

Return to Bulletin Home Page

## In Praise of Action

### *Coloradans reject anti-cyanide petition*

SEPTEMBER 2000

by Ted Worthington of the *Northern Miner's* Denver Office

#### Inside this issue:

Regulation Challenges	2
NWI	3
Miner Voter Registration	4
MMI Gets Award	4
Craig Blasts USFS	5
Convention Entertainment	6
State/Provincial Reports	7
Committee Reports	10
Members' News	11
Calendar of Events	12



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The recent demise of the campaign to get an anti-cyanide initiative on the ballot in Colorado is more than just welcome news for the gold industry. It shows that the criticism that “the mining industry never fights off its attackers” is unfounded. There are many people in our industry, from individuals to associations to companies, that are fighting behind the scenes to safeguard mining’s role in society.

August 7 was the deadline for proponents of the anti-cyanide issue (a virtual carbon copy of I-137, the initiative approved by Montana voters in 1998) to file the required number of signatures to get it on the November 2000 state ballot. However, the deadline has come and gone without a word, and credit for that should go to mining representatives in Colorado and the rest of the country who stood up and let the environmental extremists know that the industry was not going to give up without a fight.

Much of the battle was waged by South Africa’s **AngloGold Ltd.**, which was likely to be the company most hurt by the initiative. Colorado has only one gold mine — the Cripple Creek and Victor Joint Venture, west of Colorado Springs, operated by AngloGold North America. So, when mining opponents thought they could replicate the 1998 Montana initiative, they were, in effect, taking aim directly at Cripple Creek. The initiative, like I-137, would have banned the use of cyanide in new mines, and prohibited the issue of new operating permits for existing mines, that use cyanide to process gold ore. Colorado had no other gold projects on the horizon, so it was clear from the start that the initiative was designed to stop expansion at Cripple Creek by outlawing the use of cyanide for operations covered by new permits.

Gold exploration and development were effectively stopped in the early 1990s as a result of the botched cleanup at Galactic Resources’ Summitville Mine. However, amid the furor over Summitville’s effect on the Alamosa River, the Cripple Creek and Victor Joint Venture was able to get permits for its Cresson pit. No mine in Colorado’s history was given more scrutiny over permitting, and Cresson has grown into an outstanding operation, contributing more than 240,000 ounces of gold annually, with excellent records on environmental compliance, not to mention worker health and safety.

AngloGold acquired a 66.7% interest in the operation in 1999, and was already looking to the future. The mine has enough reserves for many years to come, plus considerable expansion potential. Cripple Creek provides jobs for 800 workers in rural Teller County, and pays \$30 million in wages and salaries each year.

AngloGold’s response [to the anti-cyanide initiative] really was no surprise; who wouldn’t fight back when faced with such a threat? What was surprising was that the company received a groundswell of support comparable to that of the anti-cyanide proponents, and they were involved at all stages of the fight — starting back in November 1999, when the Alliance for Responsible Mining (ARM) filed its proposal for the anti-cyanide initiative.

In Montana, affected companies were barred by law from contributing funds to counter I-137 — a law later overturned by the courts. Not so in Colorado. To fight the action, AngloGold countered with a donation of time, materials and money valued at nearly \$400,000. This was more than just money thrown at a problem: AngloGold helped to organize Coloradans Oppos-

• Continued on page 4 •

# Meeting the Challenges of Mining Regulation

## Thoughts from a State Regulator

by Mike Long

Director of the Colorado Natural Resources Department  
Minerals and Geology Division

*This a condensation of remarks made by Mr. Long at SME's 50th Annual Minerals Processing Division Meeting, May 17-19, 2000, in Colorado Springs, Colo.*

The mining industry is under considerable scrutiny, if not outright attack, from society at large, and a positive outcome of the image of mining in the public eye will not come easily.

Mining is an industry that, at worst, people love to hate; and, at best, do not want to know about or acknowledge. The old saying, "Out of sight, out of mind," applies to mining.

The problem is that mining is not out of sight. And even though society benefits greatly from mining, the majority of people want to ignore mining at best, and to denigrate it at worst. And just as mining maybe easy to hate, I am the individual that citizens and industry love to hate.

You see, I am a regulator, and citizens hate me because I issue mining permits they do not want issued; industry hates me because I ask for information that costs them money, and because I find violations that places their mining permits in jeopardy. Therefore, for both sides, I am the bearer of bad news.



Mike Long

### The necessity of mining

It has been said that nothing good comes from a regulatory interaction. But, I accept this ... I accept this because I believe in the necessity of the mining industry. It is necessary because it is one of the few industries that generates, rather than recycles, wealth. And, above all, I am firmly committed to the fact that reputable mining companies want to do the right thing for local communities, society as a whole, and the environment.

### Three major concerns

But, as I see it, mining has three main concerns: credibility, accountability and leadership. Some if its credibility problem is deserved, some is not. Either way, there is not a high-trust factor present. One reason is the Abandoned Mined Land problem, and even though modern mining is not responsible for much of this problem, they get the blame. Therefore, mining needs some on-the-ground successes, no matter how small, to build on.

Another problem is less-than-scrupulous operators who taint the credibility of the reputable miners out there. To the press, they are typical miners and the entire industry is culpable for their misdeeds. And even when reputable miners say they will run a zero-impact-on-the-environment operation, the public's perception of "zero impact" may very well be different than the miner's perception of "zero impact." The suggestion is to not make commitments that there will be "no" impacts. Be honest.

*(Editor's note: Then again, when the Ladysmith (Wisconsin) Mine pumped superclean water back into the Flambeau River,*

*no one patted them on the back for exceeding EPA rules.)*

Concerning accountability, mining industry defensiveness needs to be minimized, and acceptance of responsibility maximized. Most companies follow this approach, but some don't — and the latter reflects back on the entire industry.

It's not enough to permit and think you are done ... you must share your information with the public and make them a part of the planning and mining processes.

Leadership, the third concern, must include solutions and alternatives to problems that may arise, rather than whining about being a victim of the environmentalists and the media.

### Dealing with regulators

When dealing with the regulators, miners must demand accountability from them, too, just as they are held accountable by regulators. In order to mine responsibly, miners must play on a level playing field with the regulators ... and that takes leadership, especially when miners justifiably demand competency from regulating agency staffers. And miners must encourage the concept of developing one-lead-permitting agency. Otherwise, mining opponents can successfully delay permitting decisions.

Personally, I support the state agency-lead concept versus the federal agency-lead concept. Therefore, miners must work to develop strong state programs — strong in the sense of comprehensive, statutory and regulatory authority; strong in the sense of being staffed with an adequate number of well-trained, technically-competent people; strong in the sense of having key decision-makers who understand the mining industry and are not afraid to make decisions to move projects forward; strong in the sense of having well-defined authority, procedures and inter-agency protocols.

