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United States		Humboldt	Ely	P.O. Box 539
Department of	Forest	National	Ranger	Ely, NV 89301
Agriculture	Service	Forest	District	(702) 289-3031

344
Item 79

Reply to: 2810

Date: Aug. 21, 1991

Dr. Jonathan G. Price
Nevada Bureau of Mines
University of Nevada, Reno
Reno, Nevada 89557

Dear Dr. Price:

This public scoping is being conducted to gather issues and concerns on the following proposed mine project. The responses will be reviewed and incorporated into the environmental analysis process.

On July 24, 1991, Westmont Gold Inc. submitted Amendment to Plan of Operations No. 12-04-88, Mount Hamilton Project, White Pine County, Nevada to the Ely Ranger District. This would amend a previously scoped and permitted open pit gold mine. The Environmental Analysis (EA) was signed by the Forest Service August 1989 and the Bureau of Land Management July 1989.

The Mount Hamilton Project is located in the northwest part of the White Pine Range, White Pine County on U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands. Specifically, the claim block is located in Township 16 North, Range 56 and 57 East, and Township 17 North, Range 56 and 57 East, approximately 35 air miles west of Ely, Nevada. (see figures 1,2, and 3)

After additional exploration activities, Westmont Gold Inc. has delineated a larger ore body in the NE-1 Seligman pit. They propose to expand the pit and dispose of the additional waste in a new dump location hereby called the NE Seligman Dump. (see figure 4) Additional changes would be to relocate the mine area facilities and reverse the requirement to remove trees from the Cabin Gulch waste dump.

The expansion of the NE-1 Seligman pit would extend the pit limit 500 to 600 feet north beyond the affected area boundary presented in the EA and Plan of Operations. The affected pit area would be increased from 78 to 104 acres (26 acres). This includes not only the pit extension but also the dump access roads. There would be an increase of 1.2 million tons of ore and an increase of 13 million tons of waste.

Some of the additional waste would be cross-valley dumped into a drainage that runs north to Seligman Canyon immediately west and northwest of the NE-1

Seligman pit. This angle of repose dump would be split into an upper and lower dump. The valley bottom is sloped approximately 30-40% while the side slopes are 60-70%. Tree removal is not proposed for the dump site. Total increased waste capacity would be 6.3 million tons. The remaining waste would be dumped into the Cabin Gulch dump. The Cabin Gulch dump was designed conservatively and would contain the additional volume of waste without design alterations. Another 33 acres would be added to the affected area by the addition of the NE Seligman dump. This adds up to a total of 59 acres of additional disturbance for the entire ammendment to the Plan of Operations.

The proposed relocation of the mine area facilities was already addressed in the EA as an alternate facilities site. The location would be moved from the Centennial pit area to the north side of Cabin Gulch in the NE Seligman area. (see figure 4)

The tree removal requirement in the Cabin Gulch dump is a mitigation requirement in the EA. A geotechnical analysis has been presented to the Forest Service by Golder Associates which supports the stability of the dump without clearing trees. However, the NE Seligman dump site would be the steepest that has been proposed for approval in the Forest Service Intermountain Region.

Reclamation would be done on all disturbed ground according to the original reclamation plan. The only areas in the proposed amendment that would not be reclaimed would be the walls of the NE-1 Seligman pit extension and the slopes of the NE Siligman waste dump. Various combinations of reshaping, applying topsoil, seeding, planting, fertilizing, and ripping would be integrated into reclaiming all other disturbed ground.

Some alternatives that have been expressed are:

- Build roads on the dump slopes so that the waste rock would be "keyed" into the slope and the stability increased.
- During Phase I of the waste dump construction, monitor dumping in Cabin Gulch without pre-clearing trees to determine if clearing trees is necessary for the stability of the remaining dump areas.
- Clear the trees in the toe area of the dump where the failure wedge is projected for the final dump configuration.

