

DEIS (circulated November, 1996) will not receive a written response. Instead, the written comments will be considered in preparation of the new DEIS. Prior commentors can submit comments during the scoping period for the new EIS.

Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the above address during the business hours of 7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or business, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organization or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

The Imperial Project is a proposal by Glamis Imperial Corporation (a sister corporation of the former project applicant Chemgold Inc.) to develop an open-pit, gold mining operation utilizing a heap leach process. The proposed site is located in eastern Imperial County, California, approximately 45 miles northeast of El Centro, California and 20 miles northwest of Yuma, Arizona. The project area is comprised of approximately 1,625 acres. Up to 150 million tons of ore would be leached, and 300 million tons of waste rock would be deposited at the proposed waste rock stockpiles or the mined-out portions of the three planned open pits. Typical, average mining rate would be 130,000 tons per day. Approximately 1,409 acres of surface disturbance would occur as a result of the Proposed Action. Mining activity would be performed 24 hours per day, seven days per week, and are projected to commence in 1998 and terminate around the year 2017. The proposed mine would include a lined heap leach pad to contain the ore heap and to collect process fluid from the heap for gold recovery. Waste rock would be hauled directly to a waste rock stockpile or to one of the on-site pits to be backfilled. A ground water production well field, consisting of up to four groundwater production wells, would be completed and used to provide water through a buried pipeline for processing operations, dust control, and on-site domestic uses. The proposed project would also include a power substation

and construction of a short portion of a transmission line and a rebuild of an existing transmission line.

Dated: July 24, 1997.

Terry Reed,
Area Manager.

[FR Doc. 97-20194 Filed 7-31-97; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4310-40-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NV-010-1990-09]

Notice of Intent; Nevada

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) on a mining Plan of Operations for the Newmont/Barrick HD Venture in Eureka County, Nevada; and notice of scoping period and public meetings.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and 43 CFR part 3809, the Bureau of Land Management will be directing the preparation of an EIS to be prepared by a third-party contractor on the impacts of a proposed Plan of Operations for gold mining by the Newmont/Barrick HD Venture, in Eureka County, Nevada. The Bureau invites comments on the scope of the analysis.

EFFECTIVE DATES: This notice initiates public scoping for the Leeville EIS. A scoping meeting will be held August 20, 1997, at the Bureau of Land Management, Elko Field Office, 3900 E. Idaho, Elko NV., to identify issues and concerns to be addressed in the EIS. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m. and will continue until 9:00 p.m., if necessary. Representatives of Newmont Gold Company (operating partner) will be available to answer questions about the Plan of Operations. Additional scoping meetings may be held as appropriate. Written comments on the Plan of Operations and the scope of the EIS will be accepted until September 2, 1997. A draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) is expected to be completed by the spring of 1998 and made available for public review and comment. At that time a notice of availability of the DEIS will be published in the **Federal Register**. The comment period on the DEIS will be 60 days from the date the notice of availability is published.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Scoping comments may be sent to: District Manager, Bureau of Land

Management, 3900 E. Idaho St., Elko, NV 89801. ATTN: Leeville Project EIS Coordinator. For additional information, write to the above address or call Deb McFarlane at (702) 753-0200.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Newmont/Barrick HD Venture of Carlin, Nevada has submitted a Plan of Operations to open the Leeville underground mine, located about 20 miles northwest of the town of Carlin. The mine and associated facilities would be located in portions of sections 2, 3, 10, and 11 of T. 35 N., R. 50 E. A water pipeline is proposed to be located in sections 5, 8, 10, 15, 16, 17, and 22 of T. 35 N., R. 50 E.; sections 1, 2, 3, and 12, of T. 35 N., R. 49 E., and section 33 of T. 36 N., R. 49 E., MDM. The proposed Leeville mine would consist of an underground mine which would develop three deposits and would include surface support facilities, access and haul roads, waste rock facility, stockpiles, powerlines, dewatering wells, pipelines, and water treatment facilities. Proposed mining operations and dewatering would last for approximately 18 years, through the year 2017. Approximately 457 acres of public land and 39 acres of private land would be disturbed.

The Leeville Project operations would require dewatering at pumping rates of up to 35,000 gallons per minute for the life of the project. Excess water would be discharged into the Humboldt River via a pipeline proposed to connect with an existing dewatering discharge pipeline. This project lies between Barrick Goldstrike Mines Inc.'s Betze/Post Mine and Newmont Gold Company's South Operations Area and would be affected by both dewatering cones of depression.

The issues expected to be analyzed in the EIS include potential impacts to ground water availability, wildlife, cultural resources, and hazardous materials. Cumulative impacts will also be addressed. In addition, the following resources will be analyzed: recreation and wilderness, geology, paleontology, air quality, soils, vegetation, range management, lands and realty, visual resources, land use planning, and social and economic values. The analysis will be conducted by an interdisciplinary team.