### Dealing with the locals

When dealing with activist citizens, miners have the right to demand accountability — assertions without scientific support information must not be allowed to stand unquestioned.

Also, miners cannot deliver mixed messages; they must speak with one voice. When it comes to public policy, miners need to reach a consensus. The industry cannot afford to have different commodities battling each other, and they should not place decision makers in losing positions; give them positions that are winnable and defensible.

The mining industry is changing because of social and governmental pressures, and it will look even more different five years hence. But it will survive. The coal industry has adapted, and the hardrock industry will adapt. Take a leadership position and resolve your national and regional issues.

The country needs a healthy mining industry to survive. The creation of wealth and the wise use of our natural resources is one of the cornerstones of our economic success.

But miners must be credible, accountable and show leadership in working to resolve issues. These are difficult times, but as the old adage goes, "What does not kill you, will make you stronger."

(For the complete text of Mr. Long's presentation, Email [glenda.williams@state.co.us](mailto:glenda.williams@state.co.us).) \*

# The National Wilderness Institute: Governmental Watchdog

The mere name of the organization — **National Wilderness Institute** — may conjure up visions of a backpacker wearing cutoff shorts, hiking boots with heavy red socks, curly blond hair blowing in the wind, climbing over rocks to the top of the mountain to experience clean air and a spiritual oneness with the universe.

And, while NWI members may indeed appear this way on the outside, it's what's inside their heads that counts.

No, NWI is not a group of eco-extremists, no matter how generic the title of the organization may sound — it is an organization that supports the principles of individual liberty, the protection of the environment and the promotion of sound scientific research to foster ideas and programs that actually benefit the environment, to work for responsible economic growth, and to clarify to the public the real intentions and consequences behind some of today's environmental bureaucracies and their sometimes counterproductive regulatory agendas.

Founded in 1989, NWI invites people to become proactive; it endorses responsible and realistic approaches to finding solutions to environmental problems. NWI's members share the belief that natural resources should be protected *for* people, not *from* them.

## Worthwhile publications

NWI's magazine, *NWI Resource*, and their newsletter, *Fresh Tracks*, are filled with timely news articles and useful ideas presented in a straightforward manner based on well-grounded facts rather than on politically-fashionable hype, helping their readers to discern the facts normally veiled by a constant mass-media barrage of environmental misinformation. The organization also provides original research, scientific studies, technical briefings and well-respected testimony on a wide variety of environmental issues.

Among NWI's accomplishments is *The People v. Carol Browner: EPA on Trial*, a publication which generated several investigations leading to an EPA grant being withdrawn, and a negotiated plea agreement following the indictment of two EPA officials for conspiracy to obstruct justice, obstruction of justice and perjury. Subsequent regulations based on documents fabricated by these individuals were later rescinded.

Following the release of that NWI report, several EPA employees from around the country published an open letter in a national newspaper describing unethical and illegal conduct by their superiors and colleagues.

Other notable special publications by NWI include *Babbitt's Big Mistake: The Real Story Behind Endangered Species Announcement*; *Conservation Under the Endangered Species Act: A promise Broken*; and *Going Broke: Costs of the Endangered Species Act*.

## Ethical principles

Among NWI's Principles of the American Conservation Ethic are these key points:

- Renewable natural resources are generally resilient and dynamic, and respond positively to wise management;
- The most promising new opportunities for environmental improvements lie in protecting and extending private property and in unleashing the creative powers of the free market;
- Efforts to reduce, control and remediate pollution should achieve real environmental benefits;
- Management of natural resources should be conducted on a site- and situation-specific basis;
- Science should be employed as a tool to guide public policy; and
- People are the most important resource.

## Latest major efforts

NWI's is planning to conduct a review of government documents and to compile current federal land use statistics to generate a scholarly work on the growth of environmental restrictions on federal lands and adjacent areas during the Clinton-Gore administration.

This effort is in response to the drastic increase in the amount of acreage controlled by federal land management agencies in recent years, and the intention of the Clinton-Gore administration to increase that figure by an additional 60 million acres by establishing a permanent land acquisition trust.

Phase I of this effort will be to provide the accurate data needed by opinion leaders, Members of Congress and the general public to fully understand consequences of this land acquisition policy.

Phase II will be built around the publication of a second document that will include the salient aspects of the research presented in Phase I, the adverse environmental impacts resulting from the Clinton-Gore land management policy, and the adverse effects of this policy on the culture of rural America.

Both Phase I and II documents will be posted on NWI's website ([www.nwi.org](http://www.nwi.org)), distributed to Members of Congress and public policy analysts, and posted on the Heritage Foundation Town Hall website.

Also, NWI has a follow-up report on the EPA that will be released soon, as well as a report that will reveal corruption and mismanagement at the Department of the Interior.

Call NWI at 703/836-7404, or Email [nwi@nwi.org](mailto:nwi@nwi.org) to lend your support for NWI's latest efforts. \*

**While you're at  
MINExpo 2000  
in Las Vegas,  
Visit NWMA's Booth in  
the Grand Lobby Area,  
Booth 14**



# Miner Voter Registration: Barrick's Effort to Get the Vote Out

by **Be-Be Adams**  
**Director of Community Relations**  
**Barrick Goldstrike**

During the last election cycle, voter turnout in Nevada was at an all-time low. After cross-referencing the Elko County voter registration list with the Barrick Goldstrike employee list, we discovered that out of 1800 employees, 808 were *not* registered to vote!

Obviously, it was time to remedy this problem. Barrick's "Get Out The Vote" program has a three-pronged approach: register voters, inform voters, and then get the voters to vote.

## Registering voters

This has been a month-long process throughout the mine site. Because there are four crews in each of the production departments (process, surface mining and underground mining), it took four weeks to talk to everyone on the property.

A short presentation was prepared, and several employees were sent to the Elko County Clerk's office to become official

registrars. One person would do the presentation to the employees, and two others would register the voters. In four weeks, we registered half of those who were not registered to vote!

As an added incentive, those who registered to vote during these sessions were put in a drawing for a one-ounce gold coin.

## Informing the voters

In the middle of July, Barrick Goldstrike sent out a questionnaire to all the county and state candidates. In this questionnaire, the candidates were asked about their views on mining, water, economic diversification and business.

Brochures that outlined the candidates' responses were printed. For the following four weeks, presentations of this brochure were made throughout the mine site.

## Voting:

There are several ways for Goldstrike employees to vote. There is an open-voting time two weeks prior to both the pri-

mary and general elections in Elko County. During this two-week time frame, employees can go to the courthouse and vote at their leisure.

On Election Day, Barrick will provide busses and will transport the employees to and from Elko so they can vote – and will pay them for that time! The third option is for the employees to fill out an absentee ballot request. That request is given to the County Clerk, who then sends the employees the absentee ballot.

For three weeks prior to the primary and general elections, there will be absentee voting parties in which employees can exercise their right to vote at the mine site.

