



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Samantha Thompson, 775-684-2709, sthompson@dcnr.nv.gov

Let your voice be heard: Nevada Division of Environmental Protection seeks public input to help shape the Anaconda Copper Mine Community Involvement & Participation Plan

(Yerington, NV) With the Anaconda Copper Mine remediation project underway, the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) is pleased to offer area residents the opportunity to provide input on the Community Involvement and Participation Plan (CIPP), which will aid in planning for the future. NDEP is accepting written comments during the 30-day public comment period, **Tuesday, May 8 - Thursday, June 7, 2018**. To review the CIPP, go to bit.ly/2jDxRio. Then, please submit your comment(s) via email: jgardner@ndep.nv.gov, or mail to: Bureau of Corrective Actions - Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, 901 South Stewart Street, Suite 4001, Carson City, NV 89701.

After evaluating public comments, NDEP will finalize the document by July 20, 2018, and send an announcement to the community. The CIPP will continue as a “living document,” meaning it will be modified as new information and issues develop over the course of the investigations and cleanup of the site.

Designed to actively engage and empower area community members throughout the Anaconda project, the CIPP will serve as the framework to help ensure a successful and transparent information exchange among the State, public, local leaders, elected officials, landowners, stakeholders, and Tribes. In addition to considering the components of the EPA Superfund Community Involvement Handbook, applying NDEP’s regulations, and the unique needs of the site and surrounding communities, the proposed CIPP outlines strategies to:

- Provide opportunities for the public to be actively engaged in a transparent review and decision making process;
- Meet community, stakeholder, and Tribal information needs;
- Incorporate community, stakeholder, and Tribal issues and concerns into closure decisions; and
- Give feedback to the public on how their issues and concerns were incorporated into the closure work.

From publishing key documents and hosting public meetings, to providing updates on NDEP’s website and social media channels, and more, the proposed CIPP aims to optimize community relations and outreach efforts while reflecting the unique needs of the surrounding areas.

“As we embark on the accelerated Anaconda project, the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection is committed to taking every precaution and implementing best environmental management practices to ensure our land, air, and water resources are healthy, clean and safe,” said Greg Lovato, Administrator of



NDEP. “Through fostering a community-based approach, we look forward to continuously reaching out and engaging area stakeholders, every step of the way, as we move forward with completing the project.”

Site cleanup construction activities are currently scheduled to be complete by 2029, with necessary operation, maintenance, and monitoring activities continuing thereafter. Meanwhile, NDEP also emphasizes that the water quality in the area is safe and stable, and locally-grown produce, including onions, is safe to eat.

Anaconda At-A-Glance

The intricate storyline of the Anaconda Copper Mine spans many years of shifting ownership, community negotiation, environmental problem solving, and intergovernmental collaboration. Anaconda was abandoned in 2000 after Arimetco, the site operator at the time, filed for bankruptcy. In February 2018, NDEP and EPA entered into a deferral agreement. The agreement defers the Anaconda Mine from being listed on the EPA Superfund List while the NDEP directly oversees cleanup activities that achieve equivalent protection to the federal Superfund program. Today, the approximately 3,500 acre, inactive mine contains a water-filled pit, piles of waste rock, evaporation ponds, tailings facilities, and other historical processing areas and equipment. NDEP continues to work closely with its partnering agencies and local communities to ensure pollutants are safely and carefully managed. Through our long-term remediation plan, NDEP is dedicated to addressing contamination at the site and supporting the safety of our neighbors in the surrounding communities.

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