

MINUTE ITEM

33

10/21/87
W 40526
Pelka

APPROVAL OF EXPLORATION PHASE OF A LEASE FOR MINERALS
OTHER THAN OIL, GAS, OTHER HYDROCARBONS AND
GEOTHERMAL RESOURCES, SIERRA COUNTY

Calendar Item 33, attached, was pulled from the agenda prior to
the meeting.

Attachment: Calendar Item 33.

CALENDAR PAGE

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CALENDAR ITEM

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10/21/87
W 40526
Pelka

APPROVAL OF EXPLORATION PHASE OF A LEASE FOR MINERALS
OTHER THAN OIL, GAS, OTHER HYDROCARBONS
AND GEOTHERMAL RESOURCES
SIERRA COUNTY

APPLICANT

Hecla Mining Company
6500 Mineral Drive, Box C-8000
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814-1931

AGENT:

Gene E. Ealy
Hecla Mining Company
6500 Mineral Drive, Box C-8000
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814-1931

PROPOSED AUTHORIZATION:

Approval of exploration phase of a lease for
minerals other than oil, gas, other
hydrocarbons and geothermal resources on 80
acres of land, more or less, located in Sierra
County.

CONSIDERATION:

Filing fee of \$25, processing fee of \$250 and
an acreage deposit of \$80.

TYPE OF LAND AND LOCATION:

State Fish and Game proprietary lands located
within the Antelope Valley Wildlife Area and
further described as follows:

Parcel 1: SW 1/4 of SW 1/4, Sec. 22,
T21N, R15E, MDM, Sierra County.

Parcel 2: NW 1/4 of NW 1/4, Sec. 27,
T21N, R15E, MDM, Sierra County.

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Parcels are located approximately three (3) miles southwest of Loyalton.

PROPOSED PROJECT:

This project shall be in two phases. First phase involves exploration. This will entail a limited amount of core-drilling and minimal disturbance of the surface. The second phase would involve full-field mining and development. The approval of this lease by the Commission at this time shall constitute approval of only the exploration phase of the project as provided for in the lease.

In the exploration phase, Hecla shall determine whether deposits of precious metals are present in the lease area by drilling 13 holes with a track mounted reverse air circulation rig, 4 1/8 inches in diameter to a maximum depth of 200 feet. Approximately 1/2 cubic foot of drill cuttings will be retained at five-foot intervals for off-site assaying. Drill holes shall be promptly abandoned upon completion of drilling. Drill sites shall be scarified and reseeded.

The Department of Fish and Game has found this drilling to be not incompatible with wildlife management objectives. The Department will issue a permit to that effect. This lease shall be effective only after the permit has been issued.

The second phase of this project consists of a fully developed mining operation. Because such activity is incompatible with wildlife management objectives, it shall be done only after legislative authorization has been obtained and there has been full compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act.

If statutory authority is not obtained on or before January 2, 1990, then this lease shall terminate as of that date. It is understood that neither the existence of this lease, nor

CALENDAR ITEM NO. 33 (CONT'D)

any reliance by lessee on this lease, shall affect the discretion of the State in approving or not approving the necessary legislation which would provide statutory authority allowing mining and other development on the lease area. If statutory authority is obtained, such mining and other development shall not be allowed unless and until: (1) this lease is amended such that it is consistent with such statutory authority; (2) all necessary public agency, environmental approvals of such mining and other development are obtained; and (3) the State Lands Commission and Department of Fish and Game, upon consideration of the environmental documentation prepared for such mining and other development, determine that such mining and other development on the lease area would be in the best interest of the State. If the parties are unable to agree upon the terms of such amended lease, or if all necessary environmental approvals are not obtained on or before January 2, 1992, then this lease shall terminate as of that date. It is understood that neither the existence of this lease, nor any reliance by lessee upon this lease shall in any way affect the discretion of the State Lands Commission or any other public agency in giving, or denying, the necessary environmental approvals. It is further understood that neither the existence of this lease, nor any reliance by lessee upon this lease, shall in any way affect the discretion of the State Lands Commission or the Department of Fish and Game in approving or not approving any amendments to this lease or in determining whether mining or other development of the lease area would be in the best interest of the State.

Royalty payable under the lease is ten percent of the gross value of all mineral production from the leased lands less charges made or incurred with respect to transporting or processing the State's royalty share of production.

CALENDAR ITEM NO. 33 (CONT'D)

Prior to the development phase, Hecla also agrees to convey to the Department of Fish and Game up to 80 acres of nearby lands on an acre-for-acre basis in mitigation for disturbance of the lands.

SURFACE DISTURBANCE:

During the exploration phase, access to drill sites will be attained by an existing old logging road and by off road travel. No new road construction will be permitted. Surface disturbance is estimated to be approximately 80 square feet per drill site or a total of 0.02 acre for all 13 holes. The maximum anticipated excavated volume if all 13 holes are drilled to a depth of 200 feet will be approximately 9 cubic yards.

On June 25 and 26, 1987, an archeological field survey of the project area was conducted by Roger H. Werner. No significant cultural resources were located within the project area. A copy of this archeological field survey is on file in the Long Beach office of the State Lands Commission.

RECLAMATION:

Drill holes shall be abandoned as follows:

Upon abandonment, approximately five feet of surface casing required for drilling will be removed. Drill holes which do not encounter water shall be backfilled by replacement of drill cuttings into the hole. Drill holes which encounter water shall be abandoned in accordance with California Department of Water Resources Water Well Standards. Impervious sealing material is restricted to the use of bentonite clay only. Mixing of this bentonite clay is restricted to portable tanks or troughs only. No mud pits may be excavated. The top five feet of holes which are abandoned using bentonite clay shall be filled with drill cuttings so as to blend with the existing soil. Drill cuttings which are not utilized in backfilling operations shall be promptly removed from the State parcel.

CALENDAR ITEM NO. 33 (CONT'D)

To reduce impacts to recreational activities and deer resources, drilling activities during the exploration phase shall be restricted to the following time periods:

- A. May 15 through August 10.
- B. October 5 until deer migration occurs as determined by the Department of Fish and Game.

These dates may vary depending on deer migration and are subject to change by the Department of Fish and Game.

PREREQUISITE ITEMS:

- 1. Required statutory filing fee, expense deposit and acreage deposit have been submitted by the Applicant.
- 2. Subject parcel is not known to contain a commercially valuable deposit of minerals.

AB 884:

11/18/87.

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:

- 1. Pursuant to the Commission's delegation of authority and the State CEQA Guidelines (14 Cal. Adm. Code 15025), the staff has prepared and circulated for public review a proposed Negative Declaration identified as EIR ND 420, State Clearinghouse 87052507, pursuant to the provisions of the CEQA. A copy of this environmental document is attached as Exhibit "C".

Based upon the initial study, the proposed Negative Declaration, and the comments received in response thereto, there is no substantial evidence that the exploration phase of the project will have a significant effect on the environment (14 Cal. Adm. Code 15074[b]).

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2. The lease shall provide for a performance bond or other security device of \$10,000 in favor of the State. This amount may be increased at the discretion of the Commission prior to the development phase.

APPROVALS OBTAINED:

The subject application and terms of the lease have been approved by the Office of the Attorney General as to compliance with the applicable provisions of the law with the understanding that; (1) the final legal form of the lease shall be approved by the Office of the Attorney General; and (2) the lease shall not be issued until the Department of Fish and Game executes a permit consistent with the provisions of Title 14 of CAC Section 550.

