Blvd. Winnemucca, Nevada, 89445, (702) 623–1528/1500.

Dated: July 28, 1998.

Colin P. Christensen,

Acting Field Office Manager, Winnemucca.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

Final Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability, final environmental impact statement for Newmont Gold Corporation's Trenton Canyon Project.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, notice is given that the Winnemucca District of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared, by third party contractor, and made available for a 30 day public review, the Final Environmental Impact Statement for Newmont Gold Company's Trenton Canyon Project, located in Humboldt and Lander Counties, Nevada.

DATES: The Final Environmental Impact Statement will be distributed and made available to the public on August 7, 1998. The period of availability for public review for the Final Environmental Impact Statement ends on September 8, 1998. At that time a Record of Decision will be issued regarding the Proposed Action.

ADDRESSES: A copy of the Final Environmental Impact Statement can be obtained from: Bureau of Land Management, Winnemucca District Office, 5100 East Winnemucca Boulevard, Winnemucca, Nevada 89445. The Final Environmental Impact Statement is available for inspection at the following locations: Bureau of Land Management Nevada State Office (Reno); Lander and Humboldt County Libraries; and the University of Nevada library in Reno, Nevada.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rod Herrick, Project Manager, at the above Winnemucca District address or telephone (702) 623–1500.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Final Environmental Impact Statement has been produced in the abbreviated format and must be used in conjunction with the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), issued February 13, 1998. In addition, the Final provides responses to comments received by BLM during the public comment period on the Draft. The EIS analyzes the direct, indirect and cumulative impacts associated with the continued mining with expansion of the North Peak and Valmy deposits and commencement of mining in the Trenton deposit. Also analyzed are impacts related to new haul roads, overburden disposal areas, additional heap leach facilities, widening of the primary access road, and additional ancillary facilities.

Dated: July 30, 1998.

Colin P. Christensen,

Winnemucca Acting Field Manager.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[AK–931–1310–00–NPRA]

Northeast National Petroleum Reserve—Alaska Final Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Availability.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management announces the availability of the Northeast National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Final Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (IAP/EIS). The planning area is roughly bounded by the Colville River to the east and south, the Ikpikpuk River to the west and the Beaufort Sea to the north. The IAP/EIS contains a Preferred Alternative and five non-preferred alternatives for a land management plan for the 4.6 million-acre planning area and assessments of each alternative's impacts on the surface resources present there. These alternatives provide varying answers to two primary questions. First, what protections and enhancements will be implemented for natural and cultural resources and the activities that are based on these resources? Second, will the BLM conduct oil and gas lease sales in the planning area and, if so, what lands will be made available for leasing?

Under the Preferred Alternative leasing would be allowed in 87 percent of the planning area. Protection to habitats important to molting geese and the Teshekpuk Lake caribou herd would be provided by making them unavailable for leasing or by strict restrictions on oil and gas surface occupancy. In addition, surface use restrictions and other stipulations are applied to other habitats with high surface resource values. Included are important subsistence use areas such as Fish Creek, Judy Creek, and the Ikpikpuk and Miguakiak Rivers. Similar restrictions and stipulations are applied to the Colville, Kikiakrorak and Kogosukruk Rivers to protect raptor nesting and subsistence. The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to identify specific lands in the NPR-A as ''Special Areas,'' and the two previously designated Special Areas within the planning area will expand under the Preferred Alternative. Some land along the Kikiakrorak and Kogosukruk Rivers will be added to the Colville River Special Area and the Pik Dunes will be added to the Teshekpuk Lake Special area. The BLM is also proposing that it work with nearby Colville River land owners, including the State and Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, to create a Bird Conservation Area along part of the river under the Partners in Flight Program. The BLM will create a subsistence advisory panel to assist in addressing subsistence-related issues that arise in managing a leasing program in the study area. The stipulations included within the Preferred Alternative are modestly revised based on public comment, from those presented in the draft IAP/EIS for alternatives B-E. A close reading of these stipulations is necessary to fully understand the protections to key natural and subsistence resources provided by the Preferred Alternative.

Alternative A calls for no action, or no change from the status quo, and under it no leasing would occur. Alternatives B through E make progressively more land, and more environmentally sensitive land, available to possible leasing. Alternative B makes 52 percent of the planning area available, Alternative C makes 72 percent available, Alternative D makes 90 percent available and Alternative E makes the entire planning area available. Restrictive stipulations would provide protections for natural and cultural resources under all alternatives, but their number and scope would vary between alternatives.

Alternative A contains the fewest stipulations because it authorizes the fewest activities and entirely precludes leasing. As alternatives B through E make progressively more sensitive lands available for leasing, they also include increasing numbers of protective stipulations. Thus, while Alternative E opens the entire planning area to leasing it also has many specific stipulations whose intent is to ensure that sensitive natural resources are protected.

All non-preferred alternatives except Alternative A recommend that the Pik