BRIAN SANDOVAL Governor

#### STATE OF NEVADA



KAY SCHERER Interim Director

JASON KING, P.E. State Engineer

# DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES

901 South Stewart Street, Suite 2002 Carson City, Nevada 89701-5250 (775) 684-2800 • Fax (775) 684-2811 <u>http://water.nv.gov</u>

November 16, 2016

**MM-213** 

Patrick Highsmith Esmeralda Minerals LLC 100 West Liberty Street, 10<sup>th</sup> floor Reno, Nevada 89501

RE: Request for a waiver to drill one (1) well (Well CV-8) to explore for minerals within the Clayton Valley Hydrographic Basin (143), Esmeralda County, Nevada. Well Location: Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) meters (m), North American Datum 1983 (NAD 83).
143 S02 E40 31Ab (nw<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>); UTM (m) E: 448,955, N: 4,175,605. Esmeralda Assessor Parcel Number: 006-281-02.

Dear Mr. Highsmith,

As provided in NAC 534.442, permission is herewith granted to drill a well to use water from the described well herein to explore for minerals. This waiver expires November 15, 2017.

The proposed well construction is approved.

Water use must be measured with records kept and filed in this office, no later than thirty (30) days following the expiration of this waiver or upon project completion whichever occurs first. The amount of water that will be used must not exceed five (5) acre-feet per project.

Unless prior arrangements of continued use have been made in writing with this office, the well shall be plugged in accordance to Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 534.420, no later than thirty (30) days after the expiration of this waiver or upon project completion, whichever occurs first.

This waiver does not grant or infer any rights of ingress or egress, nor any appropriation of water and shall not be deemed to result in the development of any equity.

Page 2 MM-213 November 16, 2016 Esmeralda Minerals, LLC.

It is expressly understood that this waiver does not relieve the operator of the permitting requirements of any other state, local or federal agency, or private property.

Please reference Waiver Number MM-213 in all correspondence regarding this well including the Notice of Intent to drill card (NOI) and the Well Driller's Report.

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at the address above, by email at <u>khaffey@water.nv.gov</u> or at 775-684-2814.

Sincerely, Kenneth M. Haffey, PE

Staff Engineer

## KMH/jw

cc: Timothy P. Donahoe, SRK Consulting Bureau of Land Management, Tonopah Field Office Mike Scott, Well Drilling Regulation, e-mail Jake Echeverria, Well Drilling Regulation, e-mail Shannon Mc Daniel, Well Drilling Regulation, e-mail Tim Wilson, Well Drilling Regulation, e-mail

## IN THE OFFICE OF THE STATE ENGINEER OF THE STATE OF NEVADA REQUEST FOR A WAIVER FOR TEMPORARY USE OF GROUND WATER FOR MINERAL EXPLORATION

The applicant and/or person or company responsible for drilling and plugging the temporary well:

Patrick Highsmith	Chief Executive Offi	icer	Esmeralda Min	erals, LLC
Name 100 W. Liberty St., 10th Floor	Title		Con Nevada 89501	mpany
Street Address or PO Box	City or To	wn	State and	d ZIP Code
Telephone number of responsible party:	(303) 668	8-3264		
Estimated project dates:Feb-01-2	017 Start Date	Apr-30-2017	_ Completion E	Date
Location of the well: PLSS, GPS Coor	dinates and Map Dat	tum are require	d.	
NW 1/4 NE 1/4 Section	31 T 02 S	R 40 E, M.	D.B. & M.	
Latitude (N):	or {UTM (n UTM (n	n) E: 44 n) N: 417	<u>8955</u> 75605	Datum NAD83/WGS84
County Assessor Parcel Number (APN):	006-281-02			
Street Address (if any): Not Applicable Location of mineral exploration, plan of sheets as necessary) A waiver is requested to drill a well (by groundwater and mineral resources bene exploration activities at CV-8 has been a aquifer test will be performed to estimate Water sample(s) will also be collected fr	(Well CV-08) operations, and descri licensed driller) and a eath Applicant's minera approved by BLM. The e aquifer parameters so	llow temporary u al claims. Applic e well will be dev uch as hydraulic	use of water to c ant's NOI (N-94 veloped and a su conductivity an	haracterize the 1958) to perform mall scale d storativity.
Estimated amount of water to be used:	on the wen to determ	the the quanty of	r groundwater a	<u>na nunum orme.</u>
Number of days 3 x Gallons per of	day $543,085 = T_{\rm C}$	tal Gallons 1,62	9,255	
Is this an existing well? No If				
The following iter	ns must be submitted	l with the waive	r request:	
<ul> <li>If this is an existing well, sul</li> <li>Affidavit of Intent to Plug a</li> <li>Location Map (i.e., Large Se</li> <li>Site Detail Map (i.e., Small Se</li> </ul>	Well (for new well(s) cale, inch = miles)	reement betwee ) or well(s) whic	n you and the o h ownership is	owner not claimed)
Signatory Contact Information:				
(775) 828-6800		Timothy P. Dor	nahoe	
Telephone Number		Printed Name	1	7
5250 Neil Road, Suite 300		7-4	P.Donal	
Mailing Address		Signature		
Reno, Nevada 89502		Oct-06-2016		
City, State, ZIP Code		Date		