EXHIBITS:

- A. Land Description.
- B. Site Map.
- C. Negative Declaration.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:

1. CERTIFY THAT NEGATIVE DECLARATION ND 420, STATE CLEARINGHOUSE 87052507, WAS PREPARED FOR THE EXPLORATION PHASE THIS PROJECT PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE CEQA AND THAT THE COMMISSION HAS REVIEWED AND CONSIDERED THE INFORMATION CONTAINED THEREIN.
2. DETERMINE THAT THE EXPLORATION PHASE OF THE PROJECT, AS DESCRIBED IN THE LEASE, WILL NOT HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT.
3. AUTHORIZE THE EXPLORATION PHASE OF THIS PROJECT AND THE ISSUANCE OF A LEASE FOR MINERALS OTHER THAN OIL, GAS, OTHER HYDROCARBONS AND GEOTHERMAL RESOURCES TO HECLA MINING COMPANY FOR A TERM OF 20 YEARS, ON (I) SW1/4 OF SW1/4 OF SECTION 22, T21N, R15E, MDM, SIERRA COUNTY; (II) NW1/4 OF NW1/4 OF SECTION 27, T21N, R15E, MDM, SIERRA COUNTY, CONTAINING APPROXIMATELY 80 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS SET FORTH IN THIS CALENDAR ITEM AND THE STANDARD FORM OF LEASE. ROYALTY PAYABLE SHALL BE TEN PERCENT OF THE GROSS VALUE OF ALL MINERAL PRODUCTION FROM THE LEASED LANDS LESS CHARGES MADE OR INCURRED WITH

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CALENDAR ITEM NO. 33 (CONT'D)

RESPECT TO TRANSPORTING OR PROCESSING THE STATE'S ROYALTY SHARE OF PRODUCTION. SAID AUTHORIZATION IS CONTINGENT UPON ISSUANCE OF PERMIT BY THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME PURSUANT TO 14 CAC 550. IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT THIS AUTHORIZATION DOES NOT AFFECT THE DISCRETION OF THE STATE IN APPROVING OR NOT APPROVING THE DEVELOPMENT PHASE OF THIS PROJECT.

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EXHIBIT "A"
LAND DESCRIPTION

W 40526

Two parcels of state-owned land in Sierra County, California,
described as follows:

The SW 1/4 of SW 1/4 of Section 22, and the NW 1/4 of
NW 1/4 of Section 27, T21N, R15E, MDM.

END OF DESCRIPTION

PREPARED AUGUST 17, 1987, BY BIU 1.

0550b

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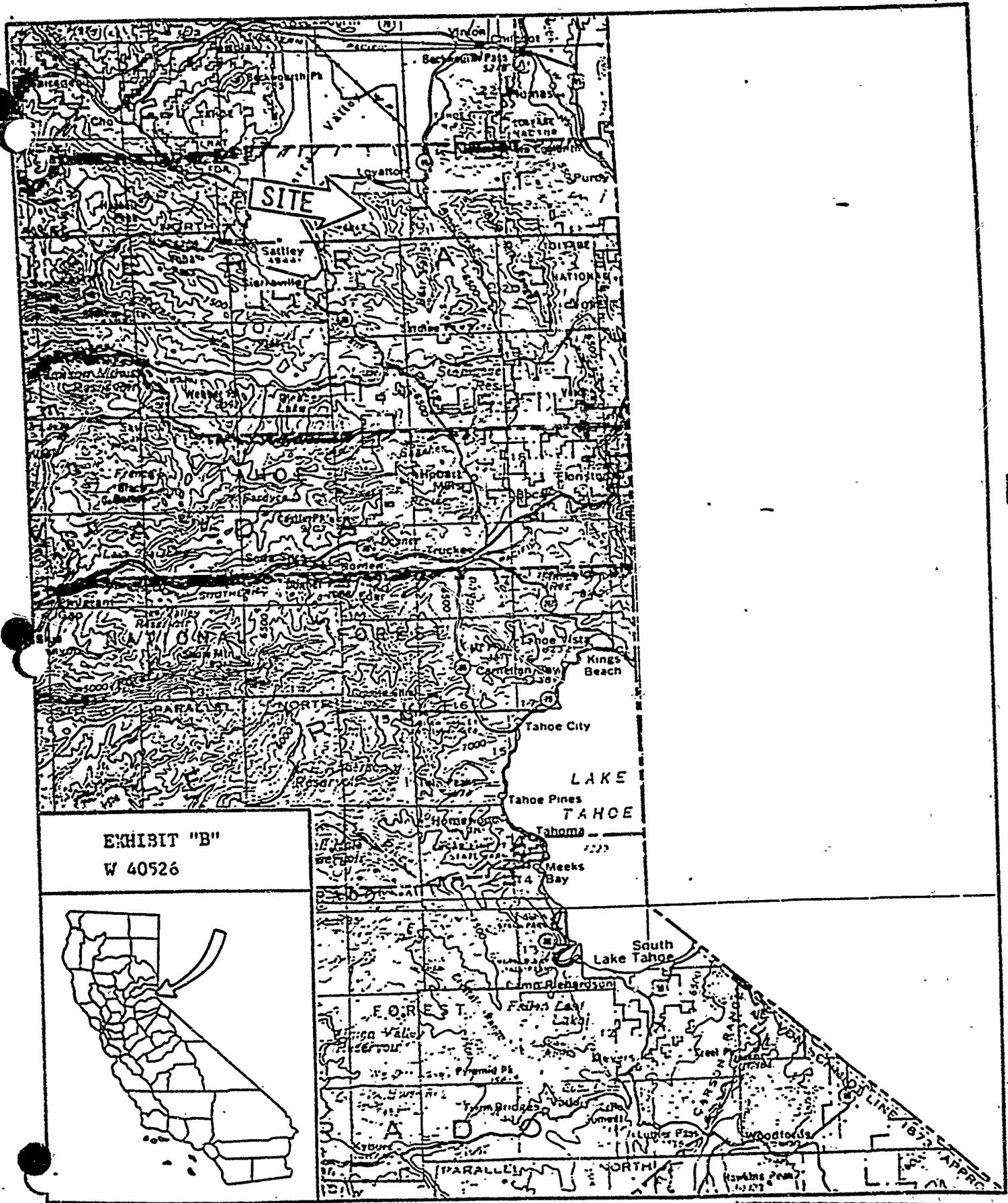


EXHIBIT "B"
W 40526

STATE LANDS COMMISSION
1807 13TH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814



PROPOSED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

EIR NO. 420

File Ref.: W 40526

SCH#: 8705 2507

Project Title: Mineral Prospecting Permit - Antelope Valley Area

Project Proponent: Hecla Mining Company

Project Location: SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 22, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 27, T.21 N., R.15 E.,
M.D.M., approximately 3 miles southwesterly of Loyalton, Sierra
County.

Project Description: Prospecting for precious metals and other valuable minerals by
drilling 13 holes, 4-1/8 inches in diameter to a maximum depth
of 200 feet with a track mounted reverse air circulation rig.
Approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ cubic foot of drill cuttings will be retained
at five foot intervals for off-site assaying. Drill holes will
be properly abandoned. Drill sites will be scarified and seeded.

Contact Person: TED T. FUKUSHIMA

Telephone: (916)322-7813

This document is prepared pursuant to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (Section 21000 et seq., Public Resources Code), the State CEQA Guidelines (Section 15000 et seq., Title 14, California Administrative Code), and the State Lands Commission regulation (Section 2901 et seq., Title 2, California Administrative Code).

Based upon the attached Initial Study, it has been found that:

the project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

mitigation measures included in the project will avoid potentially significant effects.

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Form 1-17-11/78

MITIGATION MEASURES

Proposed for Incorporation into the Project Description

1. Access to the thirteen drillsites shall be confined to existing dirt roads and trails to the maximum extent feasible. Off road travel is to be restrained to the minimum required. No new road construction is permitted.
2. To minimize the production of fugitive dust, all vehicle speed shall not exceed 20 mph.
3. Permittee shall perform all activities so as to minimize impact on vegetation. No trees may be removed.
4. Upon completion of prospecting activities, all equipment and refuse will be promptly removed from the site.
5. All drill pads or areas disturbed by drilling activities shall be scarified and seeded by hand-broadcasting. The seed mixture type may be either that provided by the U.S. Forest Service for use in the area or be in accordance with the "Erosion and Sediment Control Guidelines for Developing Areas of the Sierras".
6. Drillholes which do not encounter water shall be backfilled by replacement of drill cuttings into the hole. Drillholes which encounter water shall be abandoned in accordance with California Department of Water Resources Water Well Standards. Impervious sealing material is restricted to the use of bentonite clay only. Mixing of this bentonite clay is restricted to portable tanks or troughs only. No mud pits may be excavated. The top five feet of holes which are abandoned using bentonite clay shall be filled with drill cuttings so as to blend with the existing soil. Drill cuttings which are not utilized in backfilling operations shall be promptly removed from the State parcel.

