



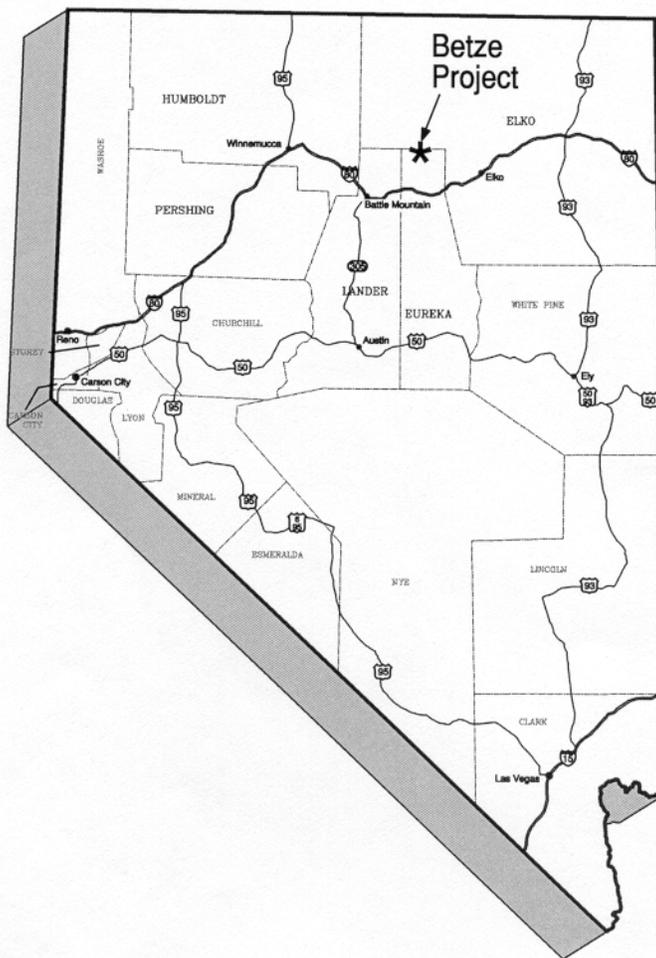
United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Elko Field Office
Elko, Nevada

September 2000



Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement Betze Project Barrick Goldstrike Mines Inc.



BLM MISSION STATEMENT

The Bureau of Land Management is responsible for the stewardship of our public lands. It is committed to manage, protect, and improve these lands in a manner to serve the needs of the American people for all times.

Management is based upon the principles of multiple use and sustained yield of our nation's resources within a framework of environmental responsibility and scientific technology. These resources include recreation, rangelands, timber, minerals, watershed, fish and wildlife, wilderness, air and scenic, scientific, and cultural values.



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Elko Field Office
3900 East Idaho Street
Elko, Nevada 89801-0611
<http://www.nv.blm.gov>

In Reply Refer To:
1793.5/3809
N16-88-002P
(NV-013)

August 25, 2000

Dear Reader:

Enclosed for your review and comment is the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) for Barrick Goldstrike Inc's Betze-Post Project. The DSEIS serves two purposes: 1) to re-analyze the effect of dewatering for the mine since the dewatering rates and total volume dewatered have been much greater than predicted in the original 1991 EIS for the project and 2) to analyze the impacts of a proposed additional water pipeline which is intended to increase the flexibility of Barrick's water management operations. The Betze-Post project is North America's largest open-pit gold mine, located approximately 25 miles northwest of Carlin, Nevada.

A separate report entitled Cumulative Impact Analysis of Dewatering and Water Management Operations for the Betze Project, South Operations Area Project Amendment, and Leeville Project analyzes the cumulative effects of dewatering from the three major dewatering projects on the Carlin Trend. This report is available from the Bureau of Land Management, Elko Field Office, or on the internet at www.nv.blm.gov/elko.

