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SPILL PREVENTION & RESPONSE PLAN

PURPOSE & OBJECTIVE

Castle Mountain Venture (“CMV”) recognizes that spill prevention is economically and environmentally prudent. Spills increase operating costs, decrease productivity, and negatively affect the region’s ecology. A Spill Prevention Plan (“Plan”) is a vital tool to prevent spills and identify response and cleanup procedures to minimize impacts when accidents occur. The Plan also standardizes operating procedures and employee training to reduce the likelihood of an accidental spill that could cause environmental damage.

This Plan shall be applicable when handling, transporting, transferring, and/or storing hazardous materials, wastes, petroleum products, reagents, sewage, and wastewater at the Castle Mountain Mine (“CMM”). An essential part of this Plan includes measures for quick notification to the appropriate response personnel and agencies after a spill event.

This Plan has been prepared by the CMM Environmental Department with input from other CMM departments and local agencies. In addition to this plan, the CMM Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasures Plan (“SPCC Plan”) is active and will be continuously updated as site conditions change.

Purpose:

The plan’s purpose is to standardize operating procedures and employee training to minimize accidental spills that have the potential to contaminate soil and water. Successful implementation of the Plan shall be part of CMV’s comprehensive best management practices to prevent spills and limit the impact or spread of spills that do occur.

While mining and leaching activities conducted at CMM employ modern engineering controls, including robust spill containment, it is still possible that spills can occur, which have the potential to impact and contaminate soil and water resources; therefore, compliance with this plan is mandatory in all activities. When unforeseen circumstances result in a spill, initiating the appropriate response procedures will reduce or eliminate contamination, protect the water quality objectives established by the Water Board within the Lanfair Valley basin, and avert nuisance as defined in the California Water Code, section 13050.

Introduction:

The CMM is located at 115575 Hart Mine Road, Ivanpah, California, in far eastern San Bernardino County, or 18 miles south on Walking Box Ranch Road, from the intersection of Nipton Road and Walking Box Ranch Road (approximately 7 miles west of Searchlight, Nevada). The mine was restarted (September 2020) from idle operations since open pit gold mining and heap leaching/refining were suspended in 2005. The entire property boundary encompasses approximately 3,910 acres at the southeast end of the Castle Mountains and approximately 9 miles south of the California-Nevada state line.

Facility Information:*Site Topography Surface Drainage and Flood Hazards*

The Mine Site is approximately 4,400 feet above mean sea level (amsl) at the southern terminus of the Castle Mountain range and approximately 12 miles from the New York Mountains to the west and the Piute Mountain Range to the southeast. Surface water and groundwater flow through the Lanfair Basin, generally to the southeast toward ephemeral tributaries to Sacramento Wash, which parallels the Piute Range. This predominant flow trend toward the southeast occurs mainly via sheet flow within localized and unnamed drainage courses.

Site Hydrogeology

Groundwater flows south to southeastward in the mine area, generally following the flow direction of surface water. Regional groundwater ultimately drains south and southeastward deeper into the Lanfair Valley.

Receiving Waters

Receiving waters include groundwater and surface waters (ephemeral washes) of the Lanfair Valley Groundwater Basin (Basin No.: 7-1, Bulletin 118), which has an estimated surface area of 245 square miles. No perennial surface waters or springs exist within or immediately adjacent to the project site.

Responsible Agency

The Regional Water Board is the Responsible Agency that adopted a Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin Region (Basin Plan), effective February 17, 1994. Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order No. R7-2020-0004 has been adopted for the Castle Mountain Mine project; the Water Board will use its authority enforcement actions to ensure water quality protection from any unauthorized releases to land and water.

PROCEDURES & DUTIES**Preventive Measures:**

This Spill Prevention Plan applies to all CMM operations and personnel. The following information further discusses preventative measures, responses, and corrective actions.

Standard Operating Procedures:

CMV has established Standard Operating Procedures or SOPs (outlined in the attached Release Report Form and the How to Report a Spill – Quick Reference Guide) to ensure that releases to land, water, and air are reported properly and comply with applicable regulations and laws and assure that preventative and corrective actions are initiated. CMV SOPs apply to a spill or threatened release of any liquid, solid, or gaseous substances to land, water, or air. A threatened release means a condition where, in the judgment of a competent individual, a release is likely to occur in the near future, and action is required to immediately prevent significant potential harm to persons, property, or the environment.

