



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Carson City District Office
1535 Hot Springs Road
Carson City, Nevada 89706-0638
PH:(702) 885-6100

IN REPLY REFER TO:
3809 (NV030)
N36-96-001P

JUN 12 1996

Dear Interested Party:

The USDI Bureau of Land Management, Carson City District Office, Carson City, Nevada, in cooperation with Alta Gold Company, Fernley, Nevada and Washoe County, Nevada, will be preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the development of the Olinghouse Gold Mine. The proposed operation is an open pit, cyanide heap leach facility located approximately six miles west of Wadsworth, Nevada in Washoe County. Enclosed you will find the project description and maps for the proposal.

The Carson City District Bureau of Land Management is inviting public comment on this proposal to identify issues, concerns, and opportunities that may exist regarding the mine development. These comments will subsequently be used to focus preparation of the EIS.

An open-house meeting will be held July 3, 1996, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., in the Washoe County Commissioners Chambers, 1001 E. Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada. Representatives of Alta Gold Company, Washoe County, and the Bureau of Land Management will be available to answer questions about the proposed mine project.

Written comments regarding the proposal and the scope of the EIS will be accepted until July 19, 1996. Comments may be sent to:

District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
1535 Hot Springs Road
Carson City, NV 89706
Attn: Olinghouse Coordinator

If you have any questions, please contact Terri Knutson at (702) 885-6156.

Sincerely yours,

John O. Singlaub
District Manager

Enclosures: Project Description & Map

OLINGHOUSE PROJECT DESCRIPTION

LOCATION

The Alta Gold Company (Alta) proposed Olinghouse project area is located within the Pah Rah Mountain Range on federal and private lands in the Olinghouse Canyon area of southeast Washoe County, approximately six miles west of Wadsworth, Nevada (see maps).

The proposed project is located in portions of Sections 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 28, 29, 30, and 32, Township 21N, Range 23E, within the Olinghouse Mining District. Access to the proposed project is from Interstate 80 east from Reno to state route 447, the Wadsworth-Nixon Highway to the Olinghouse Road. The proposed project area is located approximately five miles from the intersection with state route 447.

PROPOSED ACTION

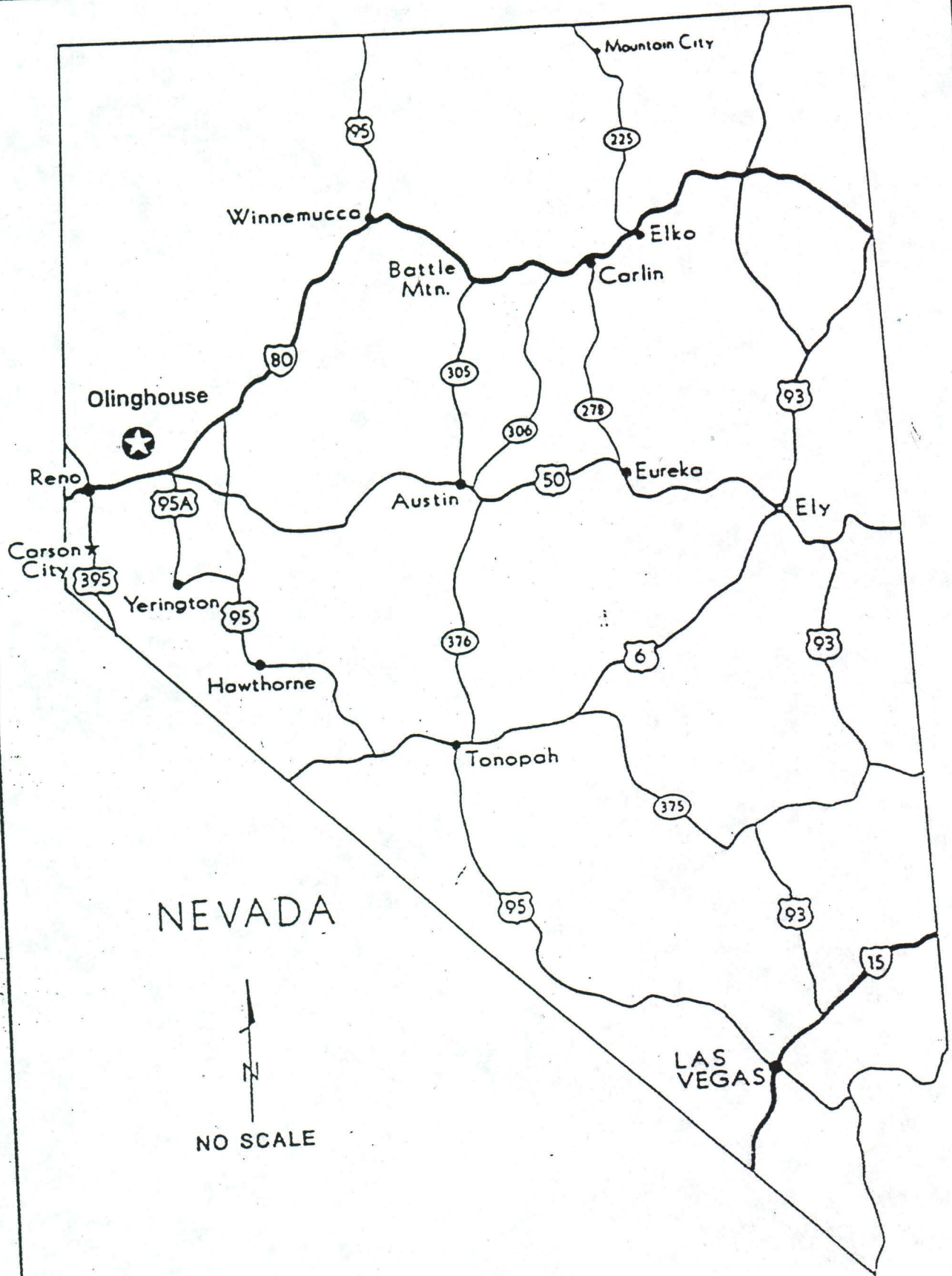
In the fall of 1994, Alta submitted a Plan of Operation for exploration drilling in the Olinghouse Mining District. An environmental assessment (EA) was completed and the decision record signed in May 1995. Alta has conducted exploration activities throughout the remainder of 1995 to the present.

Alta submitted a Plan of Operation to the Carson City District Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on April 1, 1996 for the development of a cyanide heap leach gold mine and facilities as well as further exploration activities within the Olinghouse Mining District. On April 18, 1996 the BLM accepted the plan as complete and notified Alta that an environmental impact statement (EIS) would need to be prepared to analyze the impacts of the proposed project.

The proposed Olinghouse Project consists of the following components: open pit with waste rock dumps (43,384,900 Tons), haul roads, ore crushing plant, ore agglomerating system, heap leach pad (9,655,400 Tons), pregnant and barren solution sumps fabricated of steel plate, one double-lined process solution pond or overflow pond, storm event pond, carbon adsorption plant, gravity milling plant, administrative office, mine equipment maintenance facility, analytical laboratory, fuel storage, reagent storage, emergency power generation plant, water pipelines and powerlines.

The proposed project area consists of 221 unpatented mining claims and 11 patented claims, all controlled or owned by Alta. There are approximately 4300 acres within the proposed project area and 465 acres within the actual area of disturbance on the mine site.

The expected life of the Olinghouse Mine is ten years of actual mining and another two years for completion of reclamation. Employment at the proposed operation is projected to be 117 full-time workers.



Location Map
Alta Gold Company

