

DECISION RECORD ISSUED FOR HECLA EXPLORATION PROJECT

The Finding of No Significant Impact/Decision Record approving Hecla Ventures Corporation's proposed Hollister Development Block Project has been issued by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Elko Field Office.

BLM prepared an Environmental Assessment that analyzes the impacts of the proposed Hollister Development Block Project. The project is located approximately 47 miles northwest of Elko, Nevada in Elko County.

The proposed Hollister Development Block Project is an underground exploration project. This project would consist of constructing an underground decline including the associated drifts and crosscuts to support the underground exploration program; constructing a waste rock disposal facility; constructing a sample storage facility; constructing water management facilities including de-silting basins, water recycling and surge ponds, rapid infiltration basins, oil/water separator and associated pipelines; and ancillary facilities.

Generators would be used to supply electricity. Bulk samples would be taken on mineralized materials being removed during the construction of the decline and underground exploration. The bulk samples would be stored temporarily on site and then transported off site for metallurgical testing. All proposed facilities, with the exception of the rapid infiltration basin system, would be constructed inside and confined to the previously disturbed area of the existing East Pit of the Ivanhoe Mine. The rapid infiltration basin system would be constructed south of the Ivanhoe Mine site and north of Antelope Creek.

The proposed project would occur over a period of 18 months. The proposed activities would create a total of 51 acres of disturbance located on public lands. This project would not require dewatering. Up to approximately 385 gallons per minute of water may be encountered in the decline. Sump pumps would remove any water encountered in the decline and it would be piped through the decline to the surface and then to the de-silting basins, recycle and surge ponds. The recycled water would be used for drilling. Excess water would be discharged through the pipeline to the rapid infiltration basins.

A Finding of No Significant Impact and Decision Record have been signed. An opportunity for a thirty (30) day public review of this decision is being provided. Copies of the Finding of No Significant Impact/Decision Record and Environmental Assessment are available at the BLM Elko Field Office or on the BLM Elko Field Office website (<http://www.nv.blm.gov/Elko>). Written comments should be submitted by close of

business on May 3, 2004 and should be sent to: Bureau of Land Management, Attn: Hollister Development Block Project Coordinator, 3900 East Idaho Street, Elko, NV 89801-4611. For questions or more information, or copies of the documents, please contact Janice Stadelman at (775) 753-0346 or by email Janice_Stadelman@nv.blm.gov .