



NEVADA GOLD MINES LLC
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July 27, 2020

Mr. Gerald Dixon
District Manager
Elko BLM District Office
3900 Idaho Street
Elko, NV 89801

Dear Mr. Dixon:

Further to our telephone conversation with you, Harley Gordon, and Brady Owens on July 17, 2020, Nevada Gold Mines requests to pause the BLM's review of our proposed amendment to the plan of operations under BLM's 3809 regulations and NEPA for the Long Canyon Phase II project. NGM intends to complete additional studies and planning to reduce the impacts of the project specifically by improving the dewatering and water infiltration plans and make any necessary changes to the proposed plan amendment.

As a result, NGM does not expect to proceed under the current schedule prepared by Stantec and BLM. NGM requests that BLM defer review of the Preliminary Draft EIS and postpone mitigation planning meetings until a later date. NGM also asks for BLM's continued engagement in the project through periodic project and schedule updates. Following completion of this additional work, NGM will re-engage with BLM to refresh 3809 and NEPA project schedules and evaluate needs for analyzing Long Canyon Phase II.

Please note that the following workstreams will continue in support of the Long Canyon Phase II project:

- Hydrogeological investigation and hydrologic modeling
- Dewatering design and pump tests
- Rapid infiltration basin siting and design
- Mine planning
- Conservation planning for the Johnson Springs Wetland Complex
- Wetland supplementation design
- Wetland monitoring system design
- Refugia and aquaria planning for relict dace

NGM will also communicate with the other agencies involved in the project and with interested stakeholders to discuss this approach.

Sincerely,

Julius Stieger
General Manager
Long Canyon Mine