Revised 12/14 - mmwaiver

\$120 FILING FEE MUST ACCOMPANY THIS REQUEST

## IN THE OFFICE OF THE STATE ENGINEER OF NEVADA

# AFFIDAVIT OF INTENT TO ABANDON A WELL

	Notice of Inten	t #
I, DR. ANDY ROBINSON, C.O.O.	Name & Title	
ESMERALDA MINERALS, LLC.	Company	RECE 2016 DCT 19
100 W. LIBERTY ST., 10th FLOOR	Address	E ENG
RENO, NEVADA 89501		9 PI
(604) 961-9932	Telephone Number	RECEIVED 16007 19 PH 3: 13 ANE ENGINEERS OFFICE
of the real property located at:		FIL:
Street address (if any) not applicable (Well CV-0	(8)	
County Assessor Parcel Number (APN) 006-28	1-02	
Situated within the <u>NW 1/4</u> NE 1/4 Set	ection <u>31</u> T <u>02</u> s	RE, M.D.B. & M.
{Latitude (N):} or {	UTM (m) E: 448955 UTM (m) N: 4175605	Datum NAD83/WGS84
and whereupon an existing well or wells are lo	cated or to be located, fully	y understand that I shall be
responsible for, and shall cause the existing w	vell to be plugged in acco	rdance with the provisions
contained in Nevada Administrative Code (NAC	c) 534.420 and all other appl	icable rules and regulations
for drilling/plugging wells in the State of Nevada	a.	
I shall further make any purchaser of this parcel	aware of these conditions.	1
Responsible Party		
(Printed Name): Andy Robinson	(Signature):	
Province of British Columbia State of Nevada District		
County of North Vancouver		J' L
Subscribed and sworn to before me on Oct 6	,2016	
by Andy Robinson	ANDREA D. JOHNSON Notary Public 409 North Dollarton Highway North Vancouver, BC, V7G 1M9 778-984-5320	
Signature of Notary Public Required MY C	Notary	Seal Revised 11/14





GIS-Tuc11458.031Well\_Location\_MapWGS84m.mxd/04Oct2018 UTM WGS84 Zone11N meters





H: Pure Energy Minerals 483600 010\_Clayton Valley Water Rights Consulting 040\_Drafting Figure 2 - General Well Site Plan dwg



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT Tonopah Field Office P.O. Box 911 (1553 South Main Street) Tonopah, Nevada 89049 Phone: 775-482-7800 Fax: 775-482-7810 http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/battle\_mountain\_field.html

In Reply Refer To: N-94958 3809 (NVB0200)

## OCT 8 3 2816

# CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED 9171 9690 0935 0137 7508 51

## DECISION

GeoExplor Corp. 3655 W Anthem Way Ste. 109-293 Anthem AZ 85086 0430

: 43 CFR 3809 - Surface Management
: Notice

# **Determination of Required Financial Guarantee Amount**

<u>Description of Notice</u> - Your notice for drill holes for the CV 7&8 Exploration Project was received in this office on September 19, 2016. The project area is located in Esmeralda County, Nevada in section 31 & 32, T. 2 S., R. 40 E., Mount Diablo Meridian. The notice proposes 2 drill holes totaling 3.76 acres of disturbance. The proposed operations were reviewed by various resource specialists who have determined that the operation, as proposed, will not cause unnecessary or undue degradation as defined under 43 CFR 3809.5. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) casefile number for your notice is N-94958. Please refer to this number in any future communication concerning this notice.

Amount of Financial Guarantee – A member of the Tonopah Field Office staff has reviewed your reclamation cost estimate and determined that a financial guarantee of \$27,134.00 is sufficient to complete reclamation of the proposed disturbance. The amount of the reclamation cost estimate is based on operator compliance with all applicable operating and reclamation requirements.

All line items contained in the reclamation cost estimate are not to be considered as the limits of financial guarantee expenditures in that respective category or task should forfeiture of the financial guarantee by necessary. The line items listed are solely for the purpose of arriving at a total amount for the financial guarantee. This total amount may be spent however the BLM deems necessary to implement the approved reclamation plan, and does not represent a reclamation cost limit or constraint.

The BLM's review of your proposed operations, determination that your notice filing is complete, determination that your operations as proposed will not cause unnecessary or undue degradation and decision concerning the amount of the required financial guarantee does not relieve you, the operator, of your responsibility to be in compliance with all applicable Federal, State and local laws and regulations, and to obtain all applicable Federal, State and local authorizations and permits. You are responsible for preventing any unnecessary or undue degradation of public lands and resources, and for reclaiming all lands disturbed by your operations.

<u>Required Financial Guarantee</u> - A financial guarantee in the amount of \$27,134.00 must be filed and accepted by the Bureau of Land Management, Branch of Minerals Adjudication, 1340 Financial Blvd., Reno, Nevada 89520. You must receive written notification from that office accepting and obligating your financial guarantee before you may begin any surface disturbing operations.

The types of financial instruments that are acceptable to the BLM are found at 43 CFR 3809.555. Please contact the Branch of Minerals Adjudication at 775 861-6400 for further information on the adjudication of financial guarantees.

This decision does not constitute certification of ownership to any entity named in the notice; recognition of the validity of associated mining claims; or recognition of the economic feasibility of the proposed operations.

<u>Term of Notice</u> - Your notice will remain in effect for two years from the date of this decision, unless you notify this office beforehand that operations have ceased and reclamation is complete. If you wish to conduct operations for another two years after the expiration date of your notice, you must notify this office in writing on or before the expiration date as required by 43 CFR 3809.333.

<u>Reclamation</u> - After re-contouring dill pads and roads, the "to be determined seed mix" shall be applied at the specified rate per acre of disturbed ground. The seeding rate is for drill seeding. The seed rate should be doubled for broadcast seeding and the seed covered after application by raking or other means.

<u>Guidelines for Operations Conducted Under a Notice</u> - The enclosed document provides additional guidelines concerning your notice.

<u>Other Stipulations</u> – Additional Biological and Cultural information specific to this geographic area have been developed and are included as an enclosure.