Additional practices are followed to prevent the release of sodium cyanide from all equipment handling. These practices include:

- Daily inspection of all pregnant (leach) solution and barren (leach) solution lines for leaks.
- Daily inspection of all leach solution and barren solution tanks for leaks.

- Confirm the presence of an Alarm or Emergency Shut-Off for solution lines in the event of a major line failure.
- Record these observations in a daily log.
- All process lines should be visibly marked to indicate the direction of flow and solution (e.g., leach solution or barren solution)

CMV Policies:

CMV has an established policy and release procedure for any earthworks that occur outside the active mining area. This standard applies to all non-mining areas at CMM. Specifically, excavation permitting requires sign-off from multiple mine departments before granting an excavation permit.

CMV has also established a lock-out tag-out policy for equipment that is out of service and should not be used or energized. An example form is included in Appendix C of this Plan.

Response and Corrective Actions:

Although site personnel are trained and knowledgeable in the safe use and handling of chemicals, everyone must establish safe work practices to minimize the risk of spillage. They must also be adequately prepared to handle a chemical spill should one occur. CMV recognizes that the inability to handle a spill, no matter how minor the problem, could endanger the safety and health of the individual and others nearby and likely impact the environment.

Material Handling and Storage

Procedures to (1) minimize the potential for spills and leaks from material handling and storage areas and (2) minimize the impact of chemicals/materials on stormwater and authorized non-stormwater discharges have been implemented at the site. This is achieved by minimizing the storage of on-site materials, storing materials in a designated area, storing materials within an enclosed containment structure, installing secondary containment, conducting regular inspections, and training employees.

All chemical-supply vendors, contractors, and equipment operators are adequately trained. They are instructed to obey the on-site speed limit and to exercise caution when driving near tanks and associated equipment. Fuel, oils, and chemicals will be delivered to the facility as needed. Product delivery tanker and use schedules are recorded by trained personnel. All deliveries are attended to by the delivery tanker truck operator and CMV personnel, and hazardous material deliveries are only scheduled during daylight hours. Drivers are instructed to respond to any emergency by shutting off the pump or closing the emergency shutoff valve at the delivery tanker truck product compartment. During a spill, absorbent material will be used to prevent chemicals or oils from leaving the area. All internal transfer operations are performed by properly trained personnel.

All hazardous materials and hazardous wastes are stored in appropriate, sealed, labeled containers. Waste materials are segregated from unused products and ultimately stored in the hazardous waste storage area. Bulk chemical storage tanks have secondary containment to protect against spills in the event of a failure from the primary containment system. Flammable materials such as paints and aerosols are stored within approved flammable storage lockers with adequate ventilation and proper labeling. Fueling and bulk storage areas have adequate secondary containment and spill cleanup kits.

Spill Response Procedures

All spills, including any amount of wastewater released outside of containment, shall be evaluated for cleanup without regard to reporting criteria.

Personnel should not attempt to handle hazardous material or waste unless they are adequately trained in the risks posed by the material or waste. Chemicals can be toxic, corrosive, flammable, explosive, suffocating, or carcinogenic. The nature of a spill, whether minor or major, is determined by the material, volume, and location.

Any individual discovering a spill of any material shall **REPORT THE SPILL IMMEDIATELY** to their supervisor (or nearest supervisor) and, when it's safe to do so, to the Safety and Environmental departments. Determination will then be made whether immediate agency notification is required. The following thresholds have been established for agency notification and regarding a spill outside of secondary containment:

- Any amount of sodium cyanide (reportable to the Water Board within 24hrs)
- More than five (5) gallons of a liquid solvent, hazardous material, or waste.
- More than 42 gallons of petroleum product (i.e., oils, fuels, greases, hydraulic fluid)
- Freshwater releases (greater than 1,000 gallons) on BLM or NPS land.
- More than one ton or one cubic yard of solid material (including product and reagents).
- Any release of materials that exceeds a reportable quantity specified in 40 CFR Part 302.4 or 40 CFR Part 355.a
- More than 500 gallons of non-hazardous wastewater.
- Any spill within 500 feet of surface water, water well, or domestic water supply.
- Any spill that could contaminate ground within five feet of groundwater.
- Any spill that enters into a natural or man-made channel.