A range of alternatives (including but not limited to alternative reclamation measures and the no-action alternative) will be developed to address the issues. Mitigating measures will be considered to minimize environmental impacts and to assure that the proposed action does not result in undue or unnecessary degradation of public lands. Federal,

state and local agencies and other individuals or organizations who may be interested in or affected by the Bureau's decision on the Leeville Project Plan of Operations are invited to participate in the scoping process with respect to this EIS. These entities and individuals are also invited to submit comments on the DEIS. It is important that those interested in the Leeville Project Plan of Operations participate in the scoping and commenting process. Comments should be as specific as possible. The tentative project schedule is as follows:

Public Comment Period—August 1 through September 2, 1997.

Issuance of Draft Environmental Impact Statement—Spring of 1998.

File Final Environmental Impact Statement—Autumn of 1998.

Record of Decision—Autumn of 1998.
Begin Permitted Operation—Winter of 1998/1999.

The Bureau of Land Management's scoping process for the EIS will include: (1) Identification of issues to be addressed; (2) Identification of viable alternatives; (3) Notification of interested groups, individuals and agencies so that additional information concerning these issues, or other additional issues, can be obtained.

Dated: July 24, 1997.

David Stout,

Acting District Manager.

[FR Doc. 97-20289 Filed 7-31-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-HC-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CA-060-07-1210-00]

Meeting of the California Desert District Advisory Council

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given, in accordance with Public Laws 92-463 and 94-579, that the California Desert District Advisory Council to the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the Interior, will participate in a field tour of BLM-administered public lands near Ridgecrest, California on Thursday, September 25, 1997, from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., and meet in formal session on Friday, September 26 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday, September 27 from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. The Friday and Saturday public meetings will be held in the conference room at the Carriage Inn, located at 901 North China Lake Boulevard, Ridgecrest, California.

Council members will assemble for the Thursday field tour at the Carriage Inn parking lot at 7:15 a.m., and depart

at 7:30 a.m. The public is welcome to participate in the field tour, but should dress appropriately and plan on providing their own transportation, food, and beverage. Anyone interested in participating in the field tour should contact BLM at (909) 697-5215 for more information.

The Friday meeting will begin at 8 a.m. All Desert District Advisory Council meetings are open to the public. Time for public comment may be made available by the Council Chairman during the presentation of various agenda items, and is scheduled at the end of the meeting for topics not on the agenda.

Written comments may be filed in advance of the meeting for the California Desert District Advisory Council, c/o Bureau of Land Management, Public Affairs Office, 6221 Box Springs Boulevard, Riverside, California 92507-0714. Written comments also are accepted at the time of the meeting and, if copies are provided to the recorder, will be incorporated into the minutes.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Doran Sanchez, BLM California Desert District Public Affairs at (909) 697-5215.

Dated: July 28, 1997.

Henri R. Bisson,

District Manager.

[FR Doc. 97-20308 Filed 7-31-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-40-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NV-930-1430-01; N-61382]

Notice of Realty Action; Recreation and Public Purposes Act Classification; Washoe County, Nevada

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The following described land, comprising 26.56 acres, has been examined and is determined to be suitable for classification for lease or conveyance pursuant to the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, as amended (43 U.S.C. 869 et seq.):

Mt. Diablo Meridian, Nevada

T. 20 N., R. 20 E.,

Sec. 7, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$,
E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$,
E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$,
E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$,
E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$,
S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$,

S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$,
S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$,
S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$.
(containing 26.56 acres \pm)

DATES AND ADDRESSES: The land will become segregated upon publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**.

Comments will be accepted on or before September 15, 1997. The land will not be offered for lease until September 30, 1997. Interested persons may submit comments regarding the proposed Recreation and Public Purposes lease/conveyance or classification to the Assistant District Manager, Carson City District Office, Bureau of Land Management, 1535 Hot Springs Road, Suite 300, Carson City, Nevada 89706. Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the above address during regular business hours. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Chuck Pope, Carson City District Office, Bureau of Land Management, 1535 Hot Springs Road, Suite 300, Carson City, Nevada 89706, (702) 885-6000. Detailed information pertaining to this action is also available for review at the BLM Carson City District Office.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Washoe County School District has submitted an application for a lease with an option to purchase the 26.56 acre parcel of land in Sun Valley, Washoe County, Nevada, for construction of an elementary school including classrooms, multi-purpose room, a school library, computer room, and miscellaneous administrative offices, parking and bus loading/unloading areas, and a fenced playground area. Lease/conveyance is consistent with the current BLM land use planning and would be in the public interest. The lease/conveyance, when issued, will be subject to the provisions of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act and all applicable regulations of the Secretary of Interior, and the following reservations to the United States:

1. A right-of-way thereon for ditches and canals constructed by the authority