

ERM-West, Inc.
102 West 500 South, Suite 650
Salt Lake City, UT 84101
Telephone: (801) 595-8400
Fax: (801) 595-8484
www.erm.com



**INTERNATIONAL CYANIDE MANAGEMENT CODE
GOLD MINING OPERATION RECERTIFICATION AUDIT
BARRICK CORTEZ, NEVADA**

SUMMARY REPORT

Submitted to:

*Barrick - Cortez
HC66 Box 1250
Crescent Valley Nevada USA
89821-1250*

and

*International Cyanide Management Institute
888 16th Street N.W, Suite 303
Washington, D.C. 20006*

Submitted by:

ERM-West, Inc.
102 West 500 South, Suite 650
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101

July 7, 2014


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1. INTRODUCTION, SUMMARY, AND ATTESTATION

This summary report has been prepared to meet the requirements and intentions of the International Cyanide Management Institute (ICMI) to demonstrate that following named project has met the obligations in implementing the International Cyanide Management Code (Code).

Name of Project: Barrick Cortez

Project Owner / Operator: Barrick Gold

Name of Responsible Manager: Matthew Gili, General Manager

Address and Contact Information: *Barrick – Cortez HC66, Box 1250
Crescent Valley Nevada USA 89821-1250
Phone: (775) 468-4400
Fax: (775) 468-4602*

Audit Company: Environmental Resources Management (ERM)
Audit Team:

Lead Auditor: Judy Fedorowick, CEA, EMSLA
Email: judy.fedorowick@erm.com

Gold Mining Technical Expert Auditor: Brent C. Bailey, P.E., CEA
Email: brent.bailey@erm.com


Date of Audit: This recertification audit was conducted November 18-22, 2013.

Auditors Findings:

	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	in full compliance with	
Barrick Cortez Mine is	<input type="checkbox"/>	in substantial compliance with	International Cyanide Management Code
	<input type="checkbox"/>	not in compliance with	

This operation has not experienced compliance problems during previous three-year audit cycle.

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Attestation:

I attest that I meet the criteria for knowledge, experience and conflict of interest for Code Verification Audit Team Leader, established by the International Cyanide Management Institute and that all members of the audit team meet the applicable criteria established by the International Cyanide Management Institute for Code Verification Auditors.

I attest that this Summary Audit Report accurately describes the findings of the verification audit. I further attest that the verification audit was conducted in a professional manner in accordance with the International Cyanide Management Code Verification Protocol for Gold Mine Operations and using standard and accepted practices for health, safety and environmental audits.

Judy Fedorowick

Name of Auditor



Signature of Lead Auditor

February 12, 2014

Date

Name and Signature of Other Auditors:

Brent C. Bailey

Name of Auditor



Signature Auditor

February 12, 2014

Date

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2. LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION OF MINING AND MILLING OPERATION

The Cortez gold mine is located 78 kilometres southwest of Elko, Lander County, Nevada and approximately 30 air-miles southeast of Battle Mountain, Nevada. More specifically, the mine is within Sections 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, and 33, Township 28 North, Range 47 East, and Sections 4, 5, and 6, Township 27 North, Range 47 East, Mount Diablo Baseline and Meridian. The Cortez Pipeline property is 11 kilometres northwest and the Cortez Pediment property (which includes the Cortez Hills deposit) is 4 kilometres southeast of the original Cortez milling complex. The Pipeline and South Pipeline deposits are mined by conventional open-pit methods. The Cortez property covers approximately 2,800 square kilometres on one of the world's most highly prospective mineral trends.

Cortez employs three different metallurgical processes to recover gold. Lower-grade oxide ore is heap leached, while higher-grade non-refractory ore is treated in a conventional mill using cyanidation and a carbon-in-leach ("CIL") process. In addition, minor amounts of refractory ore is stockpiled and transported off-site for processing. Heap leached ore is hauled directly to leach pads for gold recovery. Carbonaceous mill ore is mined intermittently during the mining of the Pipeline/South Pipeline deposits. The Cortez Hills underground mine is accessed by twin declines portaled in the old Cortez Gold F canyon pit. The breccia ore zone employs underhand cut and fill mining methods with cemented rock fill as backfill. The top cut of the underground mine will eventually be the bottom bench of the Cortez Hills open pit. In the first nine months of 2013, the mine produced 1.09 million ounces of gold.