This might not be the most important election in our lives, but at Goldstrike, we believe *this is probably the most important election in our mining careers.*

And getting as many employees registered to vote, educating them concerning the candidates' positions, and giving them the opportunity to vote are the most important things we can do during this election year. \*

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## In Praise of Action

• *Continued from page 1* •

ing the Unfair Shutdown Agreement (COUSA), whose members understood that fighting the measure early on was less expensive and more effective than waiting until later.

AngloGold, along with the Colorado Mining Association (CMA), was there at meetings of the State Title Board. Stuart Sanderson, CMA's President, together with the general manager of the Cripple Creek Joint Venture and a member of the environmental department at the mine, filed suit in Colorado Supreme Court, challenging the title boards decision to proceed with the initiative.

In early May, the court upheld the challenge, ruling that the text and the title of the initiative were confusing and sent conflicting messages to the voters. The court remanded the initiative back to the title board for corrections.

Prior to the court's decision, ARM, according to press reports, had already begun collecting signatures. The organization needed 62,438 valid signatures to get the initiative on the November ballot. How-

ever, the court ruling invalidated all the signatures, forcing the ARM to start all over again.

Sanderson and the CMA kept up the pressure with a second appeal to the Supreme Court in July, while COUSA made ready the next phase of the campaign — going before the public about the issue. The second appeal ultimately failed, though by that time the damage had been done. The public-awareness phase was not necessary because the campaign defeated the measure before it could get off the ground.

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## MMI Gets Award

The Minerals Information Institute (MII) has been awarded the 2000 Gary Prazen **Living Legend Award** by the Leadville, Colo.-based National Mining Hall of Fame.

The award is presented annually to companies or groups that demonstrate exceptional leadership in promoting a greater public awareness of minerals and mining. MII has developed and distributed an array of educational materials for use in K-12 classrooms in all 50 states that gives a balanced view of the industry and

The fight isn't over, though. This has been only a successful skirmish in a larger battle the industry has yet to win. ARM can try again in the 2002 general election, but it will likely be faced with the same aggressive stance by people in the mining industry.

That Colorado did not fall victim to the anti-cyanide ban shows that our industry can be proactive and responsive. For renewing and restoring faith in our industry and its organizations, the opponents of Colorado's anti-cyanide initiative have our thanks. \*

its meaning and importance to the country. MII provided more than 70,000 minerals-literacy packets to teachers last year.

This year also marks the release of the 5th edition of MII's *Global Science: Energy, Resources and the Environment*, one of North America's largest-selling, integrated environmental high school text books. MMI also completed its first full year of distributing materials via the Internet, [www.mii.org](http://www.mii.org).

Jack Goth, Chairman of MII, will accept the award at the 13th Annual Hall of Fame banquet Oct. 8 in Las Vegas. \*

# Idaho's Senator Craig Blasts the Forest Service's Mike Dombeck

On June 30, 2000, just before the July 4th weekend, Mike Dombeck, the Chief of the U.S. Forest Service, sent a "conservation initiatives" letter to all his employees. The following are excerpts (and paraphrasings) from that letter, followed by the text of a follow-up letter to Mr. Dombeck from Sen. Larry Craig (R-ID), Chairman of the Senate Forests and Public Land Management Subcommittee.

## Letter from Dombeck

**Road Policy** — "Our objective is to ensure that the American people can access the lands they love in a manner that does not compromise the land's resilience, productivity and health. Decisions about our 380,000-mile transportation system must be made in an open and public forum, informed by basic inventory information and justified by a science-based analysis of risks and benefits."

**Roadless Rulemaking** — "It is about working together with communities of interest to focus on the road system of the future rather than fighting over the crumbling road system of the past. It is intended to ensure that the social and ecological characteristics and values of roadless areas are maintained for the use and benefit of present and future generations ... it is bad business to build new roads into undeveloped areas when we have an \$8.5 billion backlog on our existing road system ... Neither the roads nor the roadless proposals would block access to, or close a single mile of existing road. Such decisions are best left to local managers in the field working with communities of interest."

**Cooperative Stewardship** — "... does not alleviate our responsibility to make decisions that we believe are in the best long-term interest of the land or the people who depend on it and enjoy it.

"These plans and proposals will help us to better integrate the planning and budget processes, to result in more ecologically sustainable decisions that avoid the cycle of overpromising and underfunding.

"Our Strategic Plan is part of the Forest Service Natural Resource Agenda of watershed health and restoration, ecologically sustainable forest and grassland management, roads and roadless areas and recreation, developed in response to ex-

ternal and internal criticism that we had lost sight of our mission, our basic sense of purpose.

"We have changed the tenor of the debate. No longer is our agenda dictated by litigation, lawsuits and controversial appropriations' riders. Our plans anticipate the emphasis on sound science and sustainability in the proposed regulations and will lead to improved land health."

## Letter to Dombeck from Craig

"I could not help reading your June 30 letter to all your employees (copied to me from some of them). I suppose that it is appropriate for you to send such a letter immediately before the Independence Day holiday, because you seem to be declaring the Forest Service's independence from the balance of the federal government, the laws governing federal agency activities, and the utilization of simple common sense.

"Under the provisions of the Administration Procedures Act, The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the National Management Act, we have allowed you to propose regulations, but also required you to accept public comments thereon, and to use those comments to evaluate how and whether to best proceed.

"The public comment period is supposed to provide agencies with necessary information to modify the direction and substance of rule making. To be sure, over the years some elements of the public have become jaded about the sincerity of one

or another agencies' effort to hear their reviews.

"But agency heads have, at a minimum, at least tried to give the pretense that the public's views are important. You do not. Your statement in the letter that "collaboration, however, does not alleviate our responsibility to make decisions that we believe in the best long-term interest of the land or the people who depend on it and enjoy it," represents the height of arrogance.

"Such a clearly decisional pronouncement during the middle of the comment period on the roadless area rule emphatically demonstrates that your mind is closed. Combined with previous pre-decisional statements by Clinton, Gore, Babbitt and yourself, your actions are fatally tainting both this rule making and the Forest Service's reputation for integrity for years to come.

"Worse yet, this statement strongly indicates that you are either unwilling, or perhaps unable, to appreciate what is required to successfully practice collaborative stewardship. That is especially distressing because it calls into direct question your sincerity on a number of other matters we have previously discussed.

"The we're-willing-to-chat-but-we-know-best tone of your June 30 letter is both unhelpful and a throwback to pre-NEPA agency behavior.

"I also fear that the hubris evident in such phrases as 'We have changed the tenor of the debate,' has left you at least

## Private African Minerals Explorer Seeks Joint Venture Partners For Diverse, Advanced Minerals Exploration Portfolio

Sulphide Copper Resource

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Copper/Gold Prospects

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Fax: 011-61-8-938-9605-1

slightly delusional. I can find no other explanation for the statement immediately following that 'No longer is our agenda dictated by litigation, lawsuits and controversial [sic] appropriations' riders.'

