



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
ELKO DISTRICT OFFICE
3900 E. IDAHO STREET
P.O. BOX 831
ELKO, NEVADA 89801

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PRIDE IN
AMERICA

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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Dear Interested Party:

The Elko District Bureau of Land Management, in cooperation with Newmont Gold Company, will be preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on an amended Plan-of-Operations for the expansion of Newmont's Gold Quarry mine. Newmont Gold Company proposes to develop these facilities adjacent to its existing mine, located approximately seven air miles northwest of Carlin, in Eureka and Elko Counties, Nevada.

Newmont Gold Company's authorized operation includes an open-pit mine, tailing facilities, heap leach facilities, waste rock dumps, a milling complex as well as administrative and maintenance buildings. The proposal is to develop two new pits, expand and deepen the Gold Quarry Pit, enlarge existing waste dumps, develop new heap leach pads, construct a reservoir for water produced from dewatering of the Gold Quarry Pit, construct bioleaching pads, and develop new haul roads and additional ancillary facilities in order to maintain the current production levels of gold. Additional activities on private lands, including construction of a roasting unit for processing of carbonaceous and sulfide ores, will be undertaken. While part of the proposed expansion would be confined to previously disturbed areas, additional surface disturbance is anticipated on approximately 798 acres of public land and 1,604 acres of private lands. (A project summary is attached that provides additional detail).

The purpose of the proposed action is to allow for continued mining, milling and heap leaching of gold ore at the Gold Quarry Mine. The action would extend the operation of the existing mine for a period of approximately eight years. Without the expansion of the existing facilities, new gold deposits could not be developed.

The National Environmental Policy Act regulations have provided the Bureau of Land Management with the authority to direct the preparation of this EIS. In addition to any issues identified through the scoping process, it is anticipated that due to the anticipated dewatering requirements for the project (estimated to be 50,000 gpm at peak) the EIS will focus attention on five issues of special concern that Bureau specialists have identified as having potentially significant impacts. These five issues are:

- a) Surface and Groundwater Quality and Quantity;
- b) Mine Pit Water Quality;
- c) Threatened and Endangered Species;
- d) Wetland Vegetation; and
- e) Wildlife/Fisheries Resources.

The issues of cultural resources, reclamation, geology and minerals, hazardous materials, air quality, paleontology, social and economic values, recreation and wilderness, visual resources, soils and watershed, vegetation, grazing management, access and land use, and noise will also be analyzed. The cumulative effects of the proposed action will be evaluated in terms of each resource issue and with other activities within the areas of concern. The proposed project must meet or exceed all Federal, state, and local environmental regulations and standards.

A range of alternatives (including but not limited to alternative reclamation measures and the no action alternative), as well as mitigating measures, will be evaluated to identify the most appropriate means to minimize environmental impacts and to assure that the proposed action does not result in undue or unnecessary degradation of public lands.

The Elko District Bureau of Land Management is inviting public comment on this proposal for issues, concerns and opportunities that might exist regarding the mine's expansion. The issues, concerns and opportunities will subsequently be used to focus the preparation of the EIS.

Two scoping meetings are scheduled for the purpose of soliciting input from the public concerning the proposed mine expansion. Newmont Gold Company personnel will be on hand to formally present information regarding the amended Plan-of-Operations, as well as describe the existing mine, and to answer any questions.

The first meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on April 7, 1992 at the Elko District, Bureau of Land Management, 3900 East Idaho Street, Elko Nevada. The second meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on April 8, 1992, at the Holiday Inn on 1000 E. 6th Street, Reno, Nevada.

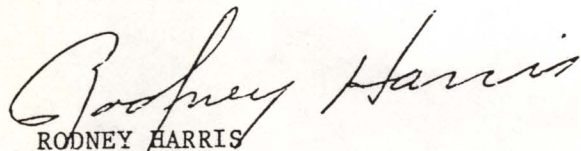
Comments will be received on the amended Plan-of-Operation during the public meetings scheduled in this bulletin. Written comments will also be accepted until the close of business on April 24, 1992. They should be mailed to:

District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Attention: Gold Quarry EIS Coordinator
P.O. Box 831
Elko, NV 89801

A draft Environmental Impact Statement should be available for public comment in December of 1992.

Should you have any questions, please contact Dave Vandenberg, Gold Quarry EIS Team Leader, at (702) 753-0200.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rodney Harris".