7. Prospecting activities shall be restricted to the following time period:

A. May 15 through August 10.

B. October 5 until deer migration occurs as determined by the Department of Fish and Game.

These dates may vary depending on deer migration and are subject to change by the Department of Fish and Game.

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MINUTE PAGE	3757

LETTER

Hecla Mining Company



June 26, 1987

State Land Commission
219 West Broadway, Suite 425
San Francisco, California 94102

Attn: Dr. J. Everett

Subject: Response File Ref: U 40316

Dear Mr. Everett:

Hecla Mining Company believes a Negative Declaration (ND) would be sufficient for this project. Drilling of this nature has been successfully completed and reclaimed on nearby property with minimal disturbance.

Sincerely,

W. M. J.
Brent Williamson
Project Manager

WJL

1 comment noted.

RESPONSE

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LETTER

SIERRA COUNTY

Department of Planning and Economic Development
100 First St.
Tulare, CA 95324
(559) 239-6311

July 7, 1987

State of California
Lands Commission
245 West Broadway, Suite 425
Long Beach, CA 90802

Attn: Mr. D. J. Everetts
Assistance Chief

File: Hecla Mining
(M-40526)



Dear Mr. Everetts:
This will acknowledge receipt of your June 19, 1987 request for comments on an initial study regarding an application of Hecla Mining Company for a mineral prospecting permit on State Fish and Game proprietary lands located in Antelope Valley, Sierra County.

First, you should be advised that the Sierra County Planning Commission, on July 19, 1986, issued a Special Use Permit to Hecla Mining Company to allow drilling of seven (7) angle reverse circulation holes to a depth of 200 feet in order to ascertain the orientation of the eastern slopes of Antelope Valley. This applied only to a forty (40) acre parcel (APN 16-060-013) of private property.

We may understand that Hecla Mining Company is proposing a similar program on State Fish and Game lands which consists of thirteen (13) exploratory holes. Your request for comments is therefore confined to this exploratory program and not further or subsequent development of private, State Fish and Game, or governmental lands.

The Board of Supervisors, during its regular meeting of July 7, 1987, considered the content of your June 19, 1987 packet and takes the position that mitigation and/or conditions of any permit granted by your agency contain the following:

1. The operator shall conform to those exploratory mining activities described within the submitted Special Use Permit Application. This includes no new road construction, noise and dust to be minimized, no tree removal, no alteration of stream beds, no mechanized dozer equipment, no on-site fuel storage, no camping or on-site occupancy. Any deviation from the proposed drilling operation plans shall be subject to Staff review.
2. Upon completion of the exploratory program, all equipment and refuse will be removed from the property.

RESPONSES

For official comment number 1, 2 and 3.

- 1 Hecla Mining Company is requested to only those activities described in the permit application within this proposed Special Use Permit. No other activities or noise, alteration of stream beds, use of mechanized dozer equipment, on-site fuel storage and camping is not permitted.
- 2 See mitigation measure number 4.
- 3 Not applicable.
- 4 See mitigation measure number 5.
- 5 Prior to initiating exploratory activities, Hecla Mining Company must submit and obtain written consent by the State, a bond or alternate arrangement acceptable to the State in the amount of \$10,000.
- 6 See comment of the California Department of Fish and Game on page 7.

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JUL 10 1987
FBI - SIERRA COUNTY

LETTER (Cont.)

Mr. D. J. Everett
July 7, 1987
Page Two

3. Upon completion of the 1986 operation, the temporary access road that was allowed to be built as a component of the 1985 Special Use Permit shall have to be bermed at its entry point to avoid continual vehicular use and becoming an entrenched roadway.
4. All drill pads or areas disturbed by drilling activities shall be smoothed, compacted and reseeded. The reseeding shall occur at an appropriate time of the year (May-August), prior to start of the winter season, to insure a high success rate. All drilling areas disturbed during the 1986 operation, as well as those not reclaimed from the 1985 permit, shall be reclaimed by May 15, 1987. The seeding type shall be in accordance with the "Erosion and Sediment Control Guidelines for Developing Areas of the Sierras".
5. Prior to initiating exploratory activities, the applicant shall provide a performance security in a form acceptable to the County in the amount of \$100.00. The \$500.00 performance security from 1985 will be retained by the County as well as the additional \$100.00 until all areas disturbed during the 1985 and 1986 drilling operations are reclaimed to the satisfaction of Sierra County. The County shall retain the posted security until September 15, 1987 to insure that site stabilization and reseeding plans are complete.
6. All proposed uses of this property should be precluded during that period of time that migratory or resident deer movement is occurring or key winter-summer deer habitat is being used by deer.

Thank you and we would appreciate your consideration and approval of this request.

Sincerely,

SIERRA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Tim H. Beals
Tim H. Beals
Planning Director

TMB-jc:7/32
cc: Members, Board of Supervisors
USFS - Steve Bishop (Sierraville)
Planning

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MINUTE PAGE	3754

LETTER

RESPONSES

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, IN MICROTYPED SCRIPT
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
MICHIGAN
1700 LAMAR AVENUE, SUITE 1
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94104
(415) 355-7020



AVIG 3 0937

Mr. Gregory J. Pelka
State Land Commission
245 West Broadway, Suite 425
Long Beach, CA 90802

Dear Mr. Pelka:

The Department of Fish and Game has reviewed the application of Recla Mining Company to drill 13 exploratory holes on land included in the Antelope Valley Milliflute Management Area near Loyalton, Sierra County.

The Department of Fish and Game has observed in recent years Recla's exploratory activities have been observed in recent years on their patented land and nearby US Forest Service lands. The application properly identifies the area as critical deer winter range for the Loyalton-Truckee deer herd.

The Department of Fish and Game concludes that a mitigated Negative Declaration is proper for this project. From a fish and wildlife viewpoint, the plan to abandon the dry drill holes by backfilling with drill cuttings is acceptable. If water is encountered, the drill hole should be partly filled with bentonite clay with a soil cap. The impervious material should be mixed in portable containers to minimize surface disturbance. The mitigation measures include all those measures described in the "Detailed Project Description" included in their application.

Additionally, the Department will impose a time constraint on the drilling activities. The noise and attendant activities will result in unnecessary disturbance to wintering deer. Wintering deer do not leave the area locally until about mid-May. Early fall storms, usually in mid-October, mark the return of deer to their winter ranges. Deer archery season opens in mid-August and hunting recreational activities are open on the area until early October.

The requested activities must take place during the time when there will be no impact to recreational activities or the deer resource dependent on the Antelope Valley NMA. The Department therefore requires that the exploratory activity take place from May 15 through August 10 and from October 5 until deer migration occurs as determined by the Department. The start up and shut down dates may vary depending on deer migration and will be determined by the Department.

- 1 See mitigation measure number 6.
- 2 See mitigation measure number 11.

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COPIES

LETTER (Cont.)

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In conclusion, the Department contends that a mitigated Negative
Declaration is proper following adoption of all mitigation
measures contained in the project description and the final
conferent requested by the Department.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this project. If I can be
of further assistance, please contact Patricia Perkins, Wildlife
Management Supervisor at (916) 355-7010.

Sincerely,

Patrick Brewer
Patricia D. Monsen
Regional Manager

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LETTER

RESPONSE



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Sierraville
Ranger
District

P.O. Box 95
Sierraville, CA
96126

2810

JUL 3 1987

Mr. Gregory J. Pelka
State Lands Commission
245 West Broadway, Suite 425
Long Beach, CA 90802

Dear Mr. Pelka,

In response to your agency's letter dated June 19, 1987, regarding Hecla Mining Company's proposal and the need for an EIR or ND. It is my recommendation that an ND be used to address this project.

Over the past few years Hecla has performed similar exploratory drilling on National Forest Lands and we have seen minimal impact to other resources. Also, they have performed well in meeting our requirements for their operations.

