

**Division of Water Quality  
Utah Department of Environmental Quality  
Public Notice of Renewal of Ground Water Discharge Permit  
Permit No. UGW450011**

**Purpose of Public Notice**

The Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is soliciting comments on the request to renew a ground water discharge permit as described below. The ground water discharge permit is issued by the Director of the Division of Water Quality under authority of the Utah Water Quality Act, Section 19-5-106(g) Utah Code Ann. 1953, as amended and Utah Administrative Code R317-6. Under Section 19-1-301.5, effective May 8, 2012, a person who wishes to challenge a Permit Order may only raise an issue or argument during an adjudicatory proceeding that was raised during the public comment period and was supported with sufficient information or documentation to enable the Director to fully consider the substance and significance of the issue. Utah Code Ann. 19-1-301.5 can be viewed at the following internet URL: [http://le.utah.gov/~code/TITLE19/htm/19\\_01\\_030105.htm](http://le.utah.gov/~code/TITLE19/htm/19_01_030105.htm).

**Permit Information**

|                    |                                     |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Permittee Name:    | Desert Hawk Gold Corporation        |
| Facility Location: | Kiewit Project, Tooele County       |
| Mailing Address:   | 1290 Holcomb Ave.<br>Reno, NV 89502 |

Desert Hawk Gold Corporation is seeking renewal for its existing ground water discharge permit that covers operation of a cyanide heap leach facility that will process approximately 2,300,000 tons of granodiorite ore for extraction of gold and silver over a four to five year period. The ore is crushed into one-inch gravel sized particles and stacked on the leach pad in lifts 10-20 feet high. Dilute sodium cyanide solution is sprinkled on the ore and the solution flows through the ore to the leach pad liner to a process pond where it is pumped through a four-stage carbon column, stripped of dissolved metals and recycled. The 19.5-acre process area, process pond, and leach pad are underlain by a composite liner system consisting of an 80-mil high density polyethylene synthetic liner underlain by a one-foot thick clay liner, sloped at a 1% grade to gravity drain to the process pond. In addition, the process pond is underlain by a double liner system with leak detection, and any potential leakage will gravity drain to a collection sump, which will be monitored daily. Compliance monitoring is done by checking for the presence of leach solutions in two dry monitor wells immediately downgradient from the leach area, and by sampling Desert Hawk Gold's water supply well, also located downgradient from the leach area.

**Public Comments**

Public comments are invited any time prior to **Monday, February 29, 2016**. Written comments may be directed to the Division of Water Quality, P.O. Box 144870, Salt Lake City, UT 84114-4870. All comments received prior to close of business **Monday, February 29, 2016**, will be considered in the formulation of final determinations to be imposed on the permit. A public hearing may be held if written requests are received within the first 15 days of this public comment period that demonstrate significant public interest and substantive issues exist to warrant holding a hearing.

**Further Information**

Additional information may be obtained upon request by contacting Mark Novak at (801) 536-4300 or [mnovak@utah.gov](mailto:mnovak@utah.gov), or by writing to the aforementioned address. Related documents are available for review during normal business hours at DWQ, 195 North 1950 West in Salt Lake City or on the DWQ web page at <http://www.deq.utah.gov/NewsNotices/notices/water/index.htm>.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with special needs (including auxiliary communicative aids and services) should contact Dana Powers, Office of Human Resources at (801) 536-4413, TDD (801) 536-4414.