"In case you have not been following closely, your roadless area rule is the subject of three pending lawsuits already. Your Northwest Forest Plan is mired in litigation and 'dead in the water.' As a consequence of recent litigation, you have lost the ability to conduct *de minimus* timber sales using a Finding of No Significant Impact under NEPA.

"Last month, you lost a lawsuit over your cancellation of the Alaska Pulp Corporation's timber sale contract that exposes you to \$1.4 billion in liability — an amount that represents 50% of the total budget appropriated to the Forest Service last year.

"Recently, environmental litigants filed suit to try to stop timber harvesting completely in the Forest Service's southern region. I suggest that you spend some quality time with your Office of General Counsel in the very near future.

"As to the appropriations' riders, I will be going to the Senate floor later today (July 17) to defend your forest management budget once again from the annual raid attempted by national environmental groups and their allies.

"Nothing has changed on this front. With respect to my interest in an amendment to assure that you comply with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), you should understand that I have decided to forebear from acting for the time being. I have not foresworn from congressional action indefinitely. For now, I am content to await court proceedings later this summer. Depending on the outcome of those proceedings, Congress may not be required to act to correct these FACA violations, or I may take this matter up again when the Interior appropriations bill reaches conference later this year.

"It may well be that you are at the forefront of the public lands debate, but only time will tell whether the political front lines are the best place to secure scientifically sound, balanced and stable, long-term resource management goals.

"Mike, I found your letter both arrogant and offensive, and I look forward to discussing this with you in the future."

Way to go, Larry! \*

## Exciting Evening Entertainment at this Year's NWMA Convention!

Make plans now to attend NWMA's **106<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting** and treat yourself to some outstanding entertainment events. Right after the Exhibitor's Reception on Wednesday, December 6, join us at a *Spokane Chiefs* hockey game for **NWMA Night!** Enjoy fast-paced Western Hockey League action and cheer Team USA Captain Robert Cameron and Team Canada Captain Tom Schroeter as they ceremoniously drop the first puck. We have a block of tickets reserved on a first-come basis. Details will be posted on the NWMA website, or look for complete information in the next convention brochure, which will be mailed in September.

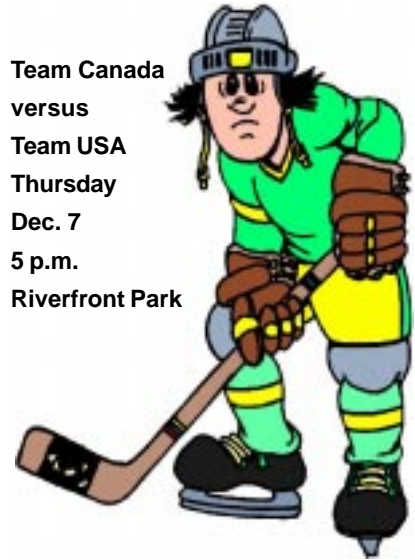
### NWMA action on the ice

But that's not all! On Thursday, December 7, the hockey action continues with this year's edition of the annual grudge match between Team USA and Team Canada at Riverfront Park. Game time is 5:00 p.m. We've added a new twist this year, as the hockey match will benefit a local charity, the Vanessa Behan Crisis Nursery, through sponsorships and donations. Vanessa Behan is a community supported nursery for children in crisis. It provides immediate intervention care for infants and young children up to 6 years old. The entire Spokane community will be invited to the game and given the opportunity to join in the fun with us, as well as support the work of this important charity.

### The Fun Continues

Remember when the **Beatles** song *I Want to Hold Your Hand* took the music

**Team Canada  
versus  
Team USA  
Thursday  
Dec. 7  
5 p.m.  
Riverfront Park**



scene by storm? Or how about the stir created by their White Album or Sgt. Pepper? Also on Thursday night, you will have the chance to relive all those memories as NWMA and the Spokane Symphony Orchestra team up to provide a block of outstanding center-section tickets at a performance honoring the Beatles on the twentieth anniversary of John Lennon's passing. The Broadway cast of *Beatlemania* will join the Spokane Symphony that evening to pay tribute to the Beatles and their music. They will perform at the Starlight Theater inside the Spokane Arena. Full details will be posted on our website and in the next convention brochure.

An outstanding program, an exciting trade show, and great entertainment — NWMA's 106<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting has it all. Register today and join your friends at what certainly will prove to be a memorable occasion! \*



# STATE AND PROVINCIAL REPORTS

## ALASKA

### ANWR Monument May Lead to Legal Fight

If the Clinton/Gore administration were to **designate the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Range (ANWR) a national monument** later this year, it would touch off a major legal confrontation in Alaska.

The state and the Alaska Congressional delegation believe that the legislation that established conservation areas in the state, the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), forbids monument designation. The state would immediately file suit to overturn such a federal decree.

An assistant to Sen. Frank Murkowski (R-AK) said, “Clinton doesn’t have the authority under ANILCA to withdraw more than 5,000 acres [at any one time] for more than 365 days.”

Several reports in the *Washington Times* suggest that Clinton/Gore intends to designate the 1.4-million-acre coastal plain as a monument, despite administration denials. Reports infer that Clinton will make the move for a monument in October to help Gore’s election chances.

Murkowski, in an effort to make an end run around the possible monument naming, has cosponsored an omnibus development energy bill that includes an oil leasing provision.

The legalities of leasing in ANWR hinge on the meaning of Sec. 1326 of ANILCA that limits the authority of any administration to withdraw public lands in Alaska. The provision forbids any withdrawal of more than 5,000 acres for more than a year unless Congress agrees to the withdrawal.

Of course, it isn’t the environment that the Clinton/Gore/Babbitt triumvirate care about — they just don’t want to promote domestic energy development that just might provide the nation with a freedom from a dependency on foreign oil. King Willy’s legacy won’t be the protection of coastal Alaska’s ecosystem, but will be higher gas prices at the pumps and our being held “energy hostage” by third-world petro-potentates. \*

## CALIFORNIA

### Last Tungsten Mine Closes

**The last operating tungsten mine in the U.S.** ceased mining in April, and is expected to completely close by the end of the year. The Pine Creek Mine, near Bishop in the Sierra Nevada, opened in 1916 and was once the largest in the nation. During World War II, tungsten was critical to the war effort and was used to make armor plating for tanks and armor-piercing bullets.

Today, the mine has fallen victim to cheap labor in China, which mines and sells tungsten at less than half the cost of the California mine. The mine is owned by Avocet Tungsten of Canada (50%) and U.S. Tungsten (50%). \*

## IDAHO

### Idaho Mine Cleanup May Not Need Superfund

The State of Idaho’s draft strategy for **cleaning up Silver Valley mine waste** predicts spending \$9.45 million on Spokane River sediments. Preliminary estimates put the total cost of Idaho’s 30-year cleanup proposal at about \$478 million, and state officials don’t want to use Superfund dollars on sites around Lake Coeur

d’Alene. The state wants to limit spending and have as much say as possible in the cleanup process.