RODNEY HARRIS
District Manager

Enclosure:
Gold Quarry Mine Expansion Project Summary

GOLD QUARRY MINE EXPANSION PROJECT SUMMARY

Newmont Gold Company (Newmont) has proposed an expansion of its Gold Quarry Mine area, located in Elko County and Eureka County, Nevada, approximately seven miles north-northwest of the town of Carlin, Nevada. The general location of Newmont's operations is shown in Attachment 1, General Location Map. The Gold Quarry Mine expansion would be located both on private land owned by Newmont and on public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

Newmont's currently authorized operations in the Gold Quarry Mine area consist of the Gold Quarry Mine, mine dewatering, two milling facilities, two waste rock disposal areas, two tailing storage facilities, three leach pads, and various ancillary facilities.

The primary component of the proposed Gold Quarry Mine area expansion is the continued mining of the Gold Quarry orebody through the year 2002, to recover both refractory and oxide ores. The Gold Quarry pit would be expanded laterally, involving approximately 27 acres of public land and approximately 18 acres of private land. In addition, pit depth would be increased by approximately 800 feet.

As the Gold Quarry Mine is excavated to greater depths, it would extend further below the groundwater table, resulting in increased groundwater inflows to the mine. Dewatering operations are currently being conducted, resulting in limited flow volumes. As the proposed mining progresses during the period 1994 through 2002, required dewatering rates would increase, reaching a projected maximum of approximately 50,000 gpm. Total projected dewatering volume for the Gold Quarry Mine operations would be approximately 550,000 acre-feet. Because these dewatering flows would exceed the amount that Newmont can consume, Newmont proposes to transfer the excess dewatering flows through pipelines to a water treatment facility that Newmont would construct. The facility would treat the dewatering flows to the extent necessary to meet applicable effluent limitations and water quality standards.

The treated water would then be transferred through a pipeline to a storage reservoir to be constructed northeast of Maggie Creek.

Although various options for disposal of the excess dewatering flows are being examined, it is anticipated that the primary disposal method would be discharge to surface waters -- either to the Humbolt River or to Maggie Creek. An open flow channel would be constructed from the storage reservoir to the discharge point.

Disturbance associated with construction of the water treatment facility, reservoir, and discharge system would occur almost exclusively on private land, approximately 700 acres in total.

The oxide ores produced by continued mining at Gold Quarry would be processed in Newmont's existing Mill 5, located in the South Operations Area. Higher-grade refractory ore recovered from the Gold Quarry pit would be treated in a new beneficiation facility, incorporating roasters, to be constructed near Mill 2/5. An oxygen plant and a natural gas pipeline would be built to supply the new beneficiation facility. These facilities would be built entirely on approximately 165 acres of private land.

In addition, Newmont has under development a proprietary bio-oxidation process for the leaching of lower-grade refractory ores. Newmont therefore proposes to construct up to four new leach pads for the processing of refractory ores. Two of these leach pads would be built entirely on private land, occupying a total of approximately 250 acres. The other two leach pads would occupy approximately 153 acres of public land and 57 acres of private land.

The continued operation of the existing oxide milling facility and the construction of the new refractory ore beneficiation facility would result in the continued generation of tailings at the Gold Quarry Mine Expansion area. To accommodate these tailings, the existing Mill 2/5

Tailing Storage Facility would be expanded vertically approximately 130 feet, but no additional acreage would be disturbed. Disposal of waste rock from the Gold Quarry Mine would be accomplished through vertical and lateral expansions of the current South and North Waste Rock Disposal Areas. The expansion of the South waste rock area would involve approximately 24 acres of public land and 26 acres of private land, and would increase the height of the facility by approximately 110 feet. The expansion of the North waste rock area would involve approximately 38 acres of public land and 128 acres of private land, and would increase the height of the facility by approximately 100 feet.