The DSEIS addresses those main issues and concerns which were identified by the BLM or raised during the public scoping period held from August 31, 1994, through February 16, 1998. By analyzing the impacts of Barrick's dewatering operations, the BLM, in conjunction with all interested parties, intends to propose mitigation measures that will address the predicted dewatering impacts which are greater than the predicted impacts from the 1991 EIS. By analyzing the predicted impacts of the proposed water management pipeline, the BLM, in conjunction with interested parties, intends to propose mitigation measures that will address impacts resulting from the pipeline. The proposed pipeline is the only proposed action analyzed in this Supplemental EIS as the water management activities are regulated by the State of Nevada. Thus, the only alternatives analyzed in the DSEIS are to permit construction of the water management pipeline or not to permit construction of the water management pipeline.

Following the 60 day public review and comment period, a Final SEIS will be prepared considering information developed from public comments and concerns. The Final SEIS will include mitigation measures that address both the predicted direct impacts from Barrick dewatering operations and the predicted cumulative impacts from the Barrick dewatering operations and other proposed dewatering

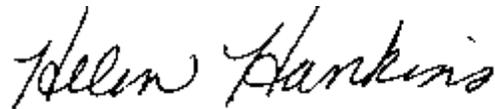
operations on the Carlin Trend including the Newmont operations at Gold Quarry and the proposed Leeville underground mine.

Public comments concerning the adequacy and accuracy of this document will be accepted during a 60-day comment period ending November 14, 2000. Comments on the DSEIS must be submitted in writing to: **Bureau of Land Management, Elko Field Office, Attn: Kirk Laird, SEIS Coordinator, 3900 E. Idaho St., Elko, NV 89801.**

Also, a public meeting to accept verbal and/or written comments on the DSEIS is scheduled for **Tuesday, September 26, 2000, at 7:00 P.M.** at the **Elko Field Office, 3900 E. Idaho Street, Elko, Nevada.**

The Final EIS may be in an abbreviated format, therefore, I recommend you retain this draft document for reference purposes. It is also available on the internet at www.nv.blm.gov/elko. Your interest in the management of public lands is appreciated. If you have questions or need further information, please contact Kirk Laird, SEIS coordinator, at (775) 753-0200.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Helen Hankins".

Helen Hankins
Field Manager

DRAFT

**SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
BARRICK GOLDSTRIKE MINES INC.
BETZE PROJECT**

LEAD AGENCY: U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Elko Field Office

COOPERATING AGENCIES: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Nevada Division of Wildlife

PROJECT LOCATION: Elko and Eureka Counties, Nevada

**COMMENTS ON THIS DRAFT (SEIS)
SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:** Kirk Laird, SEIS Project Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Elko Field Office
3900 E. Idaho St.
Elko, NV 89801
(775) 753-0200

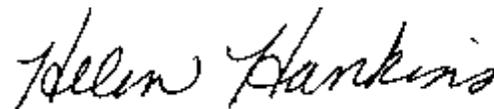
DATE DRAFT SEIS FILED WITH EPA: September 15, 2000

**DATE BY WHICH COMMENTS MUST
BE POSTMARKED TO THE BLM:** November 14, 2000

ABSTRACT

Following issuance of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision for the Betze Project in 1991, Barrick's implementation of ground water pumping, water management operations, and monitoring provided new information regarding pumping requirements and potential impacts of the operations. In addition, Barrick has built a water treatment plant and a buried pipeline and open conveyance system to discharge up to 70,000 gallons per minute to the Humboldt River under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit issued in 1996. Lastly, in 1997 Barrick submitted an application to the Bureau of Land Management to amend an existing right-of-way to allow installation of a second pipeline across public domain. This pipeline would improve the efficiency of Barrick's water distribution system. This Supplemental EIS analyzes the potential impacts of Barrick's existing and future water management operations and of the proposed buried pipeline, which is the Proposed Action.

Responsible Official for SEIS:



Manager, Elko Field Office