Some of the issues that may be of concern are:

- What are the impacts on Seligman Canyon and the historic townsite of Seligman.
- Will the proposed NE Seligman dump be stable.
- How will the additional disturbance affect visual quality.
- How will dumping be monitored.
- What will be the cumulative effects on wildlife.
- Is the Seligman townsite eligible to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

There has been no start-up date announced by Westmont Gold Inc. The Forest Service will proceed with the environmental documentation in a timely fashion so that a permit may be developed.

Responses to this public scoping will be utilized in developing alternatives and mitigation measures. Letters need to be received in the Ely Ranger District office no later than September 13, 1991. Questions pertaining to this operation should be directed to Loretta Cartner or Jeff Jones in the Ely Ranger District office.

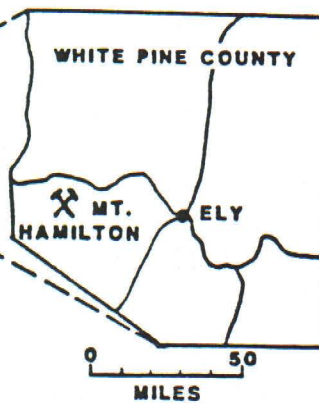
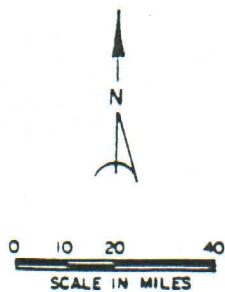
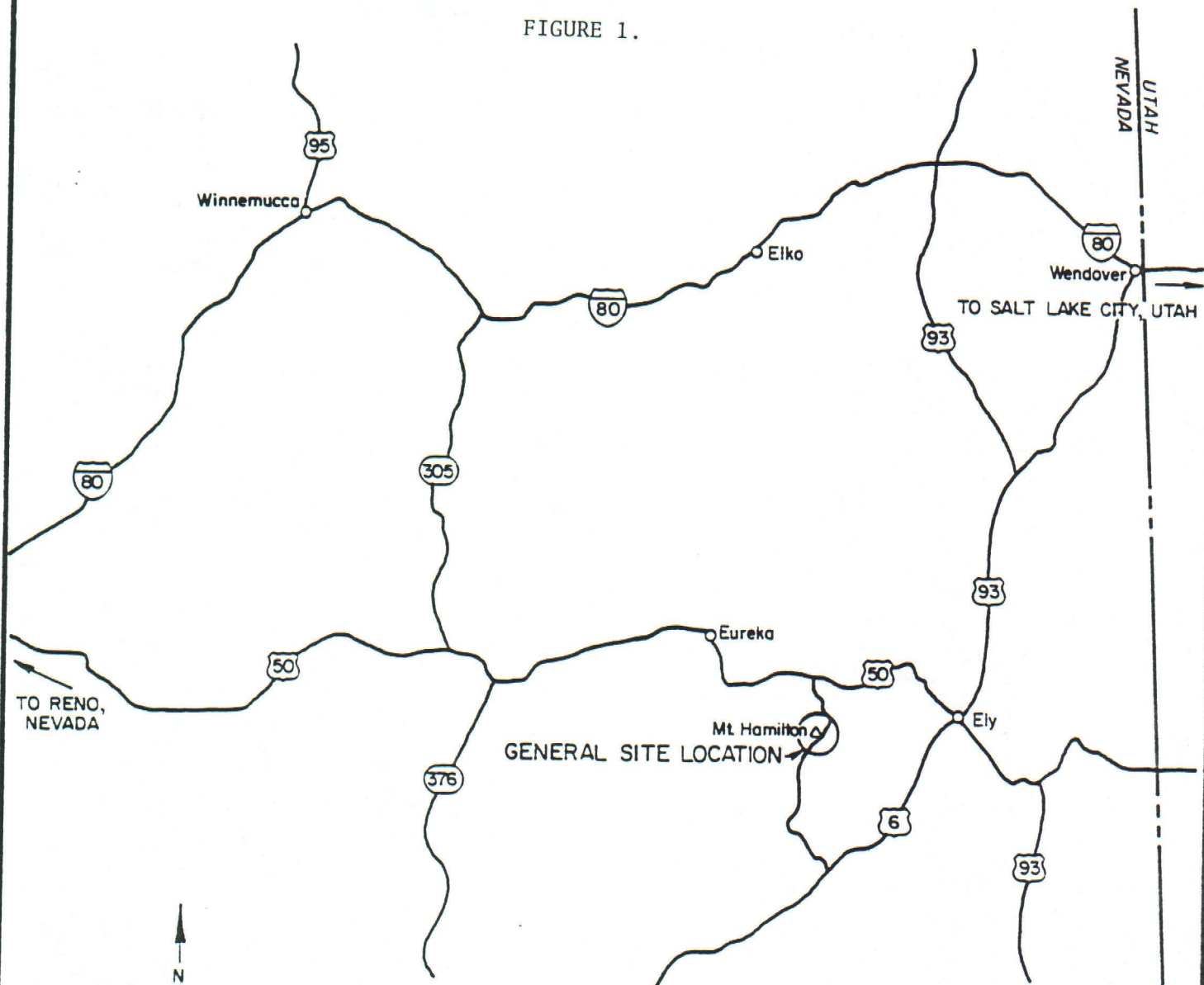
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rene P. Demeule".

