



Nevada Mineral Exploration Coalition

The “Voice” of Nevada Exploration

Submitted Electronically to:
NRInterim@lcb.state.nv.us

April 5, 2024

Joint Interim Standing Committee on Natural Resources
Nevada State Legislature

Re: NMEC Support for the Nevada Division of Minerals

Dear Senators and Assemblymembers :

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the importance of the Nevada Division of Minerals to the mineral exploration community and all users of Nevada Public Lands. One of our members commented during the public comment period of today’s meeting and we wish to add our comments to his.

The Nevada Division of Minerals (NDOM) is an integral part of Nevada’s successful mining practices. The focus of NDOM is to direct wise and sustainable mining throughout the state while implementing state regulation in the most balanced manner possible. NDOM does this through a number of programs meant to provide information, oversight and public safety.

NDOM is funded with no contribution by Nevada taxpayers. Explorers and miners pay for it through claim fees, permit fees, and disturbance fees. It is not a regulator, but NDOM does introduce to the legislature new regulation on exploration and mining when that is appropriate. For example, new regulation on exploration for and development of dissolved mineral resources in 2019.

NDOM produces some of the most comprehensive and user-friendly information on land use, exploration, mines. The Open data section of the website draws a wealth of data from multiple sources: from the Division itself, and also from BLM and other state and federal sources. It synthesizes and presents the data in innovative ways, of use to anyone wishing to use public lands.

Exploration geologists, landmen, land managers and attorneys utilize the data that NDOM produces on a regular and frequent basis. This information helps us to decide when, where and how to stake mining claims. The NDOM staff have done a remarkable job providing this information for anyone, whether involved with mining, ranching, recreation, or other land use. For some of us at NMEC, we use the resources provided by NDOM every day.

NDOM is also intimately involved in the permitting process for resource development in Nevada. The staff frequently meets together with the potential developers to educate, foster cooperation, and ensure that regulatory compliance is upheld. NDOM is highly effective in coordinating and interfacing with federal regulatory agencies and with the resource developer.

NDOM does a great job with its Abandoned Mines Land program. It works with mines which were abandoned years ago – long before the current cooperative efforts for effective mined land reclamation by industry and regulators. NDOM has consistently mitigated abandoned mines that pose safety hazards to the public.

In closing, we wish to say that the Nevada Division of Minerals and its parent authority, the Commission on Mineral Resources, fulfill their Legislature-assigned mission magnificently. And that mission is a vital, positive one for the State of Nevada

Respectfully,

Elizabeth Zbinden
Vice-President, Nevada Mineral Exploration Coalition

Deborah Goetz
Director, Nevada Mineral Exploration Coalition