


**MINING OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY
COMMISSION**
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2014



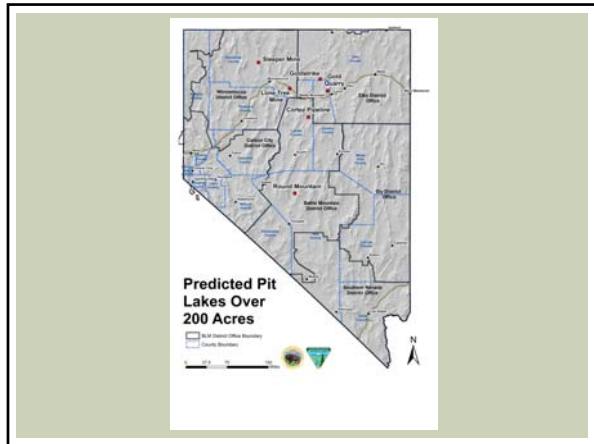
NEVADA BLM PIT LAKE CONSULTATIONS
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 STATE DIRECTOR – NEVADA BLM

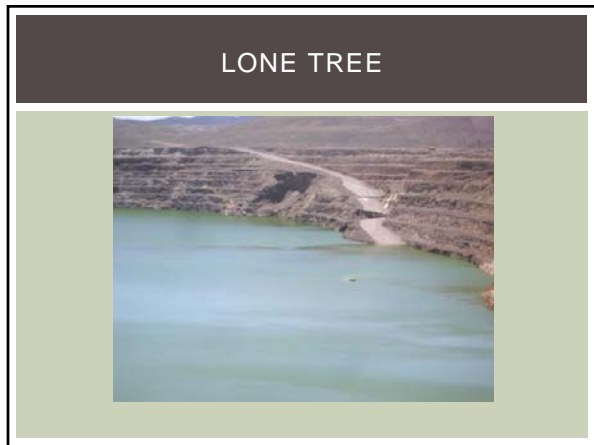
PIT LAKE LEGISLATION

- Non-motorized access to certain pit lakes must be provided by the mine operator if landowner agrees
- Operator must consult with landowners to decide on whether to grant public access
- BLM developed a process to be consistent in how the pit lakes would be evaluated for feasibility of access
- BLM reached out to the operators to help arrange the consultations that operators were required to initiate
- Consultations were held between the operators and BLM in early 2014 to determine if access would be granted prior to state's deadline on July 1, 2014.

AFFECTED PIT LAKES

- Pit lakes predicted > 200 acres
 - Lone Tree (filling)
 - Round Mountain (being mined)
 - Gold Quarry (being mined)
 - Goldstrike Betze - Post (being mined)
 - Cortez-Pipeline (being mined)
 - Sleeper (existing)







CONSULTATION PROCESS

BLM Prepared Checklists for Each Pit Lake

- Name, Operator, BLM Field Office
- Predicted surface area at 90% capacity
- Year predicted to reach 90% capacity
- Predicted water quality
- Safety considerations including:
 - Vertical distance to lake surface
 - Pit wall structure (rock types, faulting)
 - Historical & predicted pit wall stability
- Land ownership for shoreline access

CONSULTATION PROCESS

Discussion Points

- Safety concerns are major issue
- Open pits are designed for removing ore safely in the short term - not for long term stability
- Timeframe for pit lakes to form is too far in future to predict final pit configuration
- Potential for rock falls and slope failures
- Depth from ground level to lake surface makes access difficult for some pit lakes
- Limited access to shoreline from public land for some pit lakes

CONSULTATION PROCESS

BLM Not Recommending Access At This Time

- Public safety is most important issue
- Not feasible to predict future pit configuration and make decision on access at this time
- BLM will revisit issue nearer to time of closure
- Plan of operations amendment for final closure and potential plan for safe public access would be analyzed under NEPA
- BLM will evaluate access issue during future NEPA actions with public inputs