The Cortez Mine Pipeline project consists of an open pit with associated dewatering system, waste rock dumps, two heap leach facilities, two carbon-in-column (CIC) facilities, a carbon-in-leach (CIL) facility (Mill #2), refinery and a tailings impoundment. The heap leach and tailings disposal facilities are located in two areas known as Area 28 and 30.

Area 28 facilities consist of a CIC facility, pregnant solution pond, reclaim/barren solution pond, a storm water event pond, and ancillary support facilities to process heap solutions. The Area 28 heap leach facilities have been constructed in association with the tailings impoundment and provide the embankments for the impoundment. The Area 28 tailings impoundment consists of rotating spigot discharge locations and a decant pond area. Cortez uses a ferrous sulfate cyanide detoxification treatment system to keep the spigot discharge below 50 milligrams per liter WAD cyanide. The Area 28 heap leach and tailings facilities are managed as a single process water unit with the decant water pipeline from the tailings decant pond reporting back to Mill #2 for reuse. In addition, the tailings internal underdrain system collects and manages solution from the consolidating tailings and reports to the heap leach process ponds. Area 30 facilities consist of an additional heap leach facility, two pregnant ponds, a barren pond, a storm water event pond, and a CIC recovery facility.

All the heap leach and tailings facilities have been constructed with composite HDPE geomembrane and compacted low permeability soil liners. The process water ponds all are constructed with double HDPE geomembrane liners and leak collection and recovery systems. The Mill #2 facility employs a CIL process, storage tanks, thickeners, refinery, mercury scrubber, secondary containment systems, associated appurtenances, and all sumps, pumps and piping necessary to interconnect the components. The Mill #2 facility also includes the Plant Spill Pond (PSP) for spill control. Loaded carbon from the two CIC units is hauled to the Mill #2 facilities for processing. Although the bulk of the processing is done on-site, a relatively small amount of carbonaceous ore is shipped off-site for processing at Barrick's Goldstrike Mine. The operations are designed, permitted and operated as zero-discharge facilities. Approximately

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1250 workers are employed at the Cortez mine.


Cortez has four cyanide unloading and storage tank areas: (1) Mill Building; (2) Area 28 Leach; and (3) Area 30 Leach and (4) Area 34 Leach which was constructed in 2012. The Mill cyanide storage tank is 15 feet in diameter and 20 feet high; the Area 28 cyanide tank is 12 feet diameter by 20 feet high; and Area 30 has two cyanide storage tanks each 12 feet by 20 feet and Area 34 has two cyanide storage tanks each 13 feet by 20 feet. The unloading and storage areas are located away from public access and no surface water bodies are nearby. The storage tank areas and the cyanide unload areas are designed and constructed to contain and recover any leakage from the tanks and the tanker trucks.

Cortez receives liquid sodium cyanide in specially engineered tanker trucks from Cyanco located in Winnemucca, Nevada. Sodium cyanide is delivered by TransWood. Both Cyanco and TransWood are signatories to the Code and have been certified as compliant with the Code by third-party auditors.

Cortez stores and manages sodium cyanide in engineered tanks, pipelines and lined ponds that have had appropriate quality control and quality assurance. Cortez workers are trained in cyanide hazards and first aid, first response, emergency response, and specific operational task training. Cortez facilities are fenced to preclude wildlife and livestock from entering cyanide process areas. Cortez conducts daily, weekly, and monthly inspections to ensure that facilities are functioning as designed and to monitor process solutions. Preventive maintenance programs are in place to assure the continuous operations. Cortez has approved closure and reclamation plans along with financial assurance to complete the appropriate management of cyanide solutions and solids, and the decontamination of cyanide pipelines and equipment.

The Cortez operation was found to be in Full Compliance with the International Cyanide Management Code; and this operation has not experienced compliance problems during the previous three-year audit cycle.

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3. SUMMARY AUDIT REPORT

PRINCIPLE 1 - PRODUCTION

Encourage responsible cyanide manufacturing by purchasing from manufacturers who operate in a safe and environmentally protective manner.

