

**DRAFT**  
**NOTES**  
**2004 Nevada 3809 NEPA Process Review Meeting**

September 8, 2004  
BLM Nevada State Office,  
Reno, NV

**Goal of Group:** To identify areas where the current National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process for mining activities authorized under BLM Surface Management Regulations at 43 CFR 3809 can be made more efficient and cost effective in Nevada.

**Goal of Meeting:** To select a “priority” area or issue for which the group can focus its efforts and complete a task or produce a product by the end of calendar year 2005.

**Attendees:** **Del Fortner**, DSD, Minerals Management; **Reg Reid**, Surface Management Lead and Project Manager, Nevada State Office (NSO); **Craig Smith**, BLM/State Liaison on Mining; **Paul McNutt**, BLM Solid Minerals Group, Washington Office (WO); **Scott Murrellwright and Nick Rieger**, BLM Solid Minerals Group, WO (via telephone); **Brian Amme**, Planning & NEPA Coordinator, NSO; **Pat Barker**, Cultural Resources Program Lead, NSO; **Jim Perry**, BLM Fluid Minerals Group, WO (via telephone); **Dave Stout**, Assistant Field Manager, Elko Field Office (via telephone); **Lorrie West**, Planning and NEPA Coordinator, Elko Field Office; **Richard DeLong**, Enviroscientists, Inc.; **Tom Myers**, Environmental Consultant; **John Mudge**, Director, Environmental Affairs, Newmont Mining Corp. and Chairman, Environmental Committee, Nevada Mining Association; **Jim Butler**, Attorney, Parsons Behle & Latimer

**Next Meeting:** February 2005. In conjunction with NEPA Workshop and after draft brochure is developed.

### **Top Priority Areas/Issues Identified**

1. **Improve project management mechanism.** Manage 3809 projects within NEPA time frames. Improve coordination among project managers from BLM, operator, and NEPA consultant(s).
2. **Establish baseline information collection needs.** Develop and publish standards for data collection activities/tasks required BEFORE submission of a plan of operations. Also, clarify the time coding issue identified for BLM staff work associated with pre-plan submission communication/coordination.
3. **Address the uncertainty issue identified with water quality models.** It was pointed out there is a lot of existing information on this topic, including some CEQ guidance. Also, it was suggested good monitoring of a plan by the operator, in particular, could help here. Also, the BLM has just recently issued new guidance that address better and more innovative ways to analyze and interpret potential impacts associated with mine dewatering, pit lakes, and waste water disposal.
4. **Host a workshop on standard operating procedures** or “Best Business Practices (BBPs)/Best Management Practices (BMPs)” for submitting a clear proposal (plan of operations), identifying issues, and mitigating impacts.
5. **Encourage earlier Tribal involvement** and briefings in the 3809/NEPA process.
6. **Improve process to address changes in a plan of operations** as it goes through the NEPA process. Changes are needed to address new information.
7. **Improve notice to applicant.** Be more pro-active by developing guidance publications, holding meetings, etc.
8. **More consistency statewide** in application of regulations through directives, self-assessments, or formal technical program reviews (TPRs) using quality assessment teams (QATs).
9. **Identify timeframes for critical steps** in 3809/NEPA process. Develop generalized work breakdown structure (WBS) and Gantt Chart for public use.

**Schedule of Tasks for 3809/NEPA Technical Working Group**

<b>Task No.</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Product</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
1	9/30/04	<b>NSO Information Bulletin</b> on Proper Use of Program Element EX	Reg Reid (NV920)	Coordinate with WO-320
2	12/31/04	<b>Timeline</b> for Critical Steps in 3809/NEPA Process	Craig Smith (NV-920)	
3	1/31/05 (Due 30 days after Timeline completed)	<b>Draft Instruction Memorandae</b>	Reg Reid (NV-920)	To improve consistency of 3809/NEPA process in Nevada.
4	2/05	<b>Workshop - NEPA Planning &amp; Environmental Coordination</b>	Brian Amme (NV-930)	Hold in conjunction with next group meeting. Coordinate with NV-920.
5	2/05 (After Completion of Draft Brochure and Timeline, and in Conjunction with NEPA Workshop)	<b>Next Work Group Meeting</b>	Reg Reid (NV-920)	Purpose: 1) To scope draft directives, 2) to review, comment on, or develop the brochure, 3) develop/review draft agenda for PM Workshop.
6	2005	<b>Project Management Training</b> for 3809/NEPA Process	Reg Reid & Larry Steward (NV-920)	Reg should work with Larry to provide funding in FY 2005 AWP to cover participating FO travel expenses. Coordinate with NvMA.
7	Hand out final at PM Workshop	<b>Brochure</b> – including Timeline and Best Business Practices for Approaching 3809/NEPA	Reg Reid (NV-920)	Discuss at next group meeting
8	After PM training	<b>Workshop – Project Management</b> for 3809/NEPA Process for BLM Staff, Operators, and NEPA Consultants	Reg Reid (NV-920)	Coordinate with NvMA