But the Environmental Protection Agency is weighing Superfund designations for 520 different additional sites, ranging from demolishing the Hecla, Star and Coeur mill sites to relocating contaminated sediments along the lower Coeur d’Alene River.

The plan also proposes:

- several repositories for metals-laced waste along the South Fork of the Coeur d’Alene and the lower Coeur d’Alene River;
- spot removals of contaminated sediment in marshy lakes along the lower Coeur d’Alene River using barges; and
- controlling erosion of contaminated river banks.

Some Spokane (Wash.) County and city officials said they oppose the Superfund and don’t want or need the stigma associated with future Superfund sites set up to clean up metals pollution on Spokane River beaches.

Mining companies said Idaho’s plan is too pricey. The mines — partly responsible for the cleanup — calculated the cost of the necessary work at about \$140 million.

The EPA has three alternatives of its own, ranging from minimum to maximum removal/containment of contaminants. Cost estimates on these alternatives have not yet been made available.

### Misplaced Priorities Underscore EPA’s Superfund Failure in Northern Idaho

On April 19, **a hearing was held at the request of Environmental Protection Agency Ombudsman Bob Martin** in Coeur d’Alene, and was cohosted by Idaho’s congressional delegation and the Coeur d’Alene Tribe.

The purpose of the hearing was to 1) provide Martin with local views on EPA activities in the Coeur d’Alene Basin and the Silver Valley, 2) determine the future direction of the ongoing cleanup, and 3) deal with the EPA’s proposed extension of Superfund authority to include the entire Coeur d’Alene Basin as far west as Lake Roosevelt in Washington.

Among those testifying were **NWMA’s Executive Director Laura Skaer**, new Bunker Hill Mining Company owner **Bob Hopper**, and Holly Houston, the Executive Director of the Coeur d’Alene Basin Mining Information Office.

“Superfund is the wrong tool for environmental cleanup at mining sites,” Skaer told the Ombudsman, “It’s like trying to force a square peg into a round hole.”

Skaer said that misplaced priorities have underscored EPA’s Superfund failure in mining communities across the west. The problem is that Superfund views cleanup efforts at mining sites as a legal problem about the environment and places a higher priority on punishing than on rectifying legitimate environmental concerns.

“It is time to start treating the Coeur d’Alene Basin as an environmental issue and not as a legal issue. The Coeur d’Alene Basin requires far more technical expertise than legal expertise,” Skaer told the panel.

The Western Governor’s Association *Enlibra* principles offer a better approach to structuring a cleanup plan. *Enlibra* provides a cost-effective model based on rewarding results, not on perpetuating programs; encouraging collaboration, not polar-

ization; utilizing national standards with neighborhood solutions; and emphasizing incentives, not command-and-control mandates.

"It is time to settle the legal side so we can get on with the real work of cleaning up the hot spots," Skaer concluded.

Also testifying were community, business and political leaders, and medical professionals throughout northern Idaho. Virtually everyone who testified was critical of EPA and the manner in which EPA has managed Superfund and the Bunker Hill cleanup. The criticism focused on EPA's arrogance, a "we know better than you" attitude, and their unwillingness to listen to the community's point of view. It was clear that EPA has generated a great deal of anger among the residents of the Silver Valley and Coeur d'Alene.

The Ombudsman will be holding another hearing on September 18 in Spokane, and then will make his recommendations on the future direction of the cleanup and what role, if any, EPA should have. \*

## MONTANA

### Studies Show Cyanide Heap Leach is Only Way

**Canyon Resources'** Seven-Up Pete Joint venture has filed a report containing technical analyses that conclusively demonstrates that the Venture's proposed open-pit mining and cyanide heap-leach processing is the only technology that can be applied economically to the McDonald and Seven-Up Pete gold/silver deposits in Lewis and Clark County near Lincoln.

Further analyses demonstrates that the technology results in maximum resource conservation of the deposits and poses far less risk to human health and to the environment than any of the alternative technologies. \*

## NEVADA

### South Pipeline: A "Go" or "No"?

#### *Anti-Mining Groups Challenge Plan of Operations for Non-Compliance with Leshy's Millsite Opinion*

**Cortez Gold Mines** needs the South Pipeline gold deposit in northern Nevada (adjacent to the Pipeline orebody) to continue its operations in the Crescent Valley, according to a company spokesman. However, after South Pipeline's EIS and Record of Decision were issued, certain "environmental" groups, including the Mineral Policy Center, Great Basin Mine Watch and the Western Shoshone Defense Project, filed an appeal early in August (citing air and water quality concerns) against the project and asked for a "stay" during the appeal process, which would effectively halt development of the new orebody until a decision on the appeal was handed down.

Cortez, (owned by **Placer Dome** 60%, **Kennecott** 40%) which employs 456 people at Pipeline and will use that same workforce at South Pipeline, needs the South Pipeline deposit to continue mining and milling at current rates into the future. Work can continue at South Pipeline while the appeal is in process, but not if the "stay" is approved by the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA).

The appeal claims that the Cortez plan of operation violates the General Mining Law of 1872 as interpreted by Interior Solicitor Leshy's millsite opinion. This appeal will be the first case dealing with Leshy's "millsite" opinion and could be a landmark

decision.

The environmental groups claim a "stay" would not have an economic impact on the current Cortez operations, but a spokesman for Cortez said there would be a "trickle down" effect that will result in layoffs. The IBLA must make a decision on the "stay" by Oct. 1, but it has no deadline on the appeal. \*

## NEW MEXICO

### Looser Mining Rules Proposed

**New Mexico's mining regulations should be loosened to allow more large-scale mines**, according to State Senator John A. Smith. In 1993, the state's new mining act became law, requiring state oversight of hardrock mining operations that restricts pollution, demands reclamation of mining sites, and allows extensive appeals by those opposed to mines in their area. Since then, no major mines have been permitted.

Jennifer Salisbury, the state's Secretary of Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources, said that her department will attempt to streamline the process for granting mining permits when the New Mexico Legislature meets in January. State Senator Sue Wilson added that the mining industry also needs tax breaks.

Since 1993, the state's mining industry has suffered, losing hundreds of jobs through the closing of mining operations and smelting facilities. \*

## ONTARIO

### BMG Union Ratifies 5-Year Contract

Miners at **Battle Mountain Gold's** Golden Giant Mine in northern Ontario, voted in favor of a new 5-year deal that will take them through to the end of the mine's life.

The agreement includes an 8% wage increase over the first four years of the contract, signing and gold bonuses for the operation's 268 hourly workers, and a \$1,000 bonus in the fifth year of the contract.