Standard of Practice 1.1: *Purchase cyanide from manufacturers employing appropriate practices and procedures to limit exposure of their workforce to cyanide, and to prevent releases of cyanide to the environment.*

 in full compliance with

The operation is in substantial compliance with **Standard of Practice 1.1**


 not in compliance with

Basis for Audit Finding:

Cyanco, located in Winnemucca, Nevada, has been the cyanide producer and supplier for Cortez for the term of the 2013 Recertification Audit – 2010 through 2013. The contract between Barrick Gold of North America (Barrick), which includes the Cortez operation by reference, and Cyanco was signed in May 2008 and became effective January 1, 2009. The term of the contract is through December 31, 2013 but has a provision for annual extension by mutual written agreement. The contract states that Cyanco shall comply with ICMC's "Principles and Standards of Practice" during the manufacture, transportation, storage, use, and disposal of the product (cyanide) and the supplier shall only deliver product (cyanide) produced in an ICMI Code certified facility.

Cyanco's Winnemucca Production Plant is a Code certified operation as reported on the ICMI website: originally certified October 3, 2006, recertified in 2010 (recertification audit conducted August 10-12, and 14, 2009), and recertified a second time July 12, 2013 (recertification audit conducted January 14-16, 2013).

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PRINCIPLE 2 – TRANSPORTATION

Protect communities and the environment during cyanide transport.

Standard of Practice 2.1: *Establish clear lines of responsibility for safety, security, release prevention, training and emergency response in written agreements with producers, distributors and transporters.*

The operation is **in full compliance with**
 in substantial compliance with **Standard of Practice 2.1**
 not in compliance with

Basis for Audit Finding:

Cyanco's production facility was certified as compliant by the IMCI on October 11, 2006, recertified on February 2, 2010, and recertified a second time July 12, 2013 (recertification audit conducted January 14-16, 2013).

Cyanco uses TransWood as the only transporter of cyanide from their production operation to Cortez. TransWood is a signatory to the Code and Code certified TransWood was originally certified in October 11, 2006, recertified in 2010, and recertified July 12, 2013, as indicated on the ICMI website.

Standard of Practice 2.2: *Require that cyanide transporters implement appropriate emergency response plans and capabilities and employ adequate measures for cyanide management.*


The operation is **in full compliance with**
 in substantial compliance with **Standard of Practice 2.2**
 not in compliance with

Basis for Audit Finding:

The cyanide supply contract with Cyanco requires Cyanco to comply with the "Principles and Standards of Practice" of the International Cyanide Management Code during the manufacture, transportation, storage, use and disposal of Product (cyanide). Compliance with the Code requires that the supplier and transporter to conform to specific compliance matters set out in the Code's Cyanide Production and Cyanide Transportation Verification Protocols. These Verification Protocols specifically address packing, labeling, storage, transportation routes, unloading and other requirements transportation requirements

The Barrick (Cortez)-Cyanco contract requires that Cyanco, the Seller, to ensure there are written agreement(s) with Subcontractor(s) that clearly designate specific responsibilities for safety, security, release prevention, training and emergency response in transporting and handling cyanide between Cortez and Cyanco,.

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The cyanide supply contract between Barrick and Cyanco specifies that Barrick takes ownership of the product at the time the liquid cyanide is delivered into the cyanide storage tank at the mine site. Cortez has bills of landing showing that Cyanco and Quality Carriers are the sole suppliers and transporters of the cyanide.

PRINCIPLE 3 - HANDLING AND STORAGE

Protect workers and the environment during cyanide handling and storage.

Standard of Practice 3.1: *Design and construct unloading, storage and mixing facilities consistent with sound, accepted engineering practices, quality control/quality assurance procedures, spill prevention and spill containment measures.*

The operation is **in full compliance with**
 in substantial compliance with **Standard of Practice 3.1**
 not in compliance with

Basis for Audit Finding


Cortez has four cyanide unloading and storage tank areas: Mill Building (Mill); Heap Leach Area 28 (Area 28); Heap Leach Area 30 (Area 30); and Heap Leach Area 34 (Area 34). Area 34 is a new facility since the 2010 Recertification Audit. At the time of the 2013 Recertification Audit, the Area 28 off-load area was inactive and the cyanide storage tank had been rinsed

Cyanide storage tanks include one 26,400 gallon tank at the Mill; two 15,000 gallon tanks at Area 30; one 18,000 gallon tank at Area 28, and two 20,000 gallon tanks at Area 34. The Mill cyanide storage area concrete containment is measured at less than 110 percent; however, the tank is maintained at the 96 percent level that provides assurance there is 110 percent storage capacity in the secondary containment. The Area 28, Area 30, and Area 34 cyanide storage tank containment areas drain to adjacent barren ponds and are therefore sized appropriately for 110 percent containment.