## Appeal of the Decision

If you arc adversely affected by this decision, you may request that the BLM Nevada State Director review this decision. If you request a State Director Review, the request must be received in the BLM Nevada State Office at 1340 Financial Blvd., Reno, Nevada 89502, no later than 30 calendar days after you receive or have been notified of this decision. The request for State Director Review must be filed in accordance with the provisions in 43 CFR 3809.805. This decision will remain in effect while the State Director Review is pending, unless a stay (suspension) is granted by the State Director. If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.

If the State Director does not make a decision on your request for review of this decision within 21 days of receipt of the request, you should consider the request declined and you may appeal this decision to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA). You may contact the BLM Nevada State Office to determine when the BLM received the request for State Director Review. You have 30 days from the end of the 21-day period in which to file your Notice of Appeal with this office at P.O. Box 911, 1553 S. Main St, Tonopah, NV 89049, which we will forward to IBLA.

If you wish to bypass a State Director Review, this decision may be appealed directly to the IBLA in accordance with the regulations at 43 CFR 3809.801(a) (1). Your Notice of Appeal must be filed in this office at P.O. Box 911, 1553 S. Main St, Tonopah, NV 89049, within 30 days from receipt of this decision. As the appellant you have the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error. Enclosed is BLM Form 1842-1 that contains information on taking appeals to the IBLA.

This decision will remain in effect while the IBLA reviews the case, unless a stay is granted by the IBLA. If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.

## Request for a Stay

If you wish to file a petition (request) pursuant to regulations 43 CFR 4.21 for a stay of the effectiveness of this decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by IBLA, the petition for a stay must accompany your notice of appeal. A petition for a stay is required to show sufficient justification based on the standards listed below. Copies of this notice of appeal and petition for a stay must also be submitted to each party named in the decision and to the IBLA and to the appropriate Office of the Solicitor (see 43 CFR 4.413) at the same time the original documents are filed with this office. If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.

## Standards for Obtaining a Stay

Except as otherwise provided by law or other pertinent regulation, a petition for a stay of a decision pending appeal must show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

1. The relative harm to parties if the stay is granted or denied.

- ----

- 3. The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted.
- 4. Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

If you have any questions, please contact William Coyle, Assistant Field Manager, Non-Renewable Resources, at (775) 482-7800.

Timothy J. Coward Field Manager

Enclosures

cc: BLM Nevada, Branch of Minerals Adjudication

# CV 7-8 2016\_Notice\_Model\_V3 2

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10/3/2016

Cost Estimate

CV 7-8 2016\_Notice\_Model\_V3.2

Cost Estimate

<ol> <li>There are two side his signe estappores used for all exclusions in this worksheet. All supper under 30% (-20%) are assumed to have a stope of 20%.</li> <li>All Budgi Site in this worksheet are assumed to have a 14 foor wide dimension across the flat "diversite" part of the road without any salety beams.</li> <li>All Road and Drill Sites on tarbox are assumed to have a 14 foor wide dimension across the flat "diversite" part of the road without any salety beams.</li> <li>All Road and Drill Sites on tarbox are assumed to have a 14 foor wide dimension across the flat "diversite" part of the road without any salety beams.</li> <li>All Road and Drill Sites on tarbox are assumed to have a 14 foor wide dimension across the flat "diversite" part of the road without any salety beams.</li> <li>Beads are bries function of Roads. Drill Sites on alogos of 1 All IV or island. TWs island on aloges -30% they are 83 feet long.</li> <li>Beads are bries function of Roads. Drill Sites on alogo of 0 and worksheet. All shops are the sale on alogos -30% they are 83 feet long.</li> <li>Beads are bries function of Roads. Drill Sites on alogos of 1 All IV or island. TWs island and productionly of ISS CY per hour.</li> <li>Beads are bries function of Roads. Drill Sites on alogo are sales for hour bries. So and Workmans. Comp. 8.1%.</li> <li>Beads are now is a based on Device Secon ways rais for hour bries.</li> <li>Beads are now is to the out of the out of the out of the sale of the out of the out of the out.</li> <li>Drill Sites neovicing cost is based on the out of the sales for shops are 1.5%. Uncomplement = 3% and Workman's Comp. 8.7%.</li> <li>Drill Sites neovicing cost is based on the cost of the sales in the out of the sale and productionly of isS CY per hour.</li> <li>Drill Sites neovicing the sale of the out of the</li></ol>
The model will generate approximately the same reclamation costs as the SRCE model if the same inputs and assumptions are applied Below are the methods and assumptions used by this model to generate a Financial Guerantee Amount,

10/2/2016



## Cultural Resources

A cultural resources records check has been performed for the proposed project area. No inventory has been conducted at these locations and there is a strong possibility that sites could be found in the proposed project area. If cultural resources are found, the BLM strongly recommends that GeoXplor Corp. retain the services of an archaeological contractor to avoid damage to cultural resources. The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA: 43 CFR 10), protects items of cultural patrimony, Native American funerary items, Native American remains and sacred objects. In addition, The Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA: 43 CFR 7.4, 7.14, 7.15, 7.16) provides for civil and/or criminal penalties for the disturbance of archaeological resources on federal lands and if such disturbance is the result of activities conducted by GeoXplor Corp., they could be liable for such damages. If cultural resources, Native American remains, funerary items, scared items, or objects of cultural patrimony are discovered, GeoXplor Corp. must cease operations in the vicinity of the discovery and ensure adequate protection to the discovery, then notify the BLM immediately, by telephone, with written confirmation to follow (43 CFR 10.4 (c), (d), (g); Nevada State Protocol Agreement VIII (b)). Notification should be made to Tonopah Field Manager, Tonopah Field Office, 1553 South Main Street, Tonopah, NV, 89049, (775-482-7800). No activity in the vicinity of the discovery should resume until GeoXplor Corp. has been issued a Notice to Proceed by the Authorized Officer.

