



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Western Nevada Agency

311 East Washington Street

Carson City, Nevada 89701

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Superintendent

OCT - 8 2020

The Honorable Mark Amodei
104 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-2802

Dear Representative Amodei:

This letter is in response to your October 6, 2020, letter regarding the Painted Rock Mine located in Douglas County, Nevada.

The comment period for the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Painted Rock Mine was opened for a 30 day period after meeting with Douglas County. The notification was accomplished by posting a notice in the Record-Courier that included a website that could be accessed to download the Draft EA prepared by McGinley & Associates. The website could also be used to provide comments regarding the project. The notice was posted on August 22, 2020 and comments were accepted until September 21, 2020. There were comments received after September 21; these are included in the comments being analyzed. The comments have been sent to McGinley & Associates for evaluation. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is currently waiting for the analysis to be completed.

Due to the number of comments (approximately 170) and the raised level of interest in this project, the BIA will be requiring McGinley & Associates to update the EA to reflect the scope of the issues. The BIA will also be contacting Bureau of Land Management -Carson City District Office and Douglas County to further discuss issues related to the transportation of materials from the mine site to US 395 via Johnson Lane and any other environmental concerns. The BIA will offer to make these entities cooperating agencies in the NEPA process.

Upon completion of a revised Draft EA, there will be another public comment period made available. The same method of notification will be used and comments will be evaluated upon completion of the comment period and a decision will be made on how the environmental review process will proceed.

If you have any further questions please contact my office at 775-887-3500.

Sincerely,

Superintendent

CC: James James
Bryan Bowker
Katy Grounds
Charles Lewis