The facilities for the unload and storage of cyanide have been designed and constructed in accordance with sound and acceptable engineering practices. The design and construction of the cyanide unload and storage facilities including piping have been completed appropriately as documented in final design and construction drawings prepared and stamped by a licensed engineer. The drawings include concrete and reinforcing layout, concrete elevations and section, steel fabrication details, liquid cyanide storage fabrication details, equipment and piping layout and elevations, piping details, and cyanide supply piping to barren strip area.

Cyanide storage tanks are located on concrete pads and within concrete curbed containment that prevent seepage to the subsurface. Cortez has an inspection and preventative maintenance program for identification and patching of cracks. Inspection records and repair work were reviewed and found to be in order.

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The four cyanide unloading and storage tank areas (at the Mill, Area 28, Area 30, and Area 34) are located away from public access and no surface water bodies are nearby

Standard of Practice 3.2: *Operate unloading, storage and mixing facilities using inspections, preventive maintenance and contingency plans to prevent or contain releases and control and respond to worker exposures.*

The operation is **in full compliance with**
 in substantial compliance with **Standard of Practice 3.2**
 not in compliance with

Basis for Audit Finding:

Cortez and the cyanide supplier have developed SOPs to prevent exposures and releases during cyanide unloading. The procedures cover the responsibilities for the transporter and the Cortez operator. The “Cyanco Sodium Cyanide Delivery” SOP includes detailed information on the operation of valves and couplings during an off-loading procedure.

Cortez’s cyanide offload procedures describes requirements for video monitoring from the Mill control room (or use of a designated person when the video system is not working), continual radio contact, checking the beginning tank levels, referencing the MSDS, and conducting a field level risk assessment prior to commencing work. Requirements for PPE are also listed in the procedure.

Cortez only receives liquid cyanide in tank trucks, and therefore waste management of used packaging or empty drums is not a concern. There are no mixing facilities onsite.


PRINCIPLE 4 – OPERATIONS

Manage cyanide process solutions and waste streams to protect human health and the environment.

Standard of Practice 4.1: *Implement management and operating systems designed to protect human health and the environment utilizing contingency planning and inspection and preventive maintenance procedures.*

The operation is **in full compliance with**
 in substantial compliance with **Standard of Practice 4.1**
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Basis for Audit Finding:

Cortez has developed a series of SOPs and Operating Plans (described in 4.1.1) that defines the policies, procedures and responsibilities for compliance with the Code, including inspection and preventive maintenance requirements. Plans and SOPs cover the safe operation of the entire cyanide management facilities including detail for the specific task operating procedures. The training manuals are very detailed with pictures of the equipment and computer screens and have formed the basis for task specific standard operating procedures.

Cortez conducts inspections on a daily shift and weekly basis. These inspections cover all the cyanide facilities and are sufficient to assure and document that they are functioning within the design parameters. Cortez utilizes a computer based system (Oracle®) for identifying, assigning responsibility, scheduling, and tracking the completion of the preventive maintenance activities. The Oracle® system identifies future activities for regular preventive maintenance and includes information on the task requirements and completion. The preventive maintenance program includes all elements necessary for cyanide safety at Cortez (e.g., HCN monitors, pH probes, cyanide pumps, back-up generators, storage tanks, level indicator alarms, secondary containment cracks and others).

Cortez has prepared process fluid and tailings management plans in conjunction with the applications for Nevada WPCP NEV93109 and NEV 2007106. Operating strategies to cover normal, emergency and upset operating conditions for the heap leach operations and the tailing facilities are incorporated in the permits and attendant documents.

