessing ancillary facilities to support the mine would include an office, shop, warehouse, water supply system, sewage system, electrical distribution system, propane system, bioremediation cells, barrel handling facilities, and explosives magazine, and various materials storage areas.

The EIS will address the issues of geology, minerals, soils, water resources, vegetation, wildlife, grazing management, air quality, aesthetics, cultural resources, paleontological resources, land use, access, recreation, social and economic values related to the mine expansion.

Federal, state, and local agencies and other individuals or organizations who may be interested in or affected by the BLM's decision on the POO are invited to participate in the scoping process. The Authorized Officer will respond to public input and comment as part of the final EIS. The decision regarding the proposal will be recorded as a Record of Decision, which is subject to appeal under 43 CFR part 4.

Dated: September 4, 1996

Ronald B. Wenker

District Manager, Winnemucca