## **Paleontological Resources**

Paleontological resources constitute a fragile and non-renewable scientific record of the history of life on earth. Although no paleontological resources are known or identified in the immediate area, this project may have an unintended adverse effect on such resources. GeoXplor Corp. should note that fossils are not part of the mineral estate. Paleontological resources are protected by the Paleontological Resources Protection Act (OPLA-PRP: Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 Paleontological Resources Preservation Subtitle 123 Stat. 1172, 16 U.S.C. 470aaa et seq.) which establishes criminal and civil penalties. GeoXplor Corp. should also be aware that if paleontological resources are found in direct association with cultural resources, then such occurrences are subject to Archaeological Resource Protection Act (ARPA: 43 CFR 7.4, 7.14, 7.15, 7.16) provisions. OPLA-PRP requires that the nature and location of paleontological resources on public lands be kept confidential. If paleontological resources are discovered, GeoXplor Corp. must cease operations in the vicinity of the discovery and ensure adequate protection to the discovery, then notify the BLM immediately, by telephone, with written confirmation to follow. Notification should be made to Tonopah Field Manager, Tonopah Field Office, 1553 South Main Street, Tonopah, NV, 89049, (775-482-7800). No activity in the vicinity of the discovery should resume until GeoXplor Corp. has been issued a Notice to Proceed by the Authorized Officer.

## **Biological Resources**

Project area is likely utilized by small mammals (potentially Pale/dark kangaroo mouse) and reptiles. Limited use by larger ungulates is likely. Project is located just above the playa bottom of Clayton Valley, southeast of Angel Island. Performent small mammal survivus for log commend

## GUIDELINES FOR OPERATIONS CONDUCTED UNDER A "NOTICE" (Not all are appropriate for all areas)

- 1. For any given project area, the maximum allowable surface disturbance under a "Notice' is five acres. Any activity that results in excavation, compaction, powdering, or erosion of the original ground surface, is considered disturbance and must be reclaimed. This may include the blading or rutting of existing roads, the development of a rutted surface during cross-country travel, and drilling or trenching. Please contact this office if you expect to exceed a total disturbance of five acres; submittal of a Plan of Operations may be necessary.
- 2. In areas where more than one operator has been or will be conducting operations, we suggest that each operator document their portion of the disturbance to assist in future reclamation accountability. This should be done by submitting to BLM a map showing the existing disturbance and the proposed new disturbance, and indicating the time periods (if known) during which past disturbance occurred. Reclamation of disturbance done under this "Notice" is the responsibility of the claimant and includes liability for reclamation not satisfactorily completed by the operator.
- 3. Disturbance to drainages, including blading or filling, should be avoided. Where a dry wash offers the only feasible access to a site, no blading of the wash should be done. No disturbance should occur within 100 feet of active drainages, springs or seeps. Drainage crossings should neither obstruct the channel nor result in increased erosion or sedimentation.
- 4. Within the Tonopah Field Office planning area there are certain effective actions that are considered to be critical to reclamation success and eventual closure for mineral development projects conducted on public lands. Earthwork should blend disturbed areas back into pre-disturbance topography, i.e., reclamation of roads cut into hill sides should involve pulling excavated material back up into the road cuts so as to closely approximate the original hillside. Material should consist of a mix of medium coarse to fine sand size materials, avoid "bug dust". Seed beds should be rough and consist of alluvial material or "top soil" spread over the top of the disturbed areas (high salt content may be a problem in some areas). The use of fertilizer is discouraged. Use the appropriate seed mix. To verify the proper seed mix, contact the Tonopah Field Office prior to re-seeding. All seeds must be tested for noxious, poisonous, or prohibited plant species, and the test result submitted to and approved by the BLM, unless certified "weed free" seed is procured. Seeding should be completed in the late fall before the first snowfall. Successful revegetation consists of the establishment of a self-sustaining desirable plant community.
- 5. All operations, including casual use, must comply with all applicable Federal and State laws and regulations concerning cultural resources. According to the Surface Management Regulations (43 CFR 3809.2-2), operators shall not knowingly destroy, disturb or alter cultural or paleontological resources on Federal lands. You must avoid historic features, such as trash scatters, adits, foundations, old equipment, buildings, etc. If such resources

- 5a. If historic or pre-historic artifacts are discovered during project activities, operations in the immediate area shall cease, leaving the resource intact. The operator shall take measures to protect the discovered artifacts from further disturbance by mine employees or contractors. Notify the Tonopah Field Office Manager at (775) 482-7800 so that the resource may be evaluated. The BLM will, as appropriate, evaluate the significance of the find within 10 working days. The operator shall not proceed with potentially disturbing activities until authorized to do so by the BLM. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g), the holder of this "Notice" must notify the authorized officer, by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects of cultural patrimony (as identified at 43 CFR 10.2). Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.
- 6. Migratory Birds and Raptors: Any activity that occurs between 1 March and 31 July directly conflicts with the bird-breeding season. In addition, many raptor species initiate breeding in March. Therefore, it is recommended that any land clearing or other surface disturbance associated with proposed actions within the project area be timed to avoid potential disturbance of bird nests or young, or birds that breed in the area. Such disturbance may be in violation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). Under the MBTA, nests, eggs or young of migratory birds may not be harmed, nor may migratory birds be killed. Therefore, we recommend land clearing be conducted outside the avian breeding season (1 March-31 July). If this is not feasible, we recommend a qualified biologist survey the area in accordance with the BLM Nevada 2014 Statewide Wildlife Survey Protocols prior to land clearing. These surveys are only valid for up to 14 days, if activity is not completed before that window, then another survey may be needed. If nests are located, or if other evidence of nesting (i.e., mated pairs, territorial defense, carrying nesting material, transporting of food) is observed, a protective buffer (the size depending on the habitat requirements of the species) should be delineated and the entire area avoided until the young fledge or activity is no longer apparent.
- 7. There is a possibility of sensitive bat habitat in the area of your proposed operation. Avoid disturbing historic workings such as adits or shafts.
- 8. Scientifically significant paleontological resources located on lands administered by the BLM must be left in place and their locations reported to the Tonopah Field Office as soon as possible. All vertebrate fossils, as well as some invertebrates, are included in this category. Your assistance in these efforts will help increase the paleontological database on public lands.
- 9. Trash must be hauled to a landfill permitted by the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) rather than dumped, buried, and/or burned on-site. All operators must comply with applicable Federal and State laws dealing with the storage and disposal of chemicals, petroleum, petroleum products, and Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA) Subtitle D solid and RCRA Subtitle C hazardous wastes. Under no circumstances