Cortez has emergency power generators to operate critical functions during power outages for the Mill, Area 28, and Area 34. Operating plans have been developed that include specific instructions on the critical components to be maintained during power outages. Three 1.6 MW diesel generators are located at the Mill Building. Area 34 has three 2500 KW standby generators. The generators are tested monthly and maintained as required. The preventative maintenance schedule and requirements for the generators are tracked through the Oracle® system and include annual oil changes and maintenance.

Standard of Practice 4.2: *Introduce management and operating systems to minimize cyanide use, thereby limiting concentrations of cyanide in mill tailings.*

- The operation is**
- in full compliance with**
 - in substantial compliance with **Standard of Practice 4.2**
 - not in compliance with

Basis for Audit Finding:

Cortez evaluates cyanide consumption rates, process flow density, pH and solid percentage through the CIL circuit every 4 hours during operation. Cyanide is added in the grind surge tank at a specific target rate to achieve a sodium cyanide value of less than 0.15 pounds NaCN per ton of solution at the tailings outflow from CIL tank #8 (the last tank in the circuit). Differing ore types are evaluated prior to processing, usually at least one year ahead of processing to assess consumption rates. The mill is notified by the Geology Department of upcoming host rock changes to initiate grind recovery and cyanide

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consumption tests. These tests are column leach tests and 48-hour bottle rolls, where cyanide consumption in pounds per ton (lbs/ton) is calculated along with grind time and size. Cortez targets a cyanide concentration rate of 0.3 to 0.5 pounds per ton ore (lbs/ton) sodium cyanide in the grind surge tank. The daily target fluctuates depending on the actual consumption rate as determined by measurements from the CIL tank #8.

Standard of Practice 4.3: *Implement a comprehensive water management program to protect against unintentional releases.*

The operation is **in full compliance with**
 in substantial compliance with **Standard of Practice 4.3**
 not in compliance with

Basis for Audit Finding:

Cortez has developed a comprehensive water balance for the Plant Site including the Pipeline Tailings Impoundment, Area 28, and Area 30 Heap Leach facilities and associated pond network (prepared by RTW, September 2007). The water balances studies are probabilistic models calibrated to actual site conditions and set up to evaluate “what if” scenarios including probabilistic analysis of the precipitation and ore moisture content.


The Cortez inspection and monitoring programs require daily measurement of water levels in the process ponds. The Area 28 and 34 operations consist of two solution ponds designed with a 2 foot freeboard. Pond solution levels are monitored daily by operating personnel to ensure the pond levels do not exceed specified freeboard limits. Additionally, the solution level is tracked through a telemetry system monitored in the control room at the Mill. Area 30 has three process ponds that are monitored by telemetry at the Mill. In addition, Cortez presents piezometer data for the Tailings Disposal Facility in quarterly reports to NDEP. The water balances are updated on an ‘as needed basis’ to support tracking and evaluation of the system to prevent overtopping and discharge.

The Cortez tailings and heap leach facilities are designed and operated with adequate freeboard above the operating levels and contain sufficient design storm containment capacity. The process ponds are operated with a freeboard sufficient capacity to provide for the flows from a 100 year storm and a total power outage. This results in an operational freeboard of 6 to 8 feet in the ponds.

Standard of Practice 4.4: *Implement measures to protect birds, other wildlife and livestock from adverse effects of cyanide process solutions.*

The operation is **in full compliance with**
 in substantial compliance with **Standard of Practice 4.4**
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Basis for Audit Finding:

Cortez has implemented several different measures to restrict access by wildlife and livestock to open solutions containing cyanide. These measures consist of: (1) Perimeter fencing around operation areas; (2) Netting on heap leach solution conveyance ditches; (3) Bird ball floating covers on all process ponds; (4) Eight foot high chain link fencing around the process areas; and (5) Cyanide destruction of the tailing slurry discharge to keep WAD cyanide concentrations below 50 mg/L in the spigot discharge and the decant pond area.

Cortez has open water within the Area 28 tailings impoundment. Cortez's requirements for the tailings supernatant ponds are to maintain WAD cyanide levels below 50 mg/L. Review of the 2011, 2012, and 2013 data indicated that the spigot discharge and supernatant reclaim solution are below 