

Barrick Cortez, Inc. Potable Water Systems

Water Conservation Plan

Introduction

The water supply for Barrick Cortez, Inc. (Cortez) mine related activities and domestic purposes are obtained from ongoing mine dewatering and Non Transient Non Community Public water supply systems. There are 3 Non-Transient, Non-Community Public Water Systems at Cortez: Pipeline Public Water System (PWS # NV0000892), Mill #1 Public Water System (PWS # NV0002570) and the Cortez Hills Public Water System (PWS # NV0001097).

Currently, approximately 70 % of the pumped dewatering water is returned to the source Crescent Valley hydrographic basin (State of Nevada Ground Water Basin No 54 – Crescent Valley) via infiltration. The remainder of the dewatering water goes to consumptive use such as milling and leaching processes, dust suppression and irrigation, or it is lost to evaporation. Irrigation currently receives an allocation of approximately 6000gpm during the spring and summer months.

The Non-Transient Non-Community Public water supply systems serve employees and contractors on the Cortez Mine site. The users of the system are neither metered nor billed. The potable water system consists of a water treatment plant, storage tanks, water delivery lines and service connections.

This Water Conservation Plan (Plan) will be reviewed at five year intervals, with modifications to meet changing system conditions.

Elements of the Conservation Plan

The Plan describes the water conservation and drought management efforts in the Cortez water supply system, along with implementation schedules. The Plan components conform to Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 540.121 – 540.151. Plan elements address the following areas:

- Increase public awareness of the need to conserve water.
- Encourage reduction in lawn sizes and use of arid and semiarid plants.
- Identify specific water conservation measures.
- Propose plan to identify and reduce leakage.
- Increase reuse of effluent where applicable.
- Provide a drought contingency plan.
- Implementation schedule for drought contingency plan.
- Plan effectiveness metrics.
- Water savings in gallons/day.

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Public Awareness

The attached notice (Water Conservation Notice) is posted on bulletin boards throughout the mine site.

Lawn sizes and use of arid and semiarid plants

An area surrounding the Administration Building is landscaped with native trees and shrubs. There are no lawns on the mine site.

Specific water conservation measures

The mineral processing operations reuse process solutions and dewatering water which has come into contact with mined materials (contact water). There is minimal usage of fresh dewatering water and water usage for dust suppression is reduced by the application of chemical binder.

Plan to identify and reduce leakage

Suspected leaks are investigated and repaired as soon as possible. There are no metered connections. A supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system continuously monitors the water supply system for abnormal run times and distribution pressures that indicate possible leakage.

Increase reuse of effluent where applicable

Effluent (excess water) emanating from the use of water from the potable water system is managed through the septic tank systems that are permitted under a Large-Capacity Septic System permit. Contact water and process solution are reused for mineral processing.

Drought contingency plan

In the event of drought, potable water will be hauled from Crescent Valley or Elko potable water systems utilizing a licensed potable water hauler. If the drought affects the municipal systems or the water hauler to the extent that they cannot provide potable water, the stored potable water will be used for emergency eyewash stations only. Portable restroom facilities and bottled water will be provided.

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Implementation schedule for drought contingency plan

In the event of a drought emergency, all appropriate personnel will be informed and notified of the steps that need to be taken until conditions improve. All employees will be informed through notices that will be posted at bathroom facilities, bulletin boards, and through e-mails.

Plan effectiveness metrics

Water management infrastructures are on a regular monitoring and maintenance schedule. Adjustments and changes are made as needed to maintain the Plan's effectiveness.

Water savings in gallons/day

Cortez currently does not monitor the volume of water saved in a day but there are systems (monitoring devices and water balance tool) in place to assist with water usage optimization on the mine site. Conservative use of water is one of the primary aims and objectives of the Mine.

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WATER CONSERVATION NOTICE

WATER CONSERVATION IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS

**NEVADA IS ONE OF THE DRIEST STATES IN THE UNITED STATES AND
CAN BE SEVERELY IMPACTED BY LOWER THAN NORMAL
RAINFALL OR DROUGHT CONDITIONS**

**PLEASE REPORT ANY LEAKING PLUMBING FIXTURES AND SUSPECTED
PIPING LEAKS IMMEDIATELY TO MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL OR A
SUPERVISOR**

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