10. Occupational Safety and Health Standards (OSHA)

### <u>1910.141(c)(1)(i)</u> Toilet Facilities

Except as otherwise indicated in this paragraph (c)(1)(i), toilet facilities, in toilet rooms separate for each sex, shall be provided in all places of employment in accordance with table J-1 of this section. The number of facilities to be provided for each sex shall be based on the number of employees of that sex for whom the facilities are furnished. Where toilet rooms will be occupied by no more than one person at a time, can be locked from the inside, and contain at least one water closet, separate toilet rooms for each sex need not be provided. Where such single-occupancy rooms have more than one toilet facility, only one such facility in each toilet room shall be counted for the purpose of table J-1.

Number of employees	Minimum number of water closets
1 to 15	1
16 to 35	2
36 to 55	3
56 to 80	4
81 to 110	5
111 to 150	6
Over 150	(2)

## 1910.141(c)(1)(ii)

The requirements of paragraph (c)(1)(i) of this section do not apply to mobile crews or to normally unattended work locations so long as employees working at these locations have transportation immediately available to nearby toilet facilities which meet the other requirements of this subparagraph.

- 11. When a fence is cut to allow access to a site, a temporary gate must be installed to prevent livestock from passing through the opening. The fence should be repaired to its original condition or better as soon as possible. Permission from the owner of the fence must be obtained.
- 12. Destruction or felling of trees is to be avoided whenever possible. Partial delimbing is the preferred alternative. Aspen, bristlecone, limber pine and cottonwood are protected and should not be disturbed.
- 13. Use of water for drilling or mining purposes must conform to State of Nevada regulations. Artificial water impoundments used to fill water trucks on public lands must be preapproved.
- 14. Fluids or solution used or encountered in the drilling process may be discharged to the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Where toilet facilities will not be used by women, urinals may be provided instead of water closets, except that the number of water closets in such cases shall not be reduced to less than 2/3 of the minimum

environment only after other practical methods of fluid control (i.e., sumps, tanks, etc.) have been exhausted. If solutions must be discharged to the environment, they must be controlled in such a manner that the discharge does not cause erosion or channeling and is contaminant and sediment free. Alternatives to these fluid management practices must be approved by this office.

- 15. It is your responsibility to bear the cost of any necessary restoration or reestablishment activity of affected survey monument(s). Correspondingly, in the course of any accepted surface disturbance activity when Public Land Survey System Monuments/Cadastral corners or accessories that may or have been subject to obliteration, destruction, or damage, it will be your responsibility to protect and preserve the monumentation. Further clarification can be found in Nevada BLM's Instruction Memorandum No. NV-2007-003.
- 16. The following precautionary measures should be taken to prevent wildland fires. In the event your operations should start a fire, you could be held liable for all suppression costs.
  - 1. All vehicles should carry fire extinguishers.
  - 2. Adequate fire fighting equipment i.e. shovel, pulaski, extinguisher(s), and/or an ample water supply should be kept at the drill site(s).
  - 3. Vehicle catalytic converters and the vehicle undercarriage should be inspected often and cleaned of all brush and grass debris.
  - 4. When conducting welding operations, they should be conducted in an area free from or mostly free from vegetation. An ample water supply and shovel should be on hand to extinguish any fires created from the sparks. Extra personnel should be on site to watch out for fires created by welding sparks.
  - 5. Report wildland fires immediately to the Central Nevada Interagency Dispatch Center at (775) 623-1555.
- 17. Noxious weeds can readily invade disturbed areas associated with exploration projects. Operators are responsible for: 1) identifying noxious weeds in project area (booklets and pamphlets are available from this office), 2) excluding noxious weeds from disturbed areas until reclamation has been accepted, 3) insuring all equipment is "weed free" before traveling to and from project areas so that noxious weeds are not spread to new locations. When noxious weeds are encountered in project areas, documentation of their location and extent should be provided to the BLM as soon as possible. Operators must obtain approval from the authorized officer prior to any herbicide application. Please contact the Tonopah Field Station's noxious weed program lead if you have questions or comments on the information contained in this Guideline.
- 18. To maintain access for other members of the public, drilling activities are not allowed on existing roads and trails. Drill pads surface disturbance must be more than 20 feet from the travel surface of existing roads and trails. "*Existing roads and trails*" are travel routes for vehicles that you are not required to reclaim.

