

Beatty Town Advisory Board
PO Box 837
Beatty, Nevada 89003
775-553-2050



BLM California State Office
2800 Cottage Way, Suite W1623
Sacramento, CA 95825

Re: Concerns About the Approved St. Cloud Mining Ash Meadows Mine Exploration Project (DOI-BLM-CA-D080-2022-0010-EA)

August 26, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

The Beatty Town Advisory Board is writing to express serious concerns about the recent Bureau of Land Management's approval of the St. Cloud Mining exploratory drilling project at the Ash Meadows Mine (NEPA project ID DOI-BLM-CA-D080-2022-0010-EA).

This project lies just outside of Nye County and the proposed mineral withdrawal area surrounding the Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge, it is however, less than 3 miles from the Refuge. Also, this exploratory drilling project may directly affect Nye County groundwater dependent communities like ours.

The Beatty Town Advisory Board and the Beatty community have opposed exploratory drilling in the Amargosa Valley and supported the proposed mineral withdrawal around the Ash Meadows Wildlife Refuge. This region and the refuge are too important to risk.

In addition to our concerns about the Ash Meadows Wildlife Refuge we are concerned about the impact that this project will have on the Amargosa Valley groundwater system that spans State lines supplying communities with life sustaining water. Any disruption to this groundwater system, which could occur during exploratory drilling, could have lasting and dire consequences on both human and ecological communities.

It is troubling to us that this project was approved; without any coordination with Nevada agencies that manage and protect our water resources, without solid groundwater data or hydrologic modeling, and an Environmental Assessment that does not adequately evaluate hydrologic connectivity or potential impacts to water rights holders, spring discharges, and dependent species.

Beatty has several industrial scale projects, some in the permitting phase, some in the exploration phase, all of them currently using water. Should one or all of these projects be permitted and move into production, water consumption upstream of the Amargosa Valley will increase at a pace not seen in our area for decades, with basin recovery estimates a century out. In desert systems like Ash Meadows, the aquifer operates as a highly integrated network. What occurs in one area can rapidly influence distant springs and ecosystems, as well as impact communities that rely on this vital resource.

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Downstream projects like this exploratory drilling project could impact upstream projects like those mentioned above. It is critical that cumulative impacts are considered for each and every project application. The water that will be used in California for this project comes to it by way of Nevada.

We urge you, the BLM California State office, to reevaluate the approval of this project. It needs a much more thorough review, coordination with Nevada agencies, and specifically a full Environmental Impact Statement that looks at the potential cumulative effects and the broader hydrologic connections. We also ask that until that happens this exploration project is placed on hold.

We are a small community with a historic connection to our land and the resources it holds, resources that have made it possible for us to call Beatty home.

We welcome the opportunity to talk more with the BLM and others about how we can protect and preserve our shared resources, resources that have created this unique region of the Desert South West in Nevada and California.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,



Kelly Carroll

Kelly Carroll
Beatty Town Advisory Board Chair

cc:

Nye County Board of County Commissioners
Inyo County Board of Supervisors
Timbisha Shoshone Tribal Council
Bureau of Land Management – Barstow Field Office
Bureau of Land Management – California Desert District Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Palm Springs Office
National Park Service – Death Valley National Park
California Department of Fish and Wildlife – Inland Deserts Region (6)
Nevada State Engineer's Office
Amargosa Valley Town Board