Sincerely,

Alfonso V. Bisio
Alfonso V. Bisio
District Ranger

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LETTER

RESPONSES

STATE OF CALIFORNIA - THE MIDWINTER AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY
245 WEST BROADWAY, SUITE 425
LONG BEACH, CA 90802
1-310-322-0120



June 29, 1987

Mr. D. J. Everette
Assistant Chief
Extractive Development Program
State Lands Commission
245 West Broadway, Suite 425
Long Beach, CA 90802

Dear Mr. Everette:

FILE REFERENCE: W 40526
SCH# 87052507

We have reviewed the Application for a Prospecting Permit by Uncia Mining Company and believe a Negative Declaration would be appropriate for this phase of the project. We offer the following comments for your consideration as the project progresses:

1. All activities on the wildlands and equipment used for exploratory purposes will need to comply with the state's fire prevention standards.
2. If this area is timberland and the prospecting results in a decision to conduct a mining project, a Timberland Conversion Permit may be required under the Forest Practice Act.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project. If you need further information please contact Doug Wickizer at the above address and phone number.

Sincerely,

Kenneth L. DeJano

Kenneth L. DeJano
Deputy Director for
Resource Management

RM
cc: Bob Brown

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- 1 The prospecting permit requires Uncia Mining Company to comply with all applicable laws and regulations of the federal, state, and local governments and with all applicable requirements of the state and federal.
- 2 Any mineral extraction lease issued to Uncia Mining Company will require compliance with all applicable laws and regulations of the state and federal governments and with all applicable requirements of the state and federal.

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LETTER

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD -

CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

2215-A 14th Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95817-2302



RESPONSE

24 July 1987

Mr. Greg Peltz
State Lands Commission
245 W. Broadway, Suite 425
Long Beach, CA 90802

NECLA MINING COMPANY - EXPLORATORY DRILLING IN ANTELOPE VALLEY, SIERRA COUNTY
NECLA Mining Company proposes to drill 13 borholes on California Department of
EIS and other work. We believe a negative decision will be sufficient to cover
environmental concerns.

The borholes should be abandoned, whether ground water is encountered or not,
using impermeable material such as cement-bentonite grout.
If you have any questions, please call me at (916) 362-5555.

J. David St. Paul

DAVID L. WOLF
Area Engineer

WRS:gs
cc: Mr. Joe Hechel, Sierra County Planning Dept., Downsville
Mr. Peter Adams, Greater Environmental Management, Sonoma

The following number
All exploratory holes drilled to date by NECLA Mining Company have
abandoned by impermeable material. In the hole whether or not water
been encountered.

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FILED

LETTER

PETITION REQUESTING FIR FOR
DRILLING PROJECT
PROPOSED FOR ANTELOPE VALLEY
July 1, 1907

The undersigned are responding to a request from the State Lands Commission regarding an application by Hecia Mining Company for a prospecting permit on State Fish and Game lands located in the Antelope Valley of Inyo National Forest in Northern Sierra County, California. A number of concerned individuals have been contacted and an Environmental Impact Report before said permit is issued.

Initial concerns center around information on the Environmental Impact Assessment Checklist that are untrue and misleading. Of no concern concerning the impact the drilling of 13 wells would cause only 3 have been checked "yes". With out full geological and archeological studies many of the questions in the checklist must be answered "no". Until more research is done, the proposed drilling is to be done over an identified fault and the effects of vibrations upon streets in this area could have a much greater impact than believed.

2 The effect of increased traffic, noise, and dust on the residents of this valley is considerably understated in the report prepared by Hecia. We are sensitive to the disruption of our life style and are opposed to the activities that will occur with the proposed Hecia prospecting. Already the activity that has centered around the proposed Hecia project has caused local residence inconvenience as they have been forced to put up with increased traffic in areas that have been, until now, quiet hunting for hiking, riding and bicycling.

3 It is implied in the Environmental Impact Assessment Checklist that no long term effects will result from the proposed prospecting permit in Antelope Valley. This is obviously untrue. This is just the first step in a project which, if undertaken, will excavate this valley and the underground to disruption of our way of life and even the potential for severe health hazards.

We understand that the initial prospecting permit is connected only with 13 wells, but also feel the initial prospecting cannot be separated from the project as a whole. The magnitude of an open pit mining operation using a cyanide extraction method presents so much that nothing more of the greatest potential every step of the project's execution must be taken.

We the undersigned sincerely hope the State Lands Commission will require an Environmental Impact Report before issuing a prospecting permit for the drilling of wells in Antelope Valley.

Signed by 66 local concerned citizens.

RESPONSES

1 On June 29 and 30, 1971, an archaeological field survey of the project area was conducted by Homer H. Serner. In addition cultural resources were located within the project area. A copy of this archeological field survey is on file in the Los Angeles office of the State Lands Commission.

2 According to California Division of Mines and Geology 1969-70 geologic map of California, the Hot Springs well is approximately located within 1/4 mile north corner of the project area. Since the drill hole will be north-south oriented immediately after drilling, as required by the Commission, west-dip faults should not disrupt water flows in the area.

3 The noise amount of increased traffic, noise and dust generated in the project area will be temporary. Hecia Mining Company estimates drilling time will exceed one day per hole.

3 This "impact" involves a mineral prospecting permit which will not authorize the drilling of 13 exploratory holes. Should the prospecting permit be successful, the applicant must apply for a mineral extraction lease. Prior to the granting of such lease, an environmental impact report will be prepared, attached, and considered.

LETTER

Mr. Gregory J. Felka
State Lands Commission
245 West Broadway, Suite 425
Long Beach, CA 90802

Dean Jenkins
Star Route,
Loyton, CA 96110
July 6, 1997

RESPONSE

Dear Mr. Felka:

This is a response to your request for comments on the mineral prospecting permit application of Hecla Mining Company for drilling exploratory holes on land owned by California State Fish and Game.

Last Wednesday, July 1st, a meeting was conducted between Hecla Mining representatives and those residents of Sierra County which will be directly affected by their proposal of an open-pit, cyanide leaching process, gold mine.

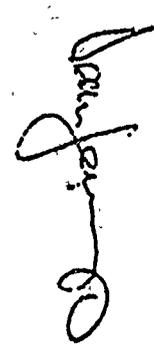
The permit application by Hecla came up during the course of conversation and many of us wondered why your letter of June 19th had not been sent to most of the local residents involved. This oversight has since been corrected; my copy arrived Friday and I thank you.

The environmental impact assessment checklist submitted by Hecla to your office as part of the initial study of the project lacked credibility in many of the question responses. Most of those present felt that for this reason Hecla should be required to submit to an Environmental Impact Report. A petition to that effect will soon be sent to you.

The meeting was held at the Bidderston Ranch, which lies due north of the proposed site and the drilling site in question. Fred Bidderston is presently out of the country on business, and cannot respond to your letter. My wife and I have been, and are presently managers of his ranch on a year-round basis and the concern that he has for this project are well known to us. The proposed drilling site is approximately 1000 yards up-gradient from Palen Reservoir, which is at the south end of the ranch. We have been licensed by the State to grow trout on a commercial basis, which we have done for the past four years. A drilling operation could have a definite impact, not to disturb those springs feeding the lake. The answers given on the assessment checklist did not address this possibility.

On behalf of Mr. Bidderston, I request that you ~~are~~ required for this project. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



1 Your own own experience that properly planned drillholes do not affect the water stream.

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LETTER

UNITED STATES Soil Conservation Service
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1350 N. Main St., Suite 1
Red Bluff, CA 96090
916-527-2667

July 14, 1967

State Lands Commission
245 West Broadway, Suite 425
Long Beach, CA 90802

Subject: Consultation Pursuant to Sec. 21080.3
of the Public Resource Code (Antelope
Valley Area)

Attention: Mr. Gregory J. Pelka

Dear Mr. Pelka:

The U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service believes a complete
EIR is necessary for proposed mineral exploration in
Antelope Valley, Sierra County.

No request this EIR due to concerns over soil, water, forage
and wildlife resources in the Valley.