#### STATE OF NEVADA

HRIAN SANDOVAL



LEO DROZDO F Directo

JASON KING, P.E. State Bagineer

## RECEIVED-MAILROOM

ZOIN AUG -1 P 2:03

BUREAU OF PREAREMENTOF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

901 South Stewart Street, Suite 2002 Carson City, Nevada 89701-8250 (778) 684-2800 • Fax (775) 684-2811 <u>http://water.nv.cov</u> June 27, 2016 July 27, 2016 <u>CORRECTED LETTER</u>

Rockwood Lithium, Inc. PO Box 98, Hwy 265 Silver Peak, NV 89047

GeoXplor Corp. 3655 West Anthem Way Suite 109-293 Anthem, AZ 85080

Pure Energy Minerals c/o Dr. Andy Robinson Suite 1780-355 Burrard Street Vancouver, BC, Canada, V6C 2G8

Dajin Resources Suite 450-789 West Pender Street Vancouver, BC Canada, V6C 1H2

Intor Resources c/o Richard Harris, Esq. 6121 Lakeside Drive Reno, Nevada 89511 Nevada Energy Minerals Suite 450-789 West Pender Street Vancouver, BC, Canada, V6C 1H2

Nevada Sunrise Gold Corp. Suite 1100 – 1111 Melville Street Vancouver, BC. Canada V6E 3V6

Lithium X Energy Corp. Suite 3123-595 Burrard Street Vancouver, BC, Canada, V7X 111

Esmeralda Minerals, I.J C 100 West Liberty Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor Reno, Nevada 89501 RE: Lithium Exploration Wells, Production Wells, and Brine Extraction

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Our office has received a number of inquiries regarding statutes, regulations and permitting in regard to Lithium mining in brine aquifers in the general areas of Clayton Valley, Alkali Spring Valley, Teels Marsh Valley and Columbus Salt Marsh. Each company on the attached service list has been identified as having potential interest in mining Lithium from brine aquifers in Nevada. This informational letter is to ensure all companies are aware of the requirements of the Nevada Division of Water Resources (NDWR).

The mission of the NDWR is to conserve, protect, manage and enhance the State's water resources for Nevada's citizens through the appropriation and reallocation of the public waters. In addition, the Division is responsible for quantifying existing water rights; monitoring water use; distributing water in accordance with court decrees; reviewing water availability for new subdivisions and condominiums; reviewing the construction and operation of dams; appropriating geothermal water; licensing and regulating well drillers and water rights surveyors: reviewing flood control projects; monitoring water resource data and records; and providing technical assistance to the public and governmental agencies.

This mission is accomplished through the enforcement of Nevada Water Laws and statutes. The statutes are Nevada Revised Statutes chapters 532 to 538, inclusive, also chapters 540, 543 and 544. Well drilling regulations are Nevada Administrative Code chapter 534. The statutes and regulations are available online at <u>http://water.nv.gov</u>. Many of the statutes and regulations will be referenced throughout this letter, but may not be all inclusive.

Based on the questions received, the following frequently asked questions have been compiled.

- What is the difference between a designated and non-designated basin?
  - For administrative purposes, Nevada is divided into 256 hydrographic basins. Under NRS 534.030, basins may be designated to provide for additional administration. Please note that Teels Marsh Valley (114) and Columbus Salt Marsh (118) are non-designated basins and Alkali Spring Valley (142) and Clayton Valley (143) are designated basins.
- Can I drill a well without a permit or a waiver?
  - A well can be drilled in a non-designated basin without a permit or waiver, however, the well must not be equipped and no water may be pumped from such well until a waiver or permit has been approved. If a waiver or permit is subsequently denied, an order to plug the well may be issued.
  - o In a designated basin, a well cannot be drilled until a permit or waiver is approved.

• Does the answer above apply to test wells and exploratory wells?

o Yes.

- What is the definition of a borehole?
  - "Borehole" means a penetration in the ground that is deeper than the longest dimension of its opening at the surface and is made to obtain geologic, geophysical or geotechnical information relating to engineering or for any purpose other than for use as a well. (NAC 534.047)
  - A borehole may be drilled or plugged by a person who is not a licensed well driller. (NAC 534.4369) A borehole must be plugged within 60 days after it is drilled. (NAC 534.4371)
  - A borehole must not be used to divert water for any purpose. (NAC 534.4369(7))
- What is a well?
  - A well is defined a penetration in the ground made for the purpose of measuring, testing, or sampling the underground strata or producing groundwater. The term includes a water well, monitoring well or exploratory well. (NAC 534.220)
- Does an exploratory well for brine water that may contain Lithium meet the definition of a borehole?
  - o No.
- Is a Nevada Licensed well driller required to drill or plug wells that penetrate into a brine (non-potable) aquifer?
  - Yes. All wells in Nevada must be drilled and plugged by a Nevada licensed well driller including exploratory wells. (NRS 534, NAC 534)
- Does it matter if the water source is non-potable?
  - o No. The above answer still applies.
- Is a water right permit required for Lithium production wells?
  - Because the Lithium is contained in brine water, a water right permit is required for any water pumped from the well.
- What if my process for extracting the Lithium from the brine water is non-consumptive. such that any water pumped is re-injected into the aquifer?
  - A water right permit is required for all non-consumptive and consumptive uses of water.
- How do I obtain a water right permit?
  - A water right permit can be obtained by filing an application for a new appropriation of water or filing an application to change an existing water right to your project. All applications must meet the statutory requirements for approval.
- How do I obtain a waiver to drill, sample or test pump a temporary exploratory well to explore for lithium (minerals)?
  - A waiver to use water to explore for minerals (MM-Waiver) can be requested as outlined in NAC 534.442. One waiver per well, 5 AFA limit per project phase.

