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Executive Secretary

Nevada State Environmental Commission Notice Of Appeal Hearing March 20, 2006

A three-member panel of the State Environmental Commission (SEC) has scheduled a hearing on an appeal filed with the SEC by Great Basin Mine Watch (GBMW). The appeal hearing will be held at 9:A.M on March 29 and 30, 2006 in Carson City Nevada. The hearing will be held at the Office of the Attorney General, 100 North Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada 89701-4717 - second floor conference room.

The appeal by GBMW challenges the renewal of a Water Pollution Control Permit (NEV0087001) issued by the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) on July 26, 2005, to become effective on August 15, 2005. The permit authorized the permanent closure of the Big Springs Mine located in Elko County, Nevada. The Big Springs Mine is owned and operated by AngloGold Ashanti, a Nevada Corporation.

The appeal by GBWM alleges that NDEP's permit improperly permitted discharges into the North Fork of the Humboldt River (NFHR) and its tributaries. According to the appeal, NDEP has failed to properly regulate all discharges at the site and has not issued a proper discharge permit for the mine and/or related point sources, as required by the federal Clean Water Act and Nevada's Water Pollution Control Law.

GBWM further alleges that NDEP has failed to comply with state water quality standards and prescribed beneficial uses and alleges that discharges are causing elevated levels of various constituents in the NFHR and its tributaries (e.g. selenium, manganese), and that these discharges are harming Lahontan Cutthroat Trout, a listed threatened species. According to the appeal, these discharges are stated to be in violation of the federal Clean Water Act and the Nevada Water Pollution Control Laws NRS 445A.300 et seq. For more information about this appeal see the SEC website at:
http://www.sec.nv.gov/main/big_springs_appeal05.htm

The hearing will be held in accordance with NRS 233B.121 to 150 inclusive and NRS 445A.605 to NRS 445A.610 and Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 445B.875 to 445B.899. Members of the public who are disabled and require special accommodations or assistance at the meeting are requested to notify the

Executive Secretary in writing to Nevada State Environmental Commission, 901 South Stewart St. Ste. 401, Carson City, Nevada, 89701-5249; by facsimile to (775) 687-5856; or by calling (775) 687-9308 no later than 5:00 p.m., March 22, 2006. This notice is issued pursuant to Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) Chapter 233B and NRS 445B.350