RENE P. DEMEULE
Ely District Ranger

GENERAL SITE LOCATION

FIGURE 1.



WESTMONT
MINING INC.

Job No. : 22207

Prepared by: D. J. H.

Date: 11/28/88

GENERAL SITE LOCATION

Figure 1

FIGURE 2.

115°30'00"

scale 1:126,720

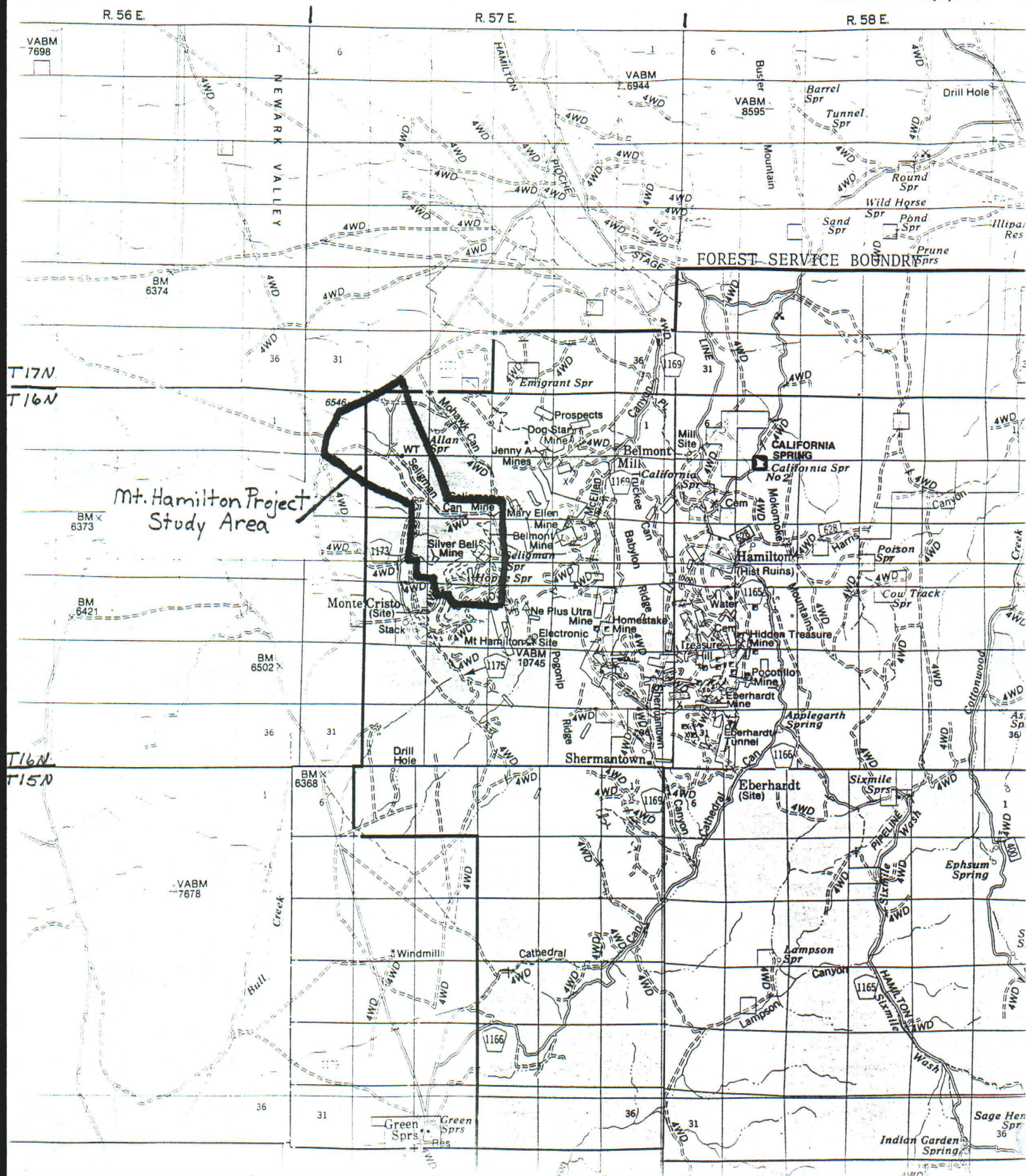


FIGURE 3.



1. Northeast Seligman Pit Area
2. West Pit
3. Cabin Gulch Waste Dump
4. West Waste Dump
5. Mine Facilities(~~now deleted~~)
6. Ore Loadout
7. Mine Water Well
8. Existing Camp Water Well
9. Existing Trailer Park
10. Existing Water Tanks
11. Alternate Borrow Areas-Road Rock
12. Shop Area (Ore trucks)
13. Proposed NE-1 Seligman pit expansion
14. Proposed lower NE Seligman Dump
15. Proposed Upper NE Seligman Dump
16. Proposed relocation of mine facilities
17. Ore Loadout area

A horizontal scale bar with a black outline. The number '0' is at the left end and '2000' is at the right end. Below the bar, the word 'FEET' is written in bold, black, sans-serif capital letters. The bar is divided into four equal segments by three vertical tick marks.