W. L. G. B. ...
Linden A. Brooks
Area Conservationist

LAB:scj

RESPONSE

In view of the nature of the project, the permits received from other
governmental agencies (see comments attached) and past experience
with this type of project, we do not advise that an EIR is required.

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LETTER

SIERRA VALLEY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

P. O. Box 175
Loyalton, California 96118

July 1, 1987

State Lands Commission
265 West Broadway, Suite 425
Linn Bench, CA 90902

Attn: Mr. Gregory J. Felka

Subject: Consultation Pursuant to Section 21080.2 of the
Public Resource Code: (Antelope Valley Area)

1 The Sierra Valley Resource Conservation District requests an
file for proposed exploration in Antelope Valley.

Louis Gensse, President
Sierra Valley Resource
Conservation District
P. O. Box 175
Loyalton, CA 96118

RESPONSE

1 Account: nmlul.

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SEARCHED
SERIALIZED
INDEXED
FILED

File Ref.: W 40526
SCH# 87052507

June 19, 1987

INITIAL STUDY
INTRODUCTION

Hecla Mining Company has applied to the State Lands Commission for a mineral prospecting permit on State Fish and Game proprietary land located in the Antelope Valley of the Tahoe National Forest in northern Sierra County, California. The proposed project involves drilling 13 exploratory holes, 4 1/8 inch in diameter to a maximum depth of 200 feet to explore for precious metals. Access will be obtained by an existing dirt logging road and by off-road travel. Upon completion of drilling, all holes shall be properly abandoned, and drill sites reclaimed.

The permit when issued, is for a two-year period and may be extended for a maximum of one year.

This initial study consists of an environmental impact assessment checklist, detailed project description, information form response and maps.

