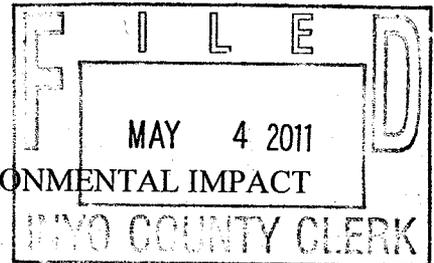


NOTICE OF INTENT

TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT FOR THE BISHOP MILL PROJECT



Project Title: Bishop Mill Project
Project Location: Highway 6 and Rudolph Road, 9 miles outside of Bishop California
Lead Agency: Regional Water Quality Control Board – Lahontan Region (Lahontan Water Board)
County: Inyo County

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Bishop Mill Project site is located approximately one mile west of State Route 6 on Rudolph Road, approximately 9 miles northeast of the town of Bishop, California. Rudolph Road (an existing, improved dirt road) traverses westerly from State Route 6 for approximately one mile to the power line and mill-site access road.

The Project includes the following operational activities: importation of ore from off-site sources, stockpiling and potential pre-screening for oversize material on the existing concrete ore patio; ore processing, including crushing, screening and flotation, of up to 96 tons of ore per day through the gravity separation mill; disposal of tailings via slurry deposition within a new double-lined tailings impoundment (WMU) with leachate collection and recovery system (LCRS); and reclamation of Project area upon mill closure. The new WMU is designed to comply with California Title 27 regulations for a Group A mining waste unit. The new WMU will be constructed at the site of the existing but inoperative tailings impoundment.

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD: Lahontan has made this Notice of Intent (NOI), Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND), and Initial Study (IS) available for public review and comment pursuant to Section 15073(a) of the CEQA Guidelines. The 30-day comment period for the NOI, MND, and IS begins on May 3, 2011 and ends on June 1, 2011. Comments should be submitted to the Lahontan Water Board at:

2501 Lake Tahoe Boulevard
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
Attn: Tom Gavigan

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY: The MND and IS are available for review during regular business hours at the Inyo County Clerk's Office (168 N. Edwards Street Independence CA 93526) and the Bishop Public Library (210 Academy Avenue Bishop CA 93514). There is also an electronic copy available online at the Lahontan Water Board website:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/water_issues/programs/waste_discharge_requirements/bishop_mill/index.shtml

If you require additional information, please contact Tom Gavigan at (530) 542-5429 or submit questions and comments by email at TGavigan@waterboards.ca.gov.

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