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United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Battle Mountain District Office

50 Bastian Road

P.O. Box 1420

Battle Mountain, NV 89820

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DEPT. OF ADMINISTRATION
DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

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ITEM 98

MAY 31 1996

Dear Interested Party:

The Smoky Valley Common Operation is proposing to expand its mining operation at its Round Mountain Mine, located in Nye County, near Round Mountain, Nevada. The proposed project is located on public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management, Battle Mountain District (BLM) and the Toiyabe National Forest, Tonopah Ranger District (USFS). The BLM will be the lead federal agency on the proposed project. The proposed facilities would involve an expansion of two existing waste rock dumps (493 acres) and a layback of the existing open pit (128 acres), for a total disturbance of 621 acres. Expansion of the pit would not intersect the ground water table. There would be no change in the number of employees at the mine beyond the current workforce.

In accordance with BLM regulations for Surface Management of Public Lands Under the General Mining Laws (43 CFR 3809) and the implementing regulations (40 CFR 1500) for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the BLM is preparing an environmental assessment (EA) to determine the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project on public lands. Riverside Technology, inc. has been selected to conduct environmental studies and prepare the EA under the direction and supervision of the BLM.

The BLM encourages interested persons, organizations, and agencies to assist in the EA process by providing written or verbal comments on the issues and concerns to be addressed in the EA. Public comments must be postmarked by July 10, 1996, and should be sent to: **Bureau of Land Management, Battle Mountain District Office, Christopher Stubbs, EA Project Manager, P.O. Box 1420, Battle Mountain, Nevada 89820.**

Additionally, a public informational meeting/open house to accept verbal and written comments is scheduled for **June 26, 1996, 7:00-9:00 p.m., at the Donald Simpson Community Center, Hadley, Nevada.** The meeting will begin with a brief presentation of the proposed project followed by an open house to discuss questions and concerns, and to accept comments. Thank you for your interest and participation.

Sincerely,

Gerald M. Smith
District Manager