STATE LANDS COMMISSION
June 1987

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STATE LANDS COMMISSION

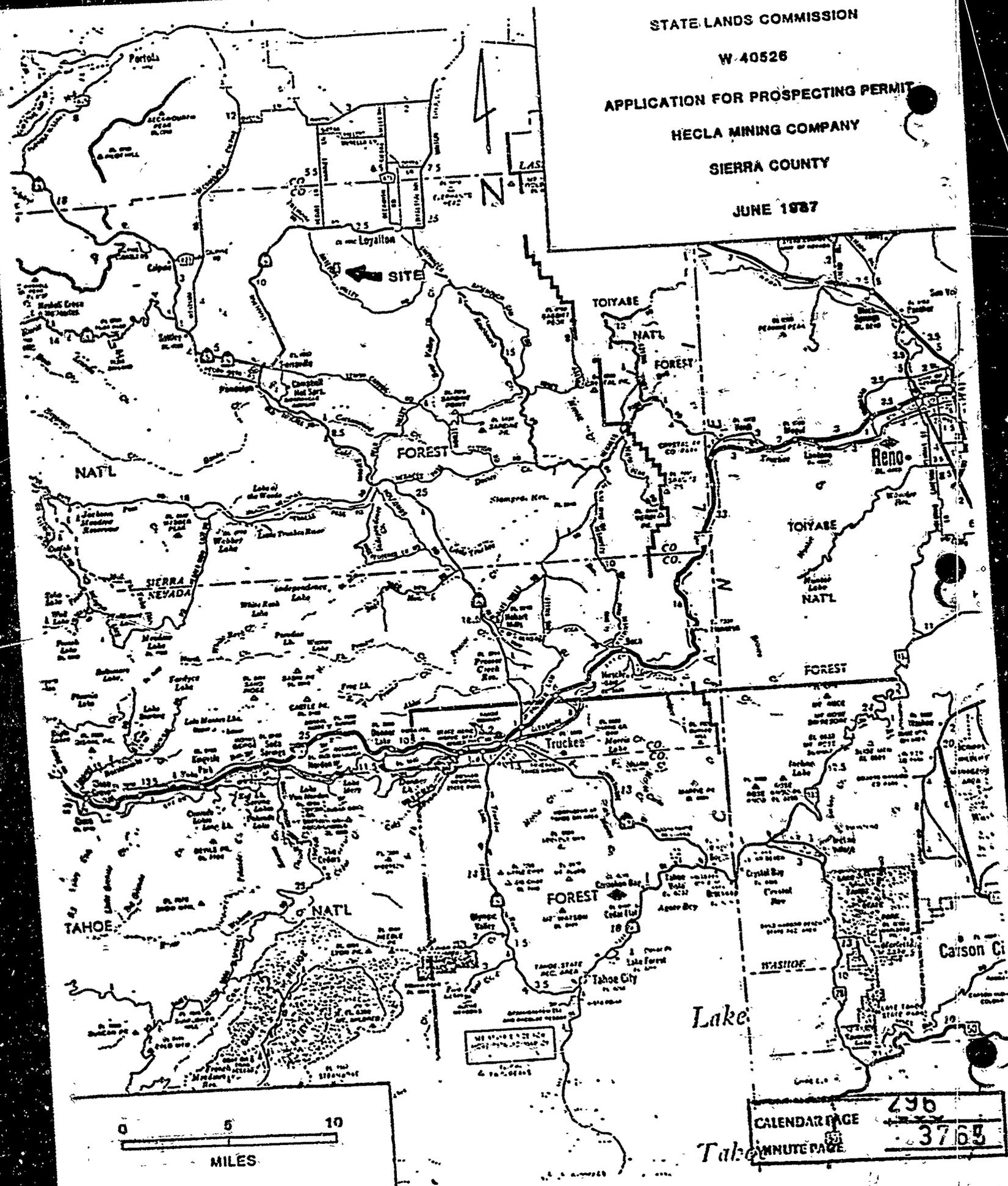
W 40526

APPLICATION FOR PROSPECTING PERMIT

HECLA MINING COMPANY

SIERRA COUNTY

JUNE 1987

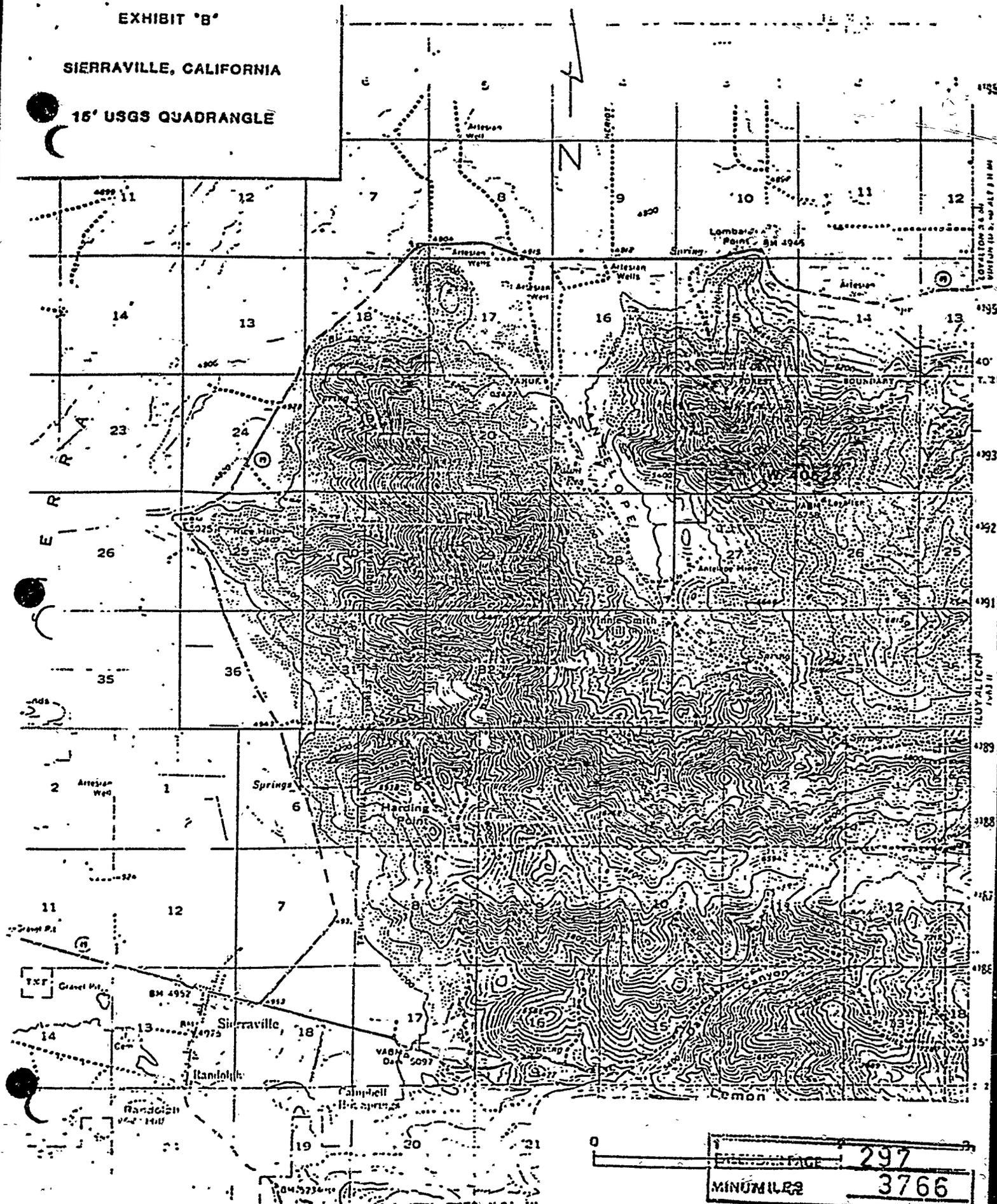


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EXHIBIT 'B'

SIERRAVILLE, CALIFORNIA

15' USGS QUADRANGLE



0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
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DETAILED PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Hecla Mining Company proposes to conduct precious metal exploration in the permit area by drilling 13 holes, 4 1/8 inches in diameter to a maximum depth of 200 feet and retaining samples for off-site assaying. Please refer to Exhibit A and B for location maps of the project. Refer to Exhibit C for a detailed parcel map showing individual drill hole locations and existing access.

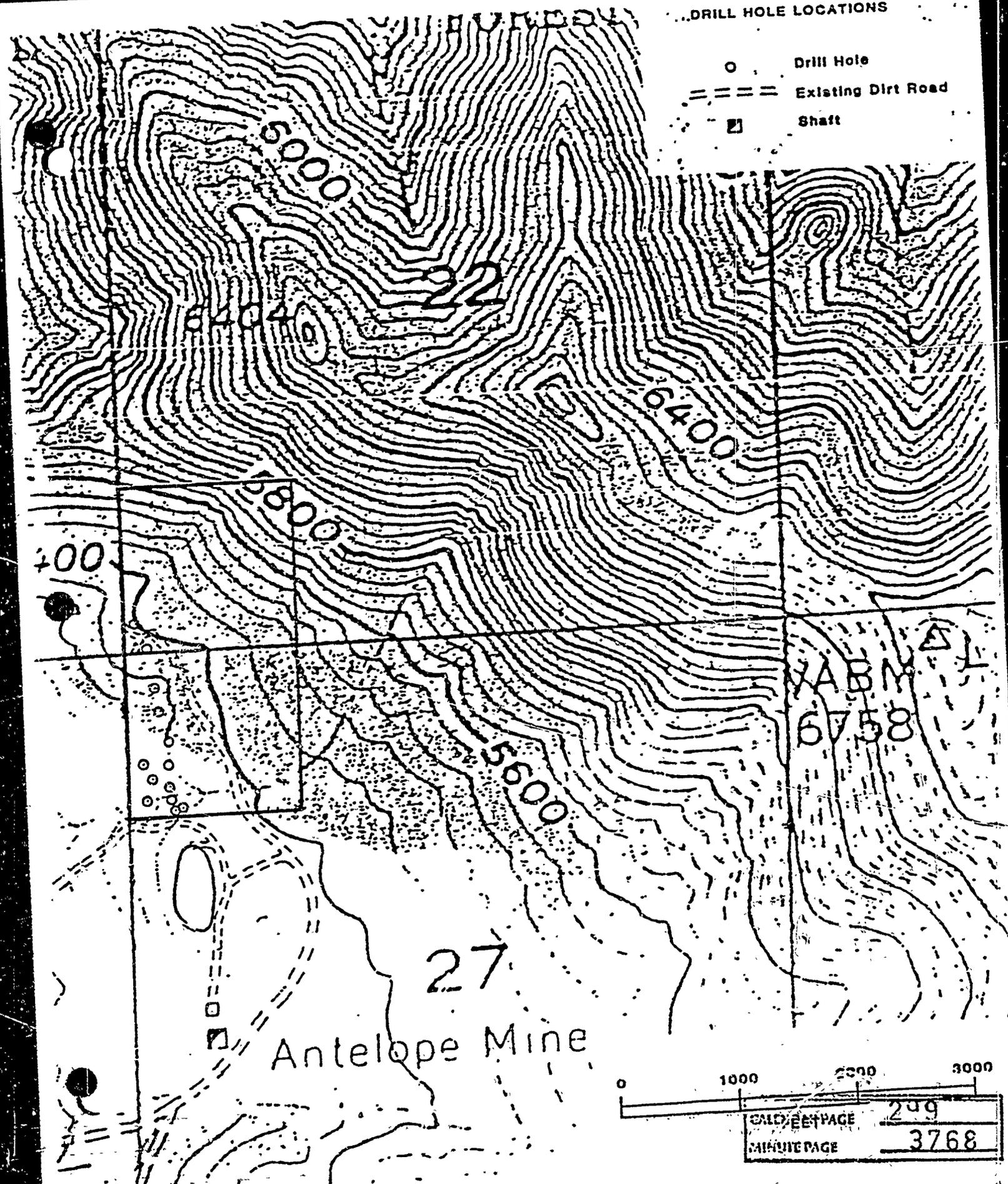
Drilling will be accomplished using a track mounted reverse air circulation rig. A down-the-hole hammer will break the rock to 1/2 inch diameter particles which are blown out of the hole to a cyclone. Cuttings are retained at five foot intervals with approximately 1/2 cubic foot saved from each interval. The remaining cuttings will be stockpiled for backfilling the hole. No cores will be taken and no drilling mud will be used. Holes will be drilled at an approximate inclination of 45 degrees. The drilling crew will consist of three men who will be transported in one pickup truck. Lodging will be in a motel in the nearby town of Loyalton.

Access to the drill sites will be obtained by an existing old logging road and by off road travel. No new road construction will be permitted. Surface disturbance is estimated to be approximately 80 square feet per drill site or a total of 0.02 acre for all 13 holes. The maximum anticipated excavated volume if all the holes are drilled to a depth of 200 feet will be 9 cubic yards.

Upon abandonment, approximately five feet of surface casing required for drilling will be removed. Drill cuttings not retained as samples will be used to backfill each hole. In the event water is encountered during drilling, holes will be abandoned in accordance with California Department of Water Resources Water Well Standards. Drill sites will be scarified and seeded by hand-broadcasting. The seed mixture will be provided by the U.S. Forest Service for use in the area. A commercial fertilizer will be utilized to assist in germination and growth.

...DRILL HOLE LOCATIONS

- Drill Hole
- === Existing Dirt Road
- Shaft



Antelope Mine

27

B.M. 6758

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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST - PART II

Form 13.20 (7/82)

File Ref: 7-0526

I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A. Applicant: Hecla Mining Company
6500 Mineral Drive
Cooper Lake, Idaho 83204-7047

B. Checklist Date: 06 / 19 / 87

C. Contact Person: Gregory J. Felka

Telephone: (213) 590-5201

D. Purpose: Prospecting for precious and other valuable minerals.

E Location: SW 1/4 of SW 1/4 of Sec 22, T 21 N, R 15 E, MDM, Sierra County
NW 1/4 of NW 1/4 of Sec 27, T 21 N, R 15 E, MDM, Sierra County

F. Description: Drill 13 exploratory holes, 1 1/8 inch in diameter to a maximum depth of
of 200 feet. Retain 1/2 cubic foot of sample from every five foot interval for off-
site assaying. Properly abandon drill holes.