- My project is on land managed by a federal agency and I have obtained the necessary federal permits. Do I still need to follow Nevada statutes and regulations?
   Yes.
- What are the possible penalties for someone found to be in violation of water law, regulations, permit terms, orders, or other requirements of the State Engineer?
  - Possible penalties after the regulatory process are (per NRS §533.481, §534.193, §535.200, and §536.200):
    - Payment of an administrative fine not to exceed \$10,000 per day for each violation
    - Replacement of not more than 200% of the water used, wasted, or diverted; and/or
    - Payment of the costs of the proceeding, including investigative costs and attorney's fees

The goal of NDWR is to conserve, protect and manage Nevada's valuable water resources in a fair and equitable manner by administering and enforcing Nevada's water law. If you have any questions regarding this letter or need further assistance in how you can achieve compliance with these requirements, please contact this office at (775) 684-2800.

Regards,

in Minn, P.F

Tim Wilson, P.E. Manager II Well Drilling Regulation

TW/hr

cc: Chris C. Mahannah, agent (email) George Thiel, agent (email) Michael D. Buschelman, agent (email) Mark Stock, agent (email) Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, BMRR, c/o Joe Sawyer, Bureau Chief Nevada Division of Minerals, c/o Rich Perry, Administrator Paul Taggart, Esq. (email) Ross E. de Lipkau, Esq. (email) Timothy P. Donahoe, SRK Consulting (email) U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Nevada State Office U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Tonopah Field Office Southern Nevada Branch Office Form 1842-1 (September 2006)

## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

## **INFORMATION ON TAKING APPEALS TO THE INTERIOR BOARD OF LAND APPEALS** DO NOT APPEAL UNLESS 1. This decision is adverse to you, AND 2. You believe it is incorrect IF YOU APPEAL, THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURES MUST BE FOLLOWED A person who wishes to appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals must file in the office of the officer who made the decision (not the Interior Board of Land Appeals) a notice that he wishes to appeal. A person served **1. NOTICE OF** with the decision being appealed must transmit the Notice of Appeal in time for it to be filed in the office where APPEAL ..... it is required to be filed within 30 days after the date of service. If a decision is published in the FEDERAL REGISTER, a person not served with the decision must transmit a Notice of Appeal in time for it to be filed within 30 days after the date of publication (43 CFR 4.411 and 4.413). 2. WHERE TO FILE Bureau of Land Management, Tonopah Field Office, P. O. Box 911, 1553 S. Main Street, Tonopah, NV 89049-0911 NOTICE OF APPEAL Regional Solicitor, Pacific Southwest Region, U.S. Department of the Interior, 2800 Cottage Way, Room E-2753, WITH COPY TO Sacramento, CA 95825-1890 SOLICITOR .... Within 30 days after filing the Notice of Appeal, file a complete statement of the reasons why you are appealing. This must be filed with the United States Department of the Interior, Office of Hearings and Appeals, Interior Board of Land Appeals, 801 N. Quincy Street, MS 300-QC, Arlington, Virginia 22203. If you fully stated **3. STATEMENT OF REASONS** your reasons for appealing when filing the Notice of Appeal, no additional statement is necessary (43 CFR 4.412 and 4.413). WITH COPY TO SOLICITOR..... Regional Solicitor, Pacific Southwest Region, U.S. Department of the Interior, 2800 Cottage Way, Room E-2753, Sacramento, CA 95825-1890 4. ADVERSE PARTIES..... Within 15 days after each document is filed, each adverse party named in the decision and the Regional Solicitor or Field Solicitor having jurisdiction over the State in which the appeal arose must be served with a copy of: (a) the Notice of Appeal, (b) the Statement of Reasons, and (c) any other documents filed (43 CFR 4.413). Within 15 days after any document is served on an adverse party, file proof of that service with the United States Department of the Interior, Office of Hearings and Appeals, Interior Board of Land Appeals, 801 N. Quincy Street, MS 300-QC, Arlington, Virginia 22203. This may consist of a certified or registered mail "Return Receipt Card" signed by the adverse party (43 CFR 4.401(c)). 5. PROOF OF SERVICE 6. REQUEST FOR STAY Except where program-specific regulations place this decision in full force and effect or provide for an Except white program spectric regulations place this decision in full force and effect of provide for all automatic stay, the decision becomes effective upon the expiration of the time allowed for filing an appeal unless a petition for a stay is timely filed together with a *Notice of Appeal* (43 CFR 4.21). If you wish to file a petition for a stay of the effectiveness of this decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the Interior Board of Land Appeals, the petition for a stay must accompany your *Notice of Appeal* (43 CFR 4.21 or 43 CFR 2801.10 or 43 CFR 2881.10). A petition for a stay is required to show sufficient justification based on the standards listed below. Copies of the *Notice of Appeal* and Petition for a Stay must also be submitted to each party named in this decision and to the Interior Board of Land Appeals and to the appropriate Office of the State of t Solicitor (43 CFR 4.413) at the same time the original documents are filed with this office. If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.

Standards for Obtaining a Stay. Except as otherwise provided by law or other pertinent regulations, a petition for a stay of a decision pending appeal shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards: (1) the relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied, (2) the likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits. (3) the likelihood of immediate and immediate and immediate harm if the stay is not granted and ( $\Delta$ )

#### 43 CFR SUBPART 1821-GENERAL INFORMATION

Sec. 1821.10 Where are BLM offices located? (a) In addition to the Headquarters Office in Washington, D.C. and seven national level support and service centers, BLM operates 12 State Offices each having several subsidiary offices called Field Offices. The addresses of the State Offices can be found in the most recent edition of 43 CFR 1821.10. The State Office geographical areas of jurisdiction are as follows:

#### STATE OFFICES AND AREAS OF JURISDICTION:

Aluska State Office ------- Aluska Arizona State Office ------ California Colorado State Office ------ California Colorado State Office ------ Colorado Eastern States Office ------ Colorado Eastern States Office ------ Arkansas, Iowa, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri and, all States cast of the Mississippi River Idaho State Office ------- Idaho Montana State Office ------- Novada New Mexico State Office ------ New Mexico, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas Oregon State Office ------- Utah Wyoming State Office ------- Utah Wyoming State Office ------- Wyoming and Nebraska

(b) A list of the names, addresses, and geographical areas of jurisdiction of all Field Offices of the Bureau of Land Management can be obtained at the above addresses or any office of the Bureau of Land Management, including the Washington Office, Bureau of Land Management, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20240.

