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United States Department of the Interior

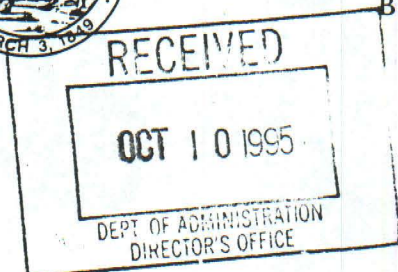
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ITEM 45

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Tonopah Resource Area
Building 102 Military Circle
P.O. Box 911
Tonopah, Nevada 89049

IN REPLY REFER TO:
N65-88-009P
3809
(NV065.31)



RECEIVED

OCT 17 1995

OCT -6 1995

Dear Interested Party:

NBMG Information Office

The following documents are enclosed for your information:

- Signed Finding of No Significant Impact and Decision Record (FONSI/DR)
- Plan of Operation Approval Decision
- Bond Determination Decision

Approximately one month ago, you were sent a copy of the Environmental Assessment for the Bonanza Mountain Project for your review and comment. Several letters were received and your interest and responses are appreciated. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has reviewed the letters and determined that interested parties had concerns regarding cultural resources, protection of plants, protection of bats, public safety, and post-mining recreation. These concerns were considered valid and in several instances the BLM contacted the writer for clarification or additional details.

The BLM has made additions to the Conditions and Mitigating Measures of the FONSI/DR. The BLM has concluded that with these additions, the level of analysis contained in the Environmental Assessment is appropriate and the document does not require re-writing. The Environmental Assessment, with the additions to the Conditions and Mitigating Measures, is accepted as complete and the FONSI/DR, Bond Determination Decision and Plan of Operation Decision have been executed. You have the right to appeal the Bond Determination Decision and Plan of Operation Decision using the appeal procedures identified in 43 CFR 3809.4.

If you have any questions, please contact Gordon Pine at (702) 482-7800.

Sincerely,

for Theodore J. Angle
Area Manager

3 Enclosures: As listed above

Finding of No Significant Impact
and
Decision Record
for
Bonanza Mountain Project
Nye County

Environmental Assessment NV065-EA95-83
Casefile N65-95-002P

October, 1995

Decision: I have reviewed the environmental assessment for the Bonanza Mountain Project proposed by Barrick Bullfrog, Inc., located in the Tonopah Resource Area. It is my decision to authorize this activity, with mitigating measures. I have determined that the proposed action described in the Plan of Operation and accompanying Reclamation Plan and the Mitigation Measures listed below, will not have any significant impacts on the human environment.

Finding of No Significant Impact: Based on the analysis of the potential impacts contained in the attached environmental assessment, I have determined that impacts are not expected to be significant and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

Rationale for Decision: The decision to allow the proposed action does not result in any unnecessary environmental degradation and is in compliance with the Esmeralda-Southern Nye Management Plan which states, "All public land is open to mineral entry and development unless previously withdrawn. Mineral exploration and development on public land will be regulated under 43 CFR 3809 to prevent unnecessary and undue degradation of the land".

Conditions and Mitigation Measures

1. Barrick Bullfrog, Inc. must obtain and comply with all federal, state and local laws and requirements that are applicable to this operation.
2. A reclamation bond of \$121,924.00 must be approved by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Nevada State Office (NSO) prior to commencing any mining related activities.
3. The Plan of Operation (PoO) (N65-95-002P) and related Reclamation Plan are considered an integral part of this Environmental Assessment and all conditions and statements in the PoO must be met.

4. The existing BLM sign identifying the "Historic Town of Rhyolite" must be moved and placed approximately 200' north of the haul road crossing. An additional sign, approximately 2' x 3', stating "Rhyolite ½ Mile Straight Ahead" must be placed 200' south of the haul road crossing.
5. To blend with the surroundings, all fence posts must be "brown" colored. No white-topped posts may be used.
6. All lights used for night activities must be shielded to reduce visibility from Highway 374. Excessive lights are prohibited; only lights necessary for a safe operation are permitted.
7. A cultural resources inventory has been completed. The inventory identified one site considered eligible for inclusion into the National Register of Historic Places. Protection of this site will be by avoidance, using physical barriers where necessary. The protection techniques, as proposed by the BLM, must have concurrence by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). A barbed wire fence will be constructed around the entire project. This fence will follow the Operation Boundary identified in Figure 1.3 of this Environmental Assessment. The fence will be at the northern and eastern edges of the pit rather than 300-400 feet from it as shown on Figure 1.3. To ensure avoidance of the old power plant site and the Tramp Mill a BLM archaeologist must be present during fence construction in these areas.
8. A 100 percent coverage survey to determine if desert tortoise were present in the project site was conducted. It was concluded that the proposed project would not likely adversely affect the desert tortoise. The BLM stipulations identified in the United States Fish and Wildlife Service letter of September 11, 1995, are considered an integral part of this Environmental Assessment.
9. The route of the abandoned Las Vegas and Tonopah railroad must be reestablished where it is covered by the waste dump. The width of the reestablished route must be a minimum of 10 feet. Reestablishment of this route does not imply access across private lands.
10. Speed limit of 25 MPH and warning signs of heavy equipment and truck crossing, must be placed 500 feet north and south of the haul road crossing along the county road which provides access to Rhyolite.
11. A C2 plant (Astragalus funereus) occurs on the eastern slopes of Bonanza Mountain. To protect this plant, vehicular traffic or surface disturbing activities should be avoided on the slopes north and east of the proposed pit boundary identified in Figure 1.3 of this Environmental Assessment.