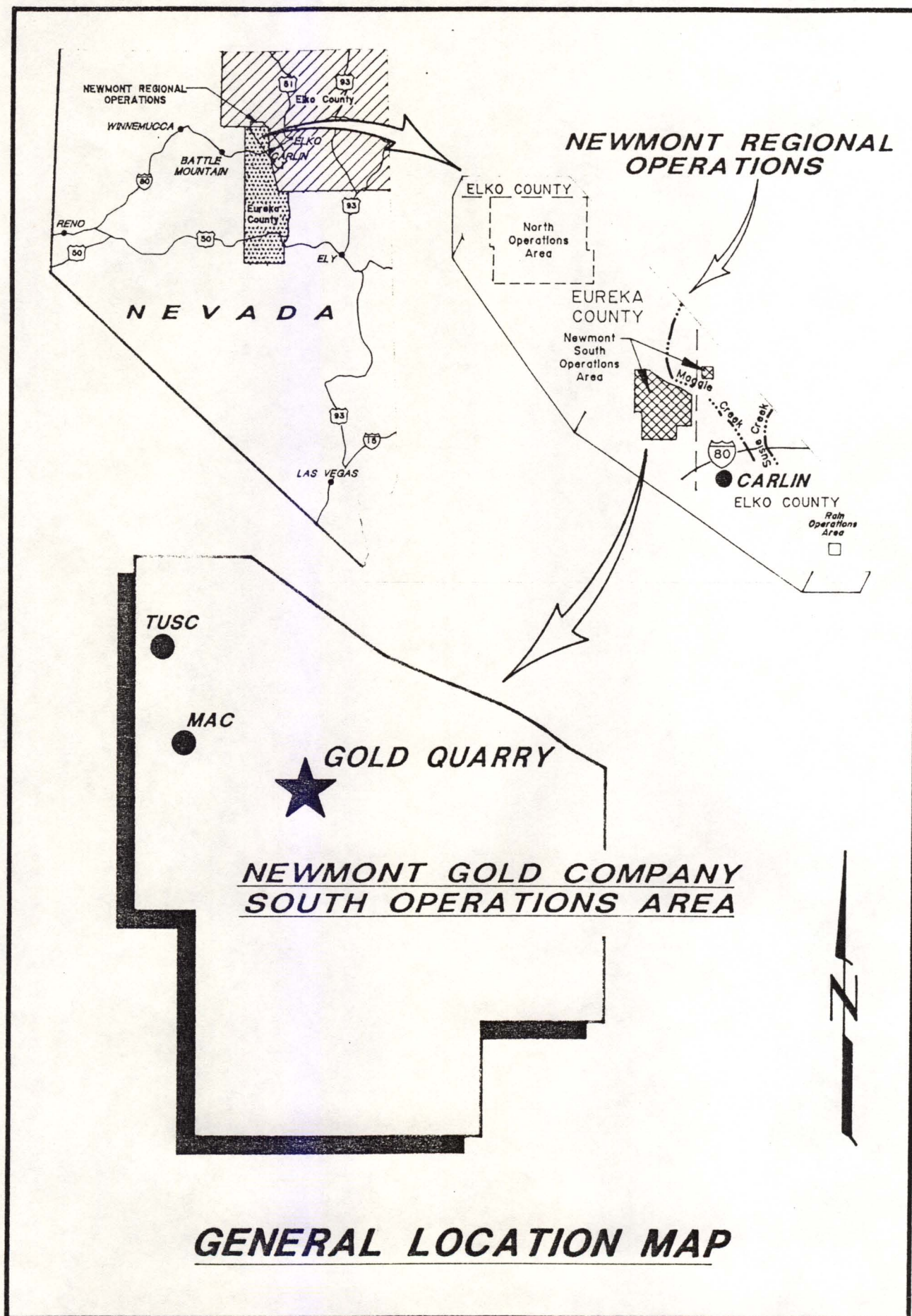
Newmont also plans to mine ore from the Tusc and MAC orebodies at some point during the period 1994-2002, depending upon available process capacity and market conditions. No dewatering of the Tusc and MAC pits would be required. The mining of Tusc and MAC would, however, require construction of three new waste rock disposal areas -- two adjacent to the Tusc pit and one adjacent to the MAC pit. New or upgraded roads and water pipelines may also be needed to accomplish mining in these two areas. The total acreage involved in the mining of Tusc and MAC would be approximately 534 acres of public land and 271 acres of private land.