(Form 1842-1, September 2006)

## CV-7&8 GeoXplor Corp. Lithium Exploration Drilling Program Biological, Cultural and Paleontological Resources Conditions

### **Cultural Resources**

A cultural resources records check has been performed for the proposed project area. No inventory has been conducted at these locations and there is a strong possibility that sites could be found in the proposed project area. If cultural resources are found, the BLM strongly recommends that GeoXplor Corp. retain the services of an archaeological contractor to avoid damage to cultural resources. The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA: 43 CFR 10), protects items of cultural patrimony, Native American funerary items, Native American remains and sacred objects. In addition, The Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA: 43 CFR 7.4, 7.14, 7.15, 7.16) provides for civil and/or criminal penalties for the disturbance of archaeological resources on federal lands and if such disturbance is the result of activities conducted by GeoXplor Corp., they could be liable for such damages. If cultural resources, Native American remains, funerary items, scared items, or objects of cultural patrimony are discovered, GeoXplor Corp. must cease operations in the vicinity of the discovery and ensure adequate protection to the discovery, then notify the BLM immediately, by telephone, with written confirmation to follow (43 CFR 10.4 (c), (d), (g); Nevada State Protocol Agreement VIII (b)). Notification should be made to Tonopah Field Manager, Tonopah Field Office, 1553 South Main Street, Tonopah, NV, 89049, (775-482-7800). No activity in the vicinity of the discovery should resume until GeoXplor Corp. has been issued a Notice to Proceed by the Authorized Officer.

## **Paleontological Resources**

Paleontological resources constitute a fragile and non-renewable scientific record of the history of life on earth. Although no paleontological resources are known or identified in the immediate area, this project may have an unintended adverse effect on such resources. GeoXplor Corp. should note that fossils are not part of the mineral estate. Paleontological resources are protected by the Paleontological Resources Protection Act (OPLA-PRP: Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 Paleontological Resources Preservation Subtitle 123 Stat. 1172, 16 U.S.C. 470aaa et seq.) which establishes criminal and civil penalties. GeoXplor Corp. should also be aware that if paleontological resources are found in direct association with cultural resources, then such occurrences are subject to Archaeological Resource Protection Act (ARPA: 43 CFR 7.4, 7.14, 7.15, 7.16) provisions. OPLA-PRP requires that the nature and location of paleontological resources on public lands be kept confidential. If paleontological resources are discovered, GeoXplor Corp. must cease operations in the vicinity of the discovery and ensure adequate protection to the discovery, then notify the BLM immediately, by telephone, with written confirmation to follow. Notification should be made to Tonopah Field Manager, Tonopah Field Office, 1553 South Main Street, Tonopah, NV, 89049, (775-482-7800). No activity in the vicinity of the discovery should resume until GeoXplor Corp. has been issued a Notice to Proceed by the Authorized Officer.

## **Biological Resources**

Project area is likely utilized by small mammals (potentially Pale/dark kangaroo mouse) and



Division of Water Resources Receipt for Payment



Check #: 1775

Date Received: 10/24/2016

Check Date: 10/6/2016

 Steffen Robertson And Kirsten Inc.
 Check a

 5250 Neil Road Suite 300
 Check Date

 Reno, NV 89502
 Date Receiver

 FY
 Amount
 Permit #
 Invoice #
 Fee Type/Fee desc

Receipt #: 27730 Fee desc Notes

2017

\$120.00 MM-WAIVER

- Waivers

COVERS (2) MM-WAIVER

CK TOTAL \$240.00

# IN THE OFFICE OF THE STATE ENGINEER OF NEVADA

# AFFIDAVIT OF INTENT TO ABANDON A WELL

	Notice of Intent #
I, DR. ANDY ROBINSON, C.O.O.	Name & Title
ESMERALDA MINERALS, LLC.	Company
100 W. LIBERTY ST., 10th FLOOR	Address
RENO, NEVADA 89501	
(604) 961-9932	Telephone Number
of the real property located at:	
Street address (if any) not applicable (Well C	V-08)
County Assessor Parcel Number (APN) 006	
Situated within the <u>NW ¼</u> <u>NE ¼</u>	
{Latitude (N): Longitude (W):} or	UTM (m) E:         448955         Datum           UTM (m) N:         4175605         NAD83/WGS84
	e located or to be located, fully understand that I shall be
responsible for, and shall cause the existin	g well to be plugged in accordance with the provisions
contained in Nevada Administrative Code (N	AC) 534.420 and all other applicable rules and regulations
for drilling/plugging wells in the State of New	vada.
I shall further make any purchaser of this pare	cel aware of these conditions.
Responsible Party	
(Printed Name): Andy Robinson	(Signature):
Province of British Columbia State of Nevada	
County of North Vancouil	N 12
Subscribed and sworn to before me on Oct	6,2016
by Andy Rubinson	ANDREA D. JOHNSON Notary Public 409 North Dollarton Highway North Vancouver, BC, V7G 1M9 778-984-5320
Signature of Notary Public Required M	Notary Seal IY COMMISSION IS PERMANENT Revised 11/14