G. Persons Contacted:
James Messersmith - Regional Manager
Department of Fish and Game
1701 Nimbus Road, Suite A
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

II. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS. (Explain all "yes" and "maybe" answers)

A. Earth. Will the proposal result in:

Table with 3 columns: Question, Yes, Maybe, No. Contains 7 questions regarding earth impacts like unstable earth conditions, soil disruptions, topography changes, etc.

Stamp: 300, 3769, MINUTE PAGE

Yes Maybe No

- B Air** Will the proposal result in:
1. Substantial air emissions or deterioration of ambient air quality? Yes Maybe No
 2. The creation of objectionable odors? Yes Maybe No
 3. Alteration of air movement, moisture or temperature, or any change in climate, either locally or regionally? Yes Maybe No
- Water** Will the proposal result in:
1. Changes in the currents, or the course or direction of water movements, in either marine or fresh waters? Yes Maybe No
 2. Changes in absorption rates, drainage patterns, or the rate and amount of surface water runoff? Yes Maybe No
 3. Alterations to the course or flow of flood waters? Yes Maybe No
 4. Change in the amount of surface water in any water body? Yes Maybe No
 5. Discharge into surface waters, or in any alteration of surface water quality, including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity? Yes Maybe No
 6. Alteration of the direction or rate of flow of ground waters? Yes Maybe No
 7. Change in the quantity of ground waters, either through direct additions or withdrawals, or through interception of an aquifer by cuts or excavations? Yes Maybe No
 8. Substantial reduction in the amount of water otherwise available for public water supplies? Yes Maybe No
 9. Exposure of people or property to water-related hazards such as flooding or tidal waves? Yes Maybe No
 10. Significant changes in the temperature, flow or chemical content of surface thermal springs? Yes Maybe No
- D. Plant Life** Will the proposal result in:
1. Change in the diversity of species, or number of any species of plants (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)? Yes Maybe No
 2. Reduction of the numbers of any unique, rare or endangered species of plants? Yes Maybe No
 3. Introduction of new species of plants into an area, or in a barrier to the normal replenishment of existing species? Yes Maybe No
 4. Reduction in acreage of any agricultural crop? Yes Maybe No
- E. Animal Life** Will the proposal result in:
1. Change in the diversity of species, or numbers of any species of animals (birds, land animals including reptiles, fish and shellfish, benthic organisms, or insects)? Yes Maybe No
 2. Reduction of the numbers of any unique, rare or endangered species of animals? Yes Maybe No
 3. Introduction of new species of animals into an area, or result in a barrier to the migration or movement of animals? Yes Maybe No
 4. Deterioration to existing fish or wildlife habitat? Yes Maybe No
- F. Noise** Will the proposal result in:
1. Increase in existing noise levels? Yes Maybe No
 2. Exposure of people to severe noise levels? Yes Maybe No
- G. Light and Glare** Will the proposal result in:
1. The production of new light or glare? Yes Maybe No
- H. Land Use** Will the proposal result in:
1. A substantial alteration of the present or planned land use of an area? Yes Maybe No
- I. Natural Resources** Will the proposal result in:
1. Increase in the rate of use of any natural resources? Yes Maybe No
 2. Substantial depletion of any nonrenewable resources? Yes Maybe No

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J. Risk of Upset. Does the proposal result in

Yes Maybe No

- 1. A risk of an explosion or the release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to, oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation) in the event of an accident or upset conditions?
- 2. Possible interference with emergency response plan or an emergency evacuation plan?

K. Population. Will the proposal result in:

- 1. The alteration, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of the area?

L. Housing. Will the proposal result in:

- 1. Affecting existing housing, or create a demand for additional housing?

M. Transportation/Circulation. Will the proposal result in:

- 1. Generation of substantial additional vehicular movement?
- 2. Affecting existing parking facilities, or create a demand for new parking?
- 3. Substantial impact upon existing transportation systems?
- 4. Alterations to present patterns of circulation or movement of people and/or goods?
- 5. Alterations to waterborne, rail, or air traffic?
- 6. Increase in traffic hazards to motor vehicles, bicyclists, or pedestrians?

N. Public Services. Will the proposal have an effect upon, or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas:

- 1. Fire protection?
- 2. Police protection?
- 3. Schools?
- 4. Parks and other recreational facilities?
- 5. Maintenance of public facilities, including roads?
- 6. Other governmental services?

O. Energy. Will the proposal result in:

- 1. Use of substantial amounts of fuel or energy?
- 2. Substantial increase in demand upon existing sources of energy, or require the development of new sources?

P. Utilities. Will the proposal result in a need for new systems, or substantial alterations to the following utilities:

- 1. Power or natural gas?
- 2. Communication systems?
- 3. Water?
- 4. Sewer or septic tanks?
- 5. Storm water drainage?
- 6. Solid waste and disposal?

Q. Human Health. Will the proposal result in:

- 1. Creation of any health hazard or potential health hazard (excluding mental health)?
- 2. Exposure of people to potential health hazards?

R. Aesthetics. Will the proposal result in:

- 1. The obstruction of any scenic vista or view open to the public, or will the proposal result in the creation of an aesthetically offensive site open to public view?

S. Recreation. Will the proposal result in:

- 1. Affecting the quality or quantity of existing recreational opportunities?

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Cultural Resources

- 1. Will the proposal result in the alteration of or the destruction of a prehistoric or historic archeological site? Yes No Ind.
- 2. Will the proposal result in adverse physical or aesthetic effects to a prehistoric or historic building, structure, or object? Yes No Ind.
- 3. Does the proposal have the potential to cause a physical change which would affect unique ethnic cultural values? Yes No Ind.
- 4. Will the proposal restrict existing religious or sacred uses within the potential impact area? Yes No Ind.

U. Mandatory Findings of Significance.

- 1. Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory? Yes No Ind.
- 2. Does the project have the potential to achieve short term, to the disadvantage of long-term, environmental goals? Yes No Ind.
- 3. Does the project have impacts which are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? Yes No Ind.
- 4. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly? Yes No Ind.

III. DISCUSSION OF ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION (See Comments Attached)

See attached discussion of environmental evaluation, environmental setting and detailed project description.

IV. PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- I find the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because the mitigation measures described on an attached sheet have been attached to the project. A NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

8 7 87

John T. Yukushima
For the State Land Use Commission

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III. Discussion of Environmental Evaluation

A 2. Disruption, displacement, compaction and overcovering of the soil will occur in the immediate vicinity of the drill sites. However, the disruption will be short term and all disturbed sites will be properly reclaimed.

E 3. The drilling activity will temporarily displace animals from the immediate vicinity. No long term effects are anticipated.

F 1. The operating drill rig will temporarily increase existing noise levels.

S 1. The drilling activity will temporarily reduce recreational opportunities on the project site.

The 80 acre parcel under application is within the 4,480+ acre Antelope valley Wildlife Area acquired by the Wildlife Conservation Board for the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) in 1980. The CDFG acquired the parcel primarily for the prime deer winter range habitat as well as recreational opportunities including hunting, hiking, camping and general outdoor enjoyment. The federal government, through the Land and Water Conservation Fund, participated in this acquisition on a 50% basis. Due to the federal government's involvement, the CDFG has requested and received permission for conversion of land use for mineral prospecting activities.

In addition to CDFG lands in the Antelope Valley area of Sierra County, there exist an additional 16,300 acres belonging to

- 1) U.S. Department of Agriculture - Forest Service, Tahoe National Forest.
- 2) U.S. Department of the Interior - BLM, Susanville District.
- 3) Private Land both within and outside the NFS boundary.

Due to common land and resource management issues the private landowners and public agencies have united under the Antelope Valley Coordinated Resource Plan in order to best manage the land as an ecosystem. Common management concerns and goals of the private landowners and public agencies include:

- 1) protection and improvement of the deer winter range
- 2) coordination of livestock grazing with wildlife use
3. control of timber trespass
- 4) control of vehicle use in unauthorized areas

- 5) abate stream erosion and raise the water table in Antelope Valley
- 6) the possibility of mineral resource development impacting other resources
- 7) the possibility of uncontrolled wildfire due to excess fuels

The entire area is zoned general forest. The general plan is designated intermediate forest for the entire Antelope Valley.