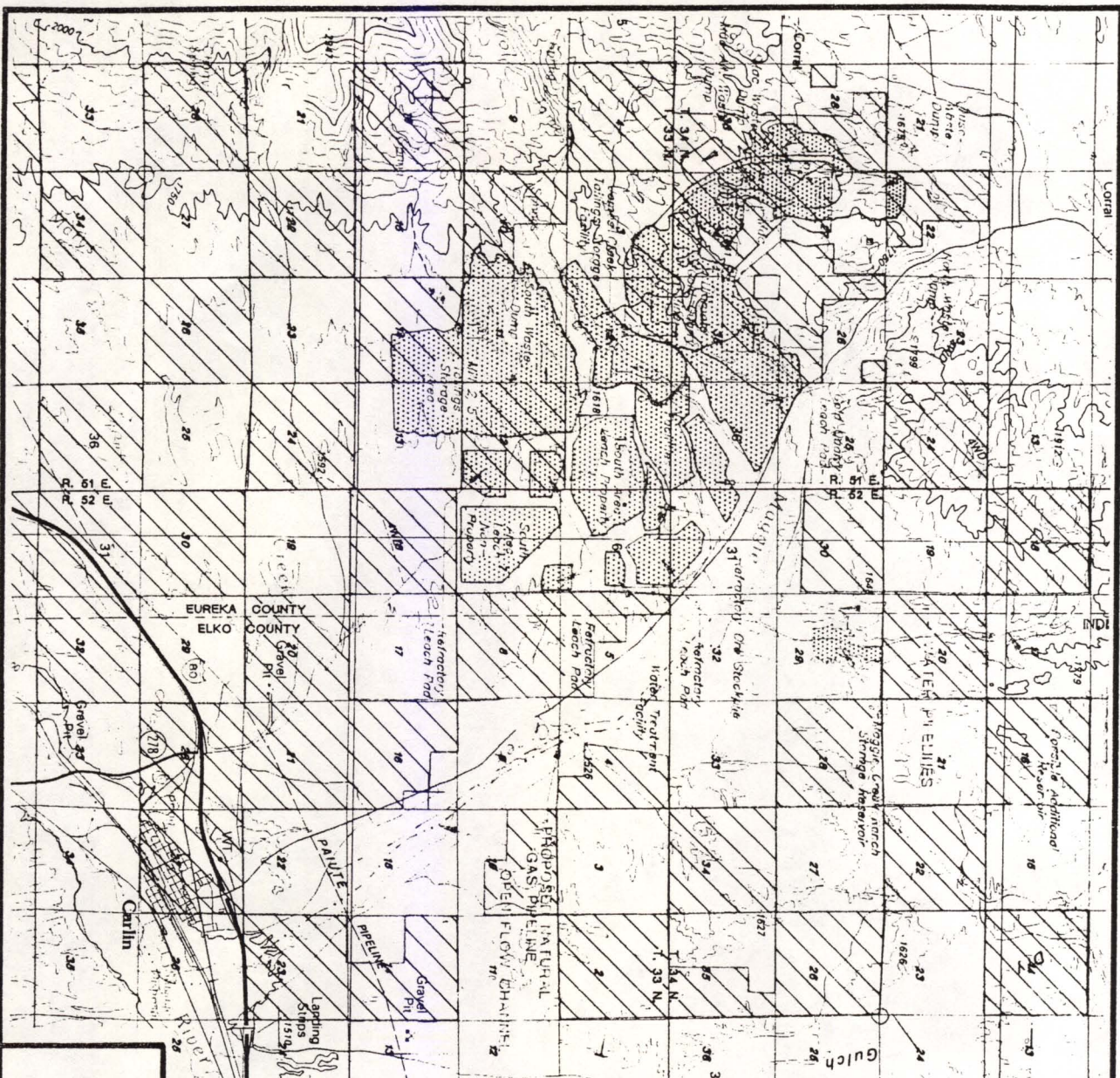
Other plans by Newmont include ongoing geologic evaluations in the Gold Quarry Mine area, both to further define the existing ore bodies, and to identify additional economically recoverable deposits. Virtually all this geologic evaluation would take place within the areas disturbed for the mining of Tusc and MAC and construction of related facilities.

Newmont currently employs approximately 1200 people in conjunction with its Gold Quarry Mine area, and its expansion plans should provide for stable long-term employment levels. Since 1984, Newmont has employed at various times 50-150 temporary employees in the Gold Quarry Mine area for certain projects. Newmont plans to employ up to a total of 500 temporary employees in the Gold Quarry Mine area during construction activities associated with the proposed expansion. The majority of






these temporary employees would be employed during the first two years of the expansion activities.

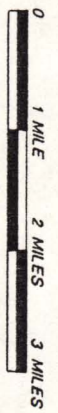
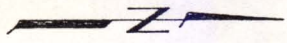
An overview map showing both Newmont's existing South Area facilities and the proposed new or expanded facilities is provided in Attachment 2, Gold Quarry Mine Proposed Project Area. The total expansion project would involve the additional disturbance of approximately 800 acres of public land, and 1600 acres of private land.





EXPLANATION

- 
 PROPOSED NATURAL GAS PIPELINE
- 
 OPEN FLOW CHANNEL
- 
 PUBLIC LAND
- 
 PRIVATE LAND
- 
 EXISTING & PROPOSED FACILITIES



**GOLD QUARRY MINE
PROPOSED
PROJECT AREA**