### High-Grade Zone at North American Palladium

North American Palladium reports that its 100,000m exploration drilling program near its Lac des Isles mining operations 85km north of Thunder Bay, Ontario, has intersected **new high-grade palladium in a brecciated mineralized zone** at a depth of 300m. This new zone is outside the area of its proposed expanded pit. It is anticipated that this zone will increase the company's already significant palladium deposit. Lac des Isles is Canada's only primary producer of PGMs and one of the largest PGM deposits in the world. \*

## OREGON

### Grassy Mountain Review Completed

**Gochnour & Associates** of Denver, has completed its independent environmental and permitting review of Seabridge Resources' Grassy Mountain gold project in eastern Oregon. The study concludes that the various production scenarios for the project are all "permissible under current regulatory regimes." Gochnour completed permitting requirements for open pit/heap leach recovery, underground/on-site milling, and underground/off-site milling scenarios, including determining the associated permitting timetables for alternate production scenarios.

## Steens Mountain Wilderness Proposal

The BLM has proposed to **designate the Steens Mountain area in Oregon as a federal wilderness or national monument**. NWMA has urged the agency to exclude the proven geothermal source in the vicinity of Borax Lake, within the designated area, from any Steens Mountain-related proposal and make it available for energy leasing once again.

It is vital that this area of a clean power source not be placed “off limits.” This viable geothermal resource can provide affordable electric energy without any greenhouse emissions, and only a small portion of the surface would need to be utilized. Standard mitigation practices would allow the facilities to blend into the landscape, virtually ensuring minimal environmental impact.

The geochemical system in Oregon suggests higher-than-normal temperatures that could provide substantial added value to a properly-developed resource. The land in question already has a well-developed infrastructure that would allow for relatively easy geothermal development in the existing power corridor. \*

## QUEBEC

### Layne Christensen Gets Major Contract

**Layne Christensen Co.** has signed a contract for \$1.9 million with Noranda Mining to provide **ground freezing services** for the excavation of an open pit zinc-copper deposit at Noranda’s Quemont Pillar Mine near Rouyn-Noranda, Quebec. The contract’s scope may further be increased to include two additional pits, which would bring the total project value to more than \$5 million.

The mining project is intended to recover ore within the crown pillar left from underground operations abandoned 20 years ago. At that time, the ore-rich pillar was required to provide structural support for the roof of the subsurface mine and could not be removed without causing a major cave-in and flooding.

Current plans will permit mining of the pillar from the surface by constructing an open pit directly above the richest part of the crown pillar. The 200-foot diameter pit, with depths extending to 130 feet, will be supported with a 30-foot-thick frozen earth wall.

Ground freezing was selected over conventional open-cut and dewatering methods. The frozen earth wall will be formed by drilling and installing three rows of ground-freezing pipes around the perimeter of the proposed pit.

Once the pipes are installed, Layne’s International Directional Services (IDS) will provide gyroscopic surveys of each of the 400 pipes to ensure vertical tolerance. The pipes will then be connected to a cooling system that cools and recirculates calcium borate brine. The freezing process will take four months. \*

## SOUTH DAKOTA

### Brohm Mining Saga Continues

Brohm Mining Company’s **gold mine** in the Black Hills has been **turned over to the EPA for cleanup under the Superfund law**. Currently, the State Board of Minerals and Environment has authorized the release of \$3 million of the \$6.5 million posted for bond to assist in reclamation at the site. This money will be used for the federal match under the Superfund regulations. The EPA is in the process of ranking the minesite to determine eligibility.

Cleanup costs are estimated between \$14 million and \$27 million.

The Brohm site was requested by Governor Bill Janklow to be placed on the Superfund list after several bills for cleanup were defeated in the state’s legislative session. If the site qualifies, the state will pay 10% of the reclamation costs.

Problems at the site began in 1993 when acid mine drainage was discovered at the minesite. Water treatment at the site continues and the state is paying about \$100,000 a month under the state’s Regulated Substance Response Fund. The governor wants to introduce federal legislation that would allow mining companies to help with reclamation projects at sites they don’t own. The bill would remove liability from companies that assist in cleanup of another project. b

## WASHINGTON

### Tailings Exempt at Pend Oreille Mine

The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) has issued an administrative order to exempt tailings from **Cominco American’s** proposed Pend Oreille Mine near Metaline Falls from being designated as dangerous waste. The company petitioned Ecology for the exemption because historically the tailings from the mine’s past operations have had little effect on the environment. This action marks the first major decision, or permit action, for the proposed zinc mine and starts the comment/appeal period on the contents of the EIS prepared for the mine. \*

## WISCONSIN

### Flambeau Mine Passes Clean Water Tests

State regulators say that **monitoring water at the now-closed Flambeau copper mine just south of Ladysmith, has shown no pollution** released into the Flambeau River from the site. The minesite, undergoing reclamation, had an ‘open house’ recently so “... people can really appreciate the success we’ve had in reclaiming the land as woodlands, wetlands and grasslands,” said Jana Murphy, Flambeau’s environmental manager.

Flambeau, the first metallic mine to open in Wisconsin since 1968, got needed permits under new mining laws and sparked many protests from environmental groups. But the recent tests of Flambeau River water showed no difference in water quality upstream or downstream from the mine. As expected, local environmental groups are still skeptical about the water quality in the river, which flows adjacent to the mine property.

The mine opened in 1993 and featured a 32-acre open pit to a depth of 120 feet. The pit was backfilled when mining ceased in 1997 after 1.9 million tons of ore had been mined.

The open house at the mine included self-guided walking tours on trails up to 1.5 miles long created on the site, which also includes two wetlands, Murphy said. \*

## WYOMING

### Wyoming Gemstones Book Available

W. Dan Hausel, Senior Economic Geologist at the Wyoming State Geologist Survey, has authored a **book entitled *Gemstones and Other Unique Minerals and Rocks of Wyoming: A Field Guide for Collectors***. The 267-page book (WSGS Bulletin 71) describes a variety of gemstones and rare minerals in Wyoming discovered over the past few years. \*

# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## ABANDONED MINED LANDS

Chair: *Llee Chapman, Barrick Goldstrike Mines, Inc.*  
775/778-8196

### Restoration Bill Taps Corps of Engineers

During a recent hearing on the Abandoned Mine Restoration Act (HR-2753), Congressman Jim Gibbons (R-NV) explained provisions of the bill, including the **authorization of \$45 million for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Restoration of Abandoned Mine Sites program and expands the Corps' ability to address abandoned minesite programs.** In addition, the bill authorizes the Corp to provide assistance to communities through the Western Universities Mined Land Reclamation and Restoration Consortium, which includes representatives from universities in Nevada, Idaho, Alaska and New Mexico.

Gibbons said there are three reasons for choosing the Corps of Engineers for this work: an existing environmental restoration mission; a proven record of success of implementing environmental restoration projects throughout the West; and a non-regulatory perspective by the Corps. \*

## ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

Co-Chair: *Lisa Kirk, MAXIM Technologies, 406/582-8780*

Co-Chair: *Luke Russell, Coeur, 208/667-3511*

### Zortman/Landusky Reclamation Modifications

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and the BLM are **preparing a supplement** to the Final Environmental Impact Statement on the Zortman and Landusky Mines Reclamation Plan Modifications **to consider final reclamation and closure of the north-central Montana mines.** The supplement will address additional reclamation alternatives that would constitute a substantial change in the proposed action presented in the Final EIS in 1996.

The purpose of the 1996 EIS was to analyze modification plans in response to acid rock drainage conditions and to consider the operator's proposal for additional mining. Since that time, an evaluation of reclamation costs has identified additional reclamation alternatives that should be considered for implementation because they are either more cost effective, more protective of the environment, or both.

The BLM and MDEQ have determined that selection of one of these additional reclamation alternatives may constitute a substantial change in the proposed action and that a supplemental EIS needs to be prepared.

The BLM and MDEQ are co-leads on this project and a joint decision will be made by the agencies on final reclamation for the mine sites. Interim reclamation will continue during the supplemental EIS preparation process. \*

## HEALTH & SAFETY

Chair: *Dale Avery, NIOSH*  
509/484-1610

### Ground Support Safety Training Video

NIOSH has produced a ground-breaking **video to improve safety training in metal/nonmetal underground mines** called *"Ground Support ... It's Important."* The Spokane Research

Lab (SRL) began evaluating the situation in 1998 and heard from miners that they needed more realistic training methods.

This video is the third in a series developed in response to the concerns expressed by both experienced and inexperienced miners. Among the issues raised was the fear that the wisdom and special expertise of older miners would be lost when they retired. Due to historical trends in the industry, there is something of a generation gap between the well-seasoned hands and the relatively large number of people just now starting to work underground. According to **Elaine Cullen** at SRL, 40% of the underground miners working today will retire over the next 10 years. These videos capture the knowledge that otherwise would have disappeared and combine it with the most effective training techniques currently available. Call Elaine at 509/354-8057, or send an Email to [efc8@cdc.gov](mailto:efc8@cdc.gov). \*

## PUBLIC LANDS

Chair: *Bill Prince, Dorsey & Whitney LLP*  
801/350-3581

### Sen. Craig Will Fight 3809 with Rider

Western Senators will almost certainly use **an appropriations bill rider to try to stop unnecessary new 3809 regulations.** The rider is attached to the Senate version of the FY2001 appropriations bill for the Department of Agriculture, and would require the BLM to confine the new regulations to the seven regulatory gaps identified by the National Academy of Sciences/National Research Council (NAS/NRC) report last year.

Sen. Larry Craig (R-ID) is receiving support from the Western Governors' Association (WGA). At its June 2000 meeting, WGA unanimously adopted Policy Resolution 00-013; this resolution was originally adopted in 1997 and is highly critical of BLM's approach to revising the 3809 regulations. The new resolution suggests that BLM refocus its efforts on addressing the regulatory gaps identified in the NAS/NRC report.

In a July 20, 2000 letter, signed by WGA Chairman, Dirk Kempthorne (R-ID), to members of the Western Congressional Delegation, Kempthorne said, "We have offered to sit down with the BLM to address [regulatory gaps], many of which could be addressed through policy and guideline revision, rather than rulemaking.

"BLM appears to be ignoring our offer and is, instead, finalizing a comprehensive rewrite of the 3809 regulations.... Therefore, we must ask that BLM not be allowed to finalize any 3809 regulatory initiative that does not confine itself to the narrow issues in the independent NAS/NRC study."

The proposed regulations add a "mine veto" provision that would prohibit activities that would do "substantial irreparable harm" to public lands. Environmental groups such as the Mineral Policy Center applaud the new (BLM) language. The Clinton/Gore Office of Management and Budget (OMB) objects to the rider, calling it an "attempt to weaken pending regulations on the management of hardrock mining on public lands."

The House version of the Agriculture Appropriations bill does not contain a provision dealing with the 3809 rulemaking. Thus, the issue likely will be resolved in conference when Congress reconvenes after Labor Day. \*

## NWMA Members' News

### Wheeler Appointed to NEETF Board

**Dennis Wheeler**, President and CEO of **Coeur d'Alene Mines**, has been appointed to the Board of Trustees of the National Environmental Education & Training Foundation.

Wheeler's role in the Washington, D.C.-based organization will include bringing a Western perspective on natural resource and environmental education issues.

### Phelps Dodge Appoints Four

**Phelps Dodge Mining Company** has appointed four executives to key positions as part of a management reorganization: **Dennis Bartlett**, Senior VP-North American Operations; **John A. Fenn**, President of **Climax Molybdenum Company**; **Steven Tanner**, VP and CFO; **John Marsden**, VP-Technology and Development.

### Rebecca Watson is New Trustee at RMMLF

**Rebecca W. Watson** has been elected as a Trustee-At-Large to the **Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation**. Watson, who served in the Bush administration as an appointee to the Dept. of Energy, has been a partner with **Gough, Shanahan, Johnson & Waterman** in Helena, Montana for the past five years.

### ASARCO to Move Operations to Arizona

**ASARCO Inc.** has announced it will consolidate all corporate functions in Arizona by the end of the year.

The company has transferred many of its corporate functions from New York to Arizona in recent months, following the acquisition of the company by **Grupo Mexico** last November.

According to **Xavier Garcia de Quevado**, President and CEO of **Asarco**, "It has become increasingly apparent, as we have transferred functions to the West, that there are significant efficiencies and improvements in communications that can be made by a complete transfer of the **Asarco** corporate offices close to its major copper operations, as well as close to its sister operations in Mexico."

Relocated to a new corporate headquarters in Phoenix will be the office of the president and other executive functions, as well as the following departments, some of which are now located in Tucson: **Treasurer, Legal, Human Resources, Government Relations, Sales, Traffic, and Auditing**. Remaining in Tucson will be the following departments: **Controller, Information Systems, Purchasing, Payroll, Geology and Exploration, Mine Planning, Environmental, Projects and Accounts Payable**.

**Grupo Mexico**, whose wholly-owned U.S. mining and metals subsidiary is **Asarco**, is in the process of restructuring its corporation to adapt its corporate structure to suit the global nature of its existing operations. \*

## NWMA MEMBERS

DISPLAY YOUR COMPANY'S LOGO, SERVICES AND  
CONTACT INFORMATION ON THESE PAGES.

CALL 509/624-1158

FOR RATES AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

## NOW IS THE TIME TO RESERVE YOUR "OFFICE" SPACE AT NWMA'S 106TH ANNUAL MEETING AND EXPOSITION

When you exhibit at the NWMA show, you are opening an open-air "office" at the most prestigious annual mining event in the USA.

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509/624-1158  
FAX: 509/623-1241

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## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

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**MINExpo International 2000**, Oct. 9-12, 2000, Las Vegas Convention Center. Contact Kendy Allen with National Mining Association at (202) 463-2611 or Email her at [kallen@nma.org](mailto:kallen@nma.org).

**Blast Design and Assessment for Surface and Underground Mines and Quarries**, Oct. 23-25, Reno, Nev. Sponsored by Golder Associates. Call Graeme Major at (775) 828-9604 for details. Email [gmajor@golder.com](mailto:gmajor@golder.com).

**The Alaska Miner's Association Annual Convention and Trade Show**, Oct. 30-Nov. 3, Anchorage. Call Sharon at (907) 563-9229 for details.

**The National Western Mining Conference**, sponsored by the Colorado Mining Association, Nov. 1-4, at the Broadmoor in Colorado Springs. Call 1-800-634-7711 for more information.

**Randol at Vancouver-Global Mining Opportunities**, Nov. 13-15, 2000, Robson Square Conference Centre, Vancouver, British Columbia. For information call (303) 526-1626 or visit their website at [www.randol.com](http://www.randol.com).

**Manitoba Mining & Minerals Convention 2000: Manitoba - Your Rock-Solid Advantage**, Nov. 16-18 at the Winnipeg Convention Centre. Call (800) 223-5215 for details. Email [convention@em.gov.mb.ca](mailto:convention@em.gov.mb.ca).

**Conference on Mercury in Mining**, Nov. 28-30 at the Cathedral Hill Hotel in San Francisco. Sponsored by EPA's Office of Research and Development. Call Doug Grosse at (513) 569-7844 for details.

**NWMA Annual Meeting & Exposition, Dec. 4-8, 2000, Spokane Convention and Agricultural Trade Centers, Spokane, Washington.**  
Contact NWMA at (509) 624-1158 or visit [www.nwma.org](http://www.nwma.org) for details.

**The Tailings and Mine Waste '01 Conference**, Jan. 15-18, 2001, at Colorado State University, Fort Collins. Call (970) 491-6081 for more information. Email address is [hinshaw@engr.colostate.edu](mailto:hinshaw@engr.colostate.edu).

**The 18th Annual Cordilleran Exploration Roundup**, Jan. 23-26, 2001, Vancouver, B.C. Sponsored by the B.C. & Yukon Chamber of Mines. Call (604) 681-5328 for details. Email [chamber@chamberofmines.bc.ca](mailto:chamber@chamberofmines.bc.ca).

**International Society of Explosives Engineers 27th Annual Conference**, Jan. 28-31, 2001, Orlando, Fla. Call (440) 349-4004. Email: [davis@isee.org](mailto:davis@isee.org). Deadline for papers is Oct. 15.

**International Symposium on Cyanide: Social, Industrial and Economic Aspects**, Feb. 11-15, 2001, New Orleans. For details call Courtney Young at (406) 496-4158, Larry Tidwell at (406) 496-4208 or Corby Anderson at (406) 496-4794.

**Mexico Mining 2001**, Feb. 14-16, 2001, Westin Regina Resort, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. For additional information call (303) 526-1626, or visit the conference website at [www.randol.com](http://www.randol.com).

**The 2001 North American VULCAN Software Users Conference**, February 21-23, 2001, Copper Mountain Resort, Summit County, Colo. Sponsored by MAPTEK. Call (303) 763-4919, or Email them at [info@maptek.com](mailto:info@maptek.com).

**SME's Annual Meeting**, Feb. 26-28, 2001, Denver, Colo. Call 1-800-763-3132 for additional information. \*















# NWMA STATEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PRINCIPLES

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IN SUPPORT OF ITS MISSION TO ADVANCE THE MINERAL INDUSTRIES, THE **NORTHWEST MINING ASSOCIATION** IS COMMITTED TO PRINCIPLES THAT EMBODY THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN HEALTH, THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND A PROSPEROUS ECONOMY. ACCORDINGLY, THE **NWMA** AND ITS MEMBERSHIP RECOGNIZE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AS AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF MINING AND HEREBY AFFIRM THESE PRINCIPLES:

- THAT THE BUSINESS OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRIES SHOULD BE CONDUCTED IN A MANNER THAT INTEGRATES THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN HEALTH AND OF THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT WITH THE BENEFITS OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL GROWTH;
- THAT FACILITIES SHOULD BE DESIGNED, DEVELOPED AND OPERATED BASED UPON THE EFFICIENT AND ECONOMIC USE OF ENERGY RESOURCES AND MATERIALS, THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT, AND THE MINIMIZATION OF WASTE;
- THAT FROM PROJECT INCEPTION THROUGH CLOSURE, POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS SHOULD BE COMPREHENSIVELY IDENTIFIED, AND APPROPRIATELY EVALUATED, MANAGED AND MITIGATED;
- THAT RESEARCH INTO, AND EDUCATION PERTAINING TO, THE MOST EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT METHODS OF MITIGATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS SHOULD BE SUPPORTED AND THE RESULTS SHARED AND OPENLY DISCUSSED;
- THAT ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICES SHOULD COMPLY WITH STATUTORY AND REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS AND, IN THE ABSENCE OF FORMAL REGULATION, THAT APPROPRIATE PRACTICES SHOULD BE APPLIED;
- THAT ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, NOT JUST COMPLIANCE WITH STATUTORY AND REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS, SHOULD BE THE GOAL, AND THAT TECHNICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY SOUND IMPROVEMENT IN ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE SHOULD CONTINUALLY BE SOUGHT AND IMPLEMENTED;
- THAT AFFECTED PARTIES, INCLUDING THE COMPANY, ITS EMPLOYEES, SUPPLIERS AND CONTRACTORS, AND THE LOCAL COMMUNITY, SHOULD BE KEPT INFORMED AND INVOLVED ON TECHNICAL, LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES;
- THAT OPEN AND CONSTRUCTIVE PARTNERSHIPS SHOULD BE FORGED WITH GOVERNMENTAL BODIES, AFFECTED PARTIES, AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC FOR THE FORMULATION OF AN EFFECTIVE, EFFICIENT AND EQUITABLE LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK TO SUPPORT MINERAL INDUSTRIES WHICH ARE BOTH ECONOMICALLY VIBRANT AND ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE; AND
- THAT THE UNDERSTANDING SHOULD BE PROMOTED THROUGH EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND OTHER MEANS, WITHIN AND BEYOND THE MINING INDUSTRY, THAT MINING AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ARE COMPATIBLE, AND THAT MINERAL PRODUCTS MAKE POSSIBLE BOTH THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR SOCIETY AND THE MITIGATION OF MODERN SOCIETY'S IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT.

ADOPTED BY THE **NWMA** TRUSTEES, OCTOBER 15, 1998  
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