12. All fishhook cactus occurring in the area of proposed surface disturbance must be removed and transplanted to reclaimed areas at the Bullfrog or Montgomery-Shoshone Mines.
13. A bat survey of the area has been conducted. The survey, done in conjunction with Nevada Division of Wildlife, recommended closure methods (temporary or permanent) to prevent entombment or reentry. The recommendations of that survey are considered an integral part of this Environmental Assessment and must be implemented prior to disturbance of any bat-bearing mine workings.

Lola L. W. Simpson (acting)
Tonopah Resource Area Manager

10/6/95
Date



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
BATTLE MOUNTAIN DISTRICT
OFFICE

2nd & Scott Street
P.O. Box 1420
Battle Mountain, NV 89820



IN REPLY REFER TO
N65-95-002P
3809
(NV065.31)

CERTIFIED MAIL Z 203 969 176
Return Receipt Requested

OCT -6 1995

DECISION

Lennie Boteilho
Barrick Bullfrog, Inc.
P.O. Box 519
Beatty, NV 89003

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:
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43 CFR Surface
Management Regulations

PLAN OF OPERATION APPROVED

Barrick Bullfrog, Inc. (Barrick) Plan of Operation (N65-95-002P), filed pursuant to 43 CFR 3809, for the Bonanza Mountain Project was received at the Tonopah Resource Area office on June 6, 1995.

The proposed operation will occur on private land and public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The operation will be similar to the Montgomery-Shoshone operation. Ore will be removed from a new open pit and trucked via a new haul road to the existing mill. Waste will be placed adjacent to the pit. Total surface disturbance will be 76 acres.

A reclamation plan was included with the Plan of Operation. The former was reviewed by BLM specialists and revisions made in July, 1995. The BLM has determined that a bond amount of \$121,924.00 would cover the cost of reclamation identified in the reclamation plan. No cyanide is directly associated with this Plan of Operation. The average cost of reclamation of this project is less than \$2000.00/acre, therefore, it is not eligible for bond reduction. A separate bond determination decision has been prepared.

The Environmental Assessment (EA), file number NV65-EA95-083, was sent to the State of Nevada Clearinghouse and interested parties on August 30, 1995 for their review and comment. BLM resource specialists have reviewed the Plan and EA and have determined that the documents are technically adequate.

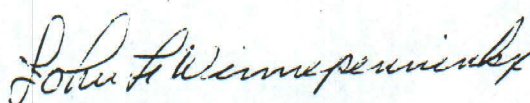
Approval of the Plan of Operation in no way implies the validity of the mining claims or the economic viability of the operation. Any modification to the approved Plan of Operation must be coordinated with and approved by this office.

All operators must comply with applicable Federal and State laws dealing with the storage and disposal of chemicals, petroleum, petroleum products, Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA) Subtitle C hazardous wastes, and RCRA Subtitle D solid wastes. Under no circumstances can chemicals, petroleum, petroleum products or RCRA Subtitle C hazardous wastes be disposed in solid waste disposal areas at the mine without the written approval of the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection.

The operator must identify what waste products will be produced, whether the waste streams are hazardous or solid, and the disposal method and location. If hazardous wastes are generated, the operator must obtain an Environmental Protection Agency generator identification number from the State Division of Environmental Protection and must manifest all shipments off-site. Copies of the manifests must be available for the Authorized Officer's inspection.

You have a right to appeal this decision to the Nevada State Director, Bureau of Land Management, in accordance with 43 CFR 3809.4. If you exercise this right, your appeal must be filed in writing, accompanied by a statement of reasons and any arguments you wish to present, which would justify reversal of or modification of the decision. Your appeal must be filed at the Bureau of Land Management, Battle Mountain District Office, P.O. Box 1420, Battle Mountain, NV 89820, within 30 days after the date of the receipt of this decision. This decision will remain in effect during appeal unless a written request for a stay is granted.

If you have any questions, please contact Gordon Pine at (702) 482-7800.



John Winnepenninkx
for the District Manager

cc: See attached list



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
BATTLE MOUNTAIN DISTRICT
OFFICE

2nd & Scott Street
P.O. Box 1420
Battle Mountain, NV 89820



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CERTIFIED MAIL Z 203 969 175
Return Receipt Requested

OCT -5 1995

DECISION

Lennie Boteilho	:	
Barrick Bullfrog, Inc.	:	43 CFR 3809
P.O. Box 519	:	Surface Management
Beatty, NV 89003	:	

BOND DETERMINATION

This decision establishes the bond value for the Barrick Bullfrog, Inc. Bonanza Mountain Project, N65-95-002P. Prior to commencement of operations, you must file a bond, or financial instrument, with the Branch of Land and Mineral Operations, NV 943, Nevada State Office, Bureau of Land Management. All correspondence related to this bond should be referenced as N65-95-002P(A).

The bond value is set at \$121,924.00. This is an interim bond only and subject to revision. Revision may be required after the Bureau of Land Management and Nevada Division of Environmental Protection personnel have completed a detailed review of the reclamation plan.

You have the right to appeal to the Nevada State Direct, Bureau of Land Management, in accordance with 43 CFR 3809.4. If you exercise this right, your appeal, accompanied by a statement of reasons and any arguments you wish to present, which would justify reversal of or modification of the decision, must be filed in writing at this office with 30 days of receipt of this decision. This decision will remain in effect during appeal unless a written request for a stay is granted.

If you have any questions, please contact Gordon Pine at (702) 482-7800.

John Winnepenninkx
for the District Manager

cc: See attached list
Judy Moffitt, NV943
Connie Davis, NDEP