In the SW 1/4 of Section 27, immediately adjacent to the area under application lies the now abandoned Antelope Mine. This underground mine produced copper around the turn of the century from the same geologic formation in which present exploration is desired. Access to the underground workings of the Antelope Mine are no longer accessible.

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ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Describe the project site as it exists before commencement of the project. Include information such as topography, soil stability, plants and animals, and any cultural, historical or scenic aspects. Describe any existing structures on the site, the use of the structures, and whether they will be retained or removed.

Describe the surrounding properties. Include information such as topography, soil stability, plants and animals, and any cultural, historical or scenic aspects. Indicate the type of land use and intensity of land use of the area.

Include a statement of the proposed liquid, solid or gaseous waste disposal methods necessary for the protection and preservation of existing land and water uses.

Ant Responses:

The project site is on a hill which slopes gently to the southwest. The area is alluvial covered, with some yellow pine trees and bitter brush. The most noted animals are mule-deer. There are no existing structures on the site. Rock outcrops consist of isolated zones approximately 20 feet by 100 feet of silicified volcanic material. Material surrounding the outcrops consists of talus and gravel, 5 to 40 feet in thickness. No known cultural or historical resources occur on the project site. An archeological survey of the project site and surrounding area is anticipated to be completed by the middle of July. Scenic aspects consist of wooded, rolling hills overlooking Antelope Valley. The State land has the same features as that surrounding it.

The Antelope Valley area is on the eastside of the main Sierra Nevada range and is characterized by the dry climate and ecosystem typical of the Great Basin. Antelope Valley proper is a broad valley floor with a spring fed stream. The surrounding ridges are dominated by stands of Jeffrey pine, with the west slopes onto the Sierra Valley tending to a juniper/cedar - sagebrush - annual grassland. Antelope Valley contains bitterbrush, mountain mahogany, sagebrush as well as perennial and annual grasses. Elevations range from 5000' to 6800'. The area has a history of fire as well as recent (past 100 years) logging.

The entire area is key deer winter range for the Loyalton - Truckee deer herd. The abundance of bitterbrush, mountain mahogany, sagebrush, and adjacent alfalfa and other croplands as well as the relative scarcity of snow make this a critical area to wintering deer.

Ranches border the west and north edge of the area. Typically, these ranches are on the valley floor and contain private land extending within the exterior forest boundary. Grazing usually extends onto the forest via on-off or regular permits since the forest boundary is rarely fenced in this area.

Drilling for precious metals has been successfully completed on nearby property by Hecla Mining Company. Additional land use includes wildlife habitat and recreation.

3. The drilling will be performed with reverse air circulation and the cuttings will be retained. All trash will be removed from the site.

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NT OF ENVIRONMENT

planning, acquisition, development and construction of the project.
 Please answer the following questions by placing a check in the appropriate box
 "or "maybe" on additional sheet(s).

	YES	MAYBE	NO
atures of any bays, tidelands, beaches, lakes or hills, or of ground contours?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ews from existing residential areas or public lands or roads?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
scale or character of the general area of the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h plant or animal life?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
is of solid waste or litter?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ash, smoke, fumes or odors in the vicinity?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
n, bay, lake, stream or ground water quality or quantity, or an ng drainage patterns?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ng noise or vibration levels in the vicinity?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
n filled land or on a slope of 10 percent or more?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
l potentially hazardous materials such as toxic or radioactive mables or explosives?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
mand for municipal services (e.g., police, fire, water, sewage)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ossil fuel consumption (e.g., electricity, oil, natural gas)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ect or a series of projects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

PART V
 CERTIFICATION

I information and materials furnished in this application are true and complete to the best of my
 belief. I recognize that this application and the project it addresses are subject to all laws of the
 ia, and the regulations and discretionary policies of the State Lands Commission.

Gene K. Ealy Gene K. Ealy Date: 4/10/87
 Vice President - Exploration

Date _____

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ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

1. Describe the project site as it exists before commencement of the project. Include information such as topography, soil stability, plants and animals, and any cultural, historical or scenic aspects. Describe any existing structures on the site, the use of the structures, and whether they will be retained or removed.
2. Describe the surrounding properties. Include information such as topography, soil stability, plants and animals, and any cultural, historical or scenic aspects. Indicate the type of land use and intensity of land use of the area.
3. Include a statement of the proposed liquid, solid or gaseous waste disposal methods necessary for the protection and preservation of existing land and water uses.

Applicant Responses:

1. The project site is on a hill which slopes gently to the southwest. The area is alluvial covered, with some yellow pine trees and bitter brush. The most noted animals are mule-deer. There are no existing structures on the site. Rock outcrops consist of isolated zones approximately 20 feet by 100 feet of silicified volcanic material. Material surrounding the outcrops consists of talus and gravel, 5 to 40 feet in thickness. No known cultural or historical resources occur on the project site. An archeological survey of the project site and surrounding area is anticipated to be completed by the middle of July. Scenic aspects consist of wooded, rolling hills overlooking Antelope Valley. The State land has the same features as that surrounding it.
2. The Antelope Valley area is on the eastside of the main Sierra Nevada range and is characterized by the dry climate and ecosystem typical of the Great Basin. Antelope Valley proper is a broad valley floor with a spring fed stream. The surrounding ridges are dominated by stands of Jeffrey pine, with the west slopes onto the Sierra Valley tending to a juniper/cedar - sagebrush - annual grassland. Antelope Valley contains bitterbrush - mountain mahogany, sagebrush as well as perennial and annual grasses. Elevations range from 5000' to 6800'. The area has a history of fire as well as recent (past 100 years) logging.

The entire area is key deer winter range for the Loyalton-Truckee deer herd. The abundance of bitterbrush, mountain mahogany, sagebrush, and adjacent alfalfa and other croplands as well as the relative scarcity of snow make this a critical area to wintering deer.

Ranches border the west and north edge of the area. Typically, these ranches are on the valley floor and contain private land extending within the exterior forest boundary. Grazing usually extends onto the forest via on-off or regular permits since the forest boundary is rarely fenced in this area.

Drilling for precious metals has been successfully completed on nearby property by Hecla Mining Company. Additional land use includes wildlife habitat and recreation.

3. The drilling will be performed with reverse air circulation and the cuttings will be retained. All trash will be removed from the site.

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SECTION C: ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

All phases of a project, such as planning, acquisition, development and operation, shall be considered when evaluating its impact on the environment. Please answer the following questions by placing a check in the appropriate box. Discuss all items checked "yes" or "maybe" on additional sheet(s).

Will the project involve:

- | | YES | MAYBE | NO |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. A change in existing features of any bays, tidelands, beaches, lakes or hills, or substantial alteration of ground contours? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. A change in scenic views from existing residential areas or public lands or roads? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. A change in pattern, scale or character of the general area of the project? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Significant effect on plant or animal life? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Significant amounts of solid waste or litter? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. A change in dust, ash, smoke, fumes or odors in the vicinity? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. A change in ocean, bay, lake, stream or ground water quality or quantity, or an altering of existing drainage patterns? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. A change in existing noise or vibration levels in the vicinity? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. Construction on filled land or on a slope of 10 percent or more? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 10. Use or disposal of potentially hazardous materials such as toxic or radioactive substances, flammables or explosives? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 11. A change in demand for municipal services (e.g., police, fire, water, sewage)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 12. Increase in fossil fuel consumption (e.g., electricity, oil, natural gas)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 13. A larger project or a series of projects? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

PART V

CERTIFICATION

I certify that all information and materials furnished in this application are true and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. I recognize that this application and the project it addresses are subject to all laws of the State of California, and the regulations and discretionary policies of the State Lands Commission.

Applicant: _____

Gene K. Ealy

Gene K. Ealy

Date: 4/10/87

Title _____

Vice President - Exploration

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