WESTMONT

Denver CO 80231

White Pine Co., Nevada

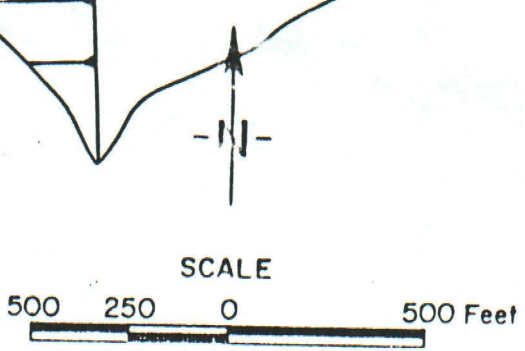
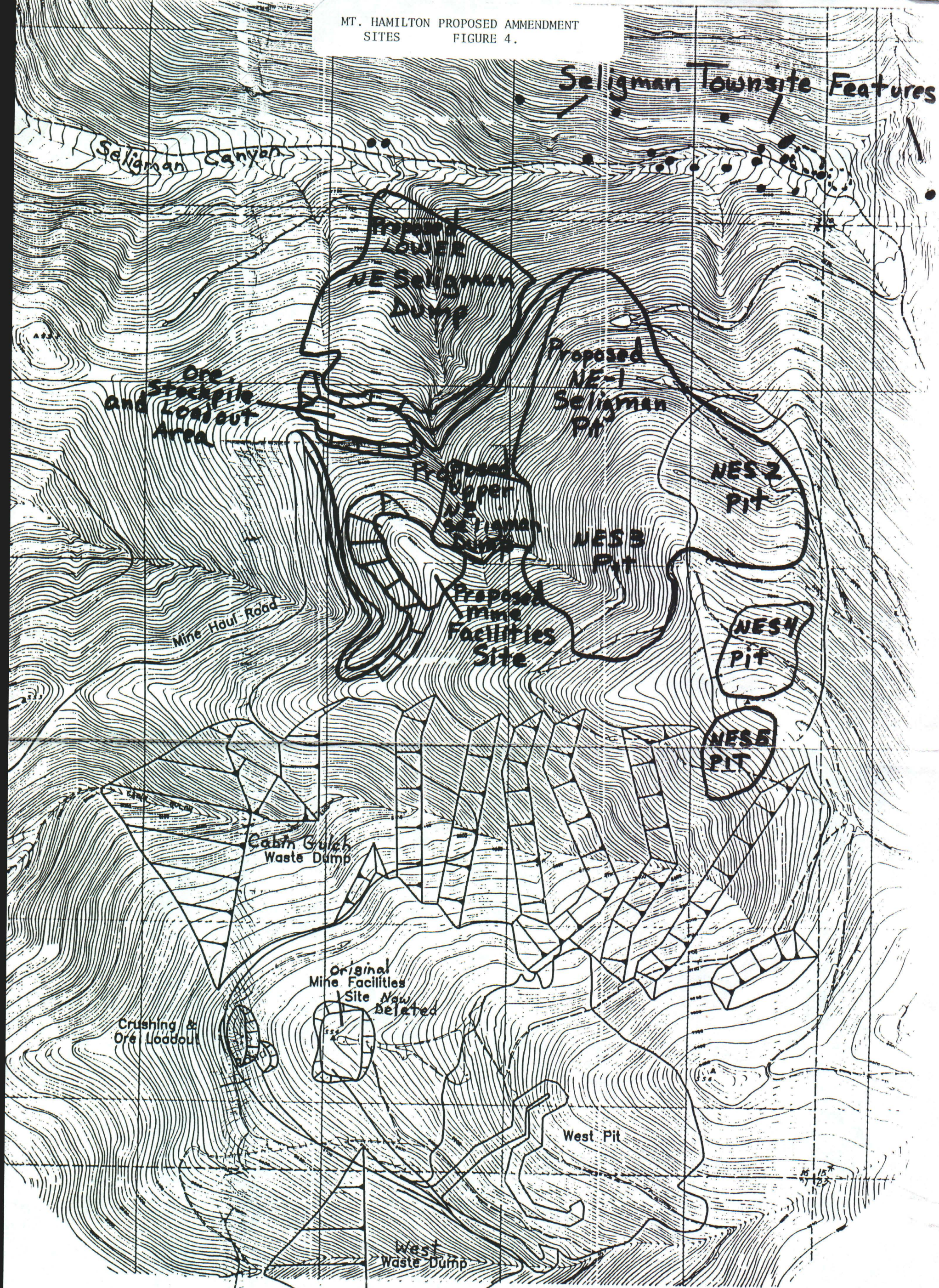
Mt. Hamilton Project

Alternate 2

Project Study Boundary

& Approximate Affected Areas

Figure 3



WESTMONT	
MINING INC. 4949 1/2 19th Ave Street Suite 4200 Denver, CO 80202	
COMPILED:	White Pine Co., Nevada Mt. Hamilton Project Mine Area General Site Plan
DRAFTED:	
REVIEWED:	
DATE:	
SCALE:	DWG. NO.:

Figure 4