The definition of "wastewater" includes waters from a known or unknown source with sufficient prior analyses to be reasonably characterized as a contaminant, waste, or hazardous material. Sources of wastewater may be derived from contaminated ground or surface water, mine process or recycled water, septic discharge, leachate, equipment sump discharge, reclaim pond, or evaporation pond discharge. Wastewater may include solid and liquid wastes defined by applicable site permits as constituents of concern.

Response and cleanup procedures vary depending on the spill's material, amount, and location. Small to moderate spills are generally handled by internal personnel and usually do not require an emergency response by a contracted hazmat response team. However, if required, Clean Harbors Environmental Services, Inc. has been retained to assist the CMM site with all hazardous material or waste handling and disposal needs. Implementing the following procedures will minimize the area affected by a spill:

- Once it's safe to do so, stop the operation of the affected equipment, control the spill/release, and alert workers near the spill.
- Contain the spill and limit its spread to the smallest area possible.
- If the primary containment is unavailable, divert the flow to a secondary containment to prevent the spill from affecting soil or entering drains or waterways.

- In most instances, the spill area should not be washed with water. Use dry cleanup methods and never wash spills onto soil, drains, or roadways.
- Alert the Environmental Dept. before cleanup begins.
- Clean up free liquids or solids and decontaminate the affected area.
- The environmental department will characterize both the spilled material and absorbents to determine the hazard of the waste. However, until this determination is made, all spill and cleanup materials must be secured in containers. For hazardous wastes, long-term storage or ultimate disposal is only approved at authorized disposal facilities in compliance with state and federal environmental regulations.
- Consult with Environmental department staff and reference the SDS for spill and waste handling procedures.
- Submit a final Spill Report to the Environmental Dept.
- Once spill response and reporting have been accomplished, management shall review the incident to learn any best practices to prevent future occurrences.

Site-Authorized Disposal Areas

Currently, only domestic trash is authorized for disposal in the site dumpsters; no trash waste is approved for disposal at CMM.

Accumulation of any hazardous waste will be appropriately stored, managed, and scheduled for pick up and offsite disposal by the environmental department and through a licensed hazardous material/waste handler.

Everyone is responsible for keeping CMM orderly and maintained to prevent public nuisance and environmental impact.

Spill Reporting Procedure and Release Report Form

After taking appropriate actions to respond to and mitigate a spill initially, the individual who discovers the spill must notify their supervisor through the proper chain of command. Ultimately, all spills must be reported to the Environmental department at least by the end of the current shift. The Environmental Department will determine if the spill is agency-reportable and then do so within a maximum of 24 hours after the occurrence. The Environmental Department must be given notice that a spill occurred, preliminary information, and a final report; the sequence of notification should include:

- Once the immediate spill is abated, the individual reporting should notify the departments and employees listed on page 2 of CMV's Release Report Form. If no contacts are available, then it is the responsibility of the area supervisor (e.g., heap leach pad, mine pit, etc.) or the individual who discovered the release to make the necessary agency notifications.
- Preliminary information should include:
 - Material spilled
 - Quantity
 - Location
 - Time/Date of spill
 - Time/Date of report
 - Spill to ground/containment
- A final spill report is due within 24 hours if the release is not subject to immediate agency notification. If the Environmental Department determines the release requires agency

notification, a final spill report is due to the Environmental Department no later than the end of the shift where the spill occurred. Environmental department staff are responsible for reviewing the report and following the distribution instructions on the following page.

- A final spill report should also include information regarding spill cleanup, how to prevent re-occurrence, and agencies notified, as applicable.

Record Keeping

All release reports are maintained on SharePoint at [Spill Reports](#)
(Castle Mountain Venture/Environmental Reports/Spill Reports)

SAFETY & ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

Training, Awareness and Competence:

All personnel working at CMM operations are responsible for implementing the measures and procedures defined in this Plan. This Plan will be included in all project bidding documents as a contractual requirement for all contractors and vendors. The main elements of this plan will also be provided to all new-hire employees and reviewed during annual mine safety (MSHA) refresher training.

