

5/15/91 / WWP:f RRE

## NOTES FROM 7/15/91 MEETING OF NEW WORLD MINE TASK FORCE

### I. PURPOSE

- \* Update Task Force membership.
- \* Discuss companies' response to the first round of agency completeness comments on the permit application.
- \* Agree on short term strategy for scoping (gathering public input on issues that should be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement).
- \* Provide opportunity for non-Task-Force members to comment or ask questions.

### II. ATTENDANCE

The meeting was attended by about 40 people. The sign-in sheet is on file. Task force members *not* represented at the meeting were:

Crown Butte Mines, Inc.	Bear Creek Council
Park County, Wyoming	Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Montana Water Quality Bureau	Montana Water Rights Bureau
Park Co. Environmental Coalition	Cooke City Fire District
Greater Yellowstone Association of Conservation Districts	

### III. ABBREVIATIONS

Montana Dept. of State Lands = MDSL

U.S. Forest Service = FS

These two together are referred to as "the agencies".

Noranda Minerals Corp. and Crown Butte Mines, Inc. are referred to as "the applicants" or "the companies".

Environmental Impact Statement = EIS

Montana Environmental Policy Act = MEPA

National Environmental Policy Act = NEPA

### IV. TASK FORCE OPERATIONS

1. With the consent of the group, Dan Reinhart was added to the Task Force to represent the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team.
2. Louisa Willcox has replaced Don Bachman as the representative for the Greater Yellowstone Coalition.
3. Stu Coleman will represent Yellowstone National Park, at least until a replacement is found for Bill Schreier.

4. Representation for Park County, Wyoming needs to be clarified. Gary Lundvall is currently on the Task Force list.

5. Rob Hart of B-4 Ranch will continue to represent Sunlight Basin residents. He also suggested making contact with the Red Lodge Chamber of Commerce to determine their information/participation needs. Sherm Sollid agreed to make the contact.

## **V. PROJECT UPDATE**

Chronology of events:

November 14, 1990 - agencies receive formal permit application from Crown Butte Mines, Inc. & Noranda Minerals Corp.

January 14, 1991 - agencies provide comments on the completeness of the application to the companies.

May, 1991 - agencies receive wildlife baseline report section of application.

June 19, 1991 - Crown Butte & Noranda respond to first round of completeness comments, triggering another 30-day "Completeness Review" by the agencies. The companies agree to extend the review period by two weeks.

July 31, 1991 - public comments due on wildlife baseline report and the companies' response to the first round of completeness comments.

August 9, 1991 - agencies must provide Crown Butte & Noranda with second "Completeness Letter", describing remaining deficiencies in the application.

The companies may then respond on their own time frame.

The cycle of completeness reviews continues until the agencies determine that there is sufficient information in the application to meet the requirements of the Montana Mine Reclamation Act, and to provide an adequate basis for preparing the Environmental Impact Statement under MEPA & NEPA.

When the application is declared "complete", the Montana Dept. of State Lands has 365 days to complete the EIS. The Forest Service has agreed to try to work within the State's statutory time frames.

The companies expect to complete exploratory drilling for this season in the Miller Creek in a couple of weeks. Drilling in the Henderson Mountain area will continue through the end of the summer.

## **VI. SHORT TERM STRATEGY FOR SCOPING**

The agencies and task force members agreed earlier to holding public scoping meetings in Cooke City, MT; Cody, WY and Livingston, MT to gather comments on what issues should be addressed in the EIS.

The agencies originally hoped to hold all three meetings in August, 1991 to encourage participation by summer residents. One goal of scoping is to get very specific, detailed descriptions of issues, rather than broad categories. This will be easier when the application is closer to being declared "complete", because it will be more specific and detailed. This is not likely to occur before summer residents leave the area.

After discussion with the task force it was agreed that a preliminary scoping meeting would be held in Silver Gate on August 14. Additional information will be mailed to summer residents later on, providing

them with another opportunity to comment. A second Cooke City/Silver Gate area scoping meeting will likely be held when the application is closer to being declared complete.

Scoping meetings in Cody and Livingston will be deferred for the time being.

Possible formats for scoping were also discussed. Conclusions:

1) Hold preliminary scoping meeting in Silver Gate at the Range Rider Lodge on August 14, 1991 beginning at 10:00 a.m.

2) Agencies provide task force members an opportunity to comment on the proposed format for the scoping meeting. Our discussion on 7/15 pointed toward the following format:

- \* Agencies send out an invitation to the 8/14 scoping meeting, including a description of the project, and summaries of the environmental analysis and permitting processes, applicable laws and permits, agency roles and known issues. Enclose a form for people who cannot come to the meeting to make written comments. Task force members will help ensure broad distribution of the scoping letter and comment form.

- \* Provide copies of the scoping letter and comment form at the 8/14 meeting.

- \* Begin the 8/14 scoping meeting with introductory presentations on the project proposal, the environmental analysis/permitting process, and a general overview of issues identified to date.

- \* Break up into small groups to list specific issues that should be addressed in the EIS. Record on flip charts.

- \* Have a member of each small group present their list to the entire scoping meeting group.

- \* Allow for individuals to present their issues to the entire scoping meeting group, record on flip charts, and recommend that they also submit their comments in writing.

3) Defer setting dates for the Cody and Livingston scoping meetings until after the 8/9/91 Completeness Letter.

## **VII. DISCUSSION OF COMPANIES' RESPONSE TO COMPLETENESS COMMENTS**

Noranda Minerals Corp. distributed the geotechnical report on the preferred tailings impoundment site to task force members. Dan McLaughlin asked if everyone had received a copy; several task force members had not. He agreed to follow up.

Dan McLaughlin: Reclamation done for exploration activities will provide some baseline data for reclamation of proposed mining operations.

Dan Reinhart will continue his bear studies for a second season, with funding from the companies.

There is some confusion about how much the proposed powerline corridor would add to the width of the existing corridor. One Environmental Impact Statement will be done for both the on-site mining operations and the proposed powerline.

The companies' have not decided when to begin preparation of the Hard Rock Impact Plan. Dan McLaughlin mentioned the need to know what the community prefers - having mine workers stay at a camp on the project site, or incorporating them into the community.

## **VIII. COMMENTS FROM OPEN FORUM**

The following are paraphrased comments from the audience:

- \* Potential modifications of water quality should be evaluated against what the water quality *could* be if past mining was reclaimed.
- \* How many more patent applications are expected this year? Answer: Expect 2-3 more patents to block in patented ground for the Miller Creek ore deposits.
- \* A serious independent review should be done of Bechtel's tailings impoundment design.
- \* The community is becoming polarized about the mine. The companies should make it clear to their employees that harassment of mine opponents won't be tolerated.
- \* A better coordinated effort is needed to get review materials out to task force members in a timely way.
- \* Baseline data gathering for the powerline and transportation corridors needs to be as detailed as for the mine itself.
- \* Need to review water rights, flow regimes for Clarks Fork river - for later analysis of effects of project on flow requirements for wild & scenic river.

## **IX. FOLLOW UP NEEDS**

### **Agencies:**

- 1) Distribute notes from the 7/15/91 Task Force meeting - to task force members, non-task-force members attending 7/15 meeting and people who have asked to be kept informed of task force operations. Include revised task force roster.
- 2) Contact Red Lodge Chamber of Commerce to determine information/involvement needs.
- 3) Obtain more complete contact lists for summer residents in Silver Gate/Cooke City/Cooke Pass/Sunlight Basin areas.
- 4) With help of EIS consultant, prepare scoping letter and comment form; mail to contact list for the New World project.
- 5) Provide proposed 8/14 scoping meeting format to task force members for comment.
- 6) Agency specialists (members of interdisciplinary team) provide comments on wildlife baseline report and companies' response to first round of completeness comments by July 31.
- 7) Gardiner District - send copy of current exploration/reclamation plan to Greater Yellowstone Coalition and Beartooth Alliance.

**Task Force:**

- 1) Submit written comments on wildlife baseline report & companies' response to first round of completeness review by July 31.
- 2) Comment on proposed scoping meeting format by August 7, 1991.
- 3) Help spread news of the 8/14 scoping meeting to members of task force representatives' organizations.

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