Spill reporting and response training is also part of the CMM site-specific training required of all contractors and employees before working on the mine site. This training provides information regarding correct pollution control, CMV policies and plans (SPCC Plan), and informs mine and contractor personnel about spill prevention and response requirements, including the potential consequences for not following the standards contained in this Plan. More frequent review is also provided during morning safety talks, including spill clean-up and containment procedures in case of an accidental spill or discharge.

Mine personnel and contractors are instructed not to handle any hazardous material or waste unless they are properly trained in its handling, including how to manage spills. Certain materials found at CMM can be toxic, corrosive, flammable, explosive, or carcinogenic. The significance of a spill is determined by the risk or hazard (human and environmental) of the material spilled, the volume, and the location of the spill.

TOOLS / ITEMS REQUIRED

Equipment & Hazardous Materials Handling:

All personnel are always cautioned to exercise care while handling equipment, hazardous materials, and waste to prevent a harmful environmental release. Personnel are task-trained before using new equipment and exercise particular attention when handling or transferring products or chemicals. Only personnel trained in properly handling hazardous materials or waste and have had the appropriate Hazard Communication briefing per OSHA and MSHA guidelines shall handle that specific material.

Before conducting any chemical transfer operation, the proper type and amount of spill response equipment shall be readily available and staged in a nearby area of operation. The following list identifies the specific types of equipment/processes to be used in liquid transfer operations:

- Prior to use, inspect the tank compartment(s) and hose(s) to ensure that there are no leaks.

- Ensure that the secondary containment is of adequate volume and that, if equipped with a drain or valve, it is in the closed position.
- Place drip pans under connection points and other points with potential leakage.
- Use wheel chocks or other systems to prevent mobile equipment from moving before disconnection of transfer lines.
- A trained employee should observe all tank/container filling operations.


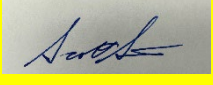


The following procedures shall also be followed during tank/container filling operations:

- Before any material transfer occurs, know the material's hazards, have the SDS available, and know how to stop the transfer quickly and safely and the cleanup procedure for the specific material/liquid.
- During load/unload activity, connections are to be securely capped or valved off when not in service or standby service for an extended time (or locked out, if applicable).
- All mobile transfer tankers are inspected before filling and departure to prevent discharges while in transit.
- Greater than 55-gallon material transfers require personnel to know all down-gradient storm or drainage openings within a 50-foot radius; review before beginning the transfer.
- Before beginning any material transfer, readily available supplies of absorbent materials such as socks, pillows, booms, and pads.
- Drains and openings may require blocking by attaching a cover or dikes of absorbent booms if deemed prudent.

CONTACTS:

| Name | Title | Email | Phone (mobile) | Phone (office) |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------|----------------|----------------|
| Ralph McCullers | Sr. Env. Engineer | | | |
| John Bogich | Env. Engineer | | | |
| Aren Hall | Env. Manager | | | |
| Ray Trujillo | Safety Supervisor | | | |
| Bryon Hammond | Mine Manager | | | |

By my signature, I acknowledge that the **Spill Prevention and Response Plan** is in effect in my area of responsibility and has been reviewed with employees reporting to me.

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| <p><u>V.P. US Operations</u></p> <p>Date:</p> | <p><u>Mine Manager</u></p>  <p>Date: November 28, 2023</p> | <p><u>Process Manager</u></p>  <p>Date: 11/27/2023</p> |
| <p><u>Site Operations Controller</u></p> <p>Date:</p> | <p><u>Environmental Manager</u></p>  <p>Date: 11/17/2023</p> | <p><u>Community Relations Manager</u></p>  <p>Date: 11/17/2023</p> |
| <p><u>Health & Safety Manager</u></p> <p>Date:</p> | <p><u>Human Resources Manager</u></p> <p><i>Patricia Trujillo</i></p> <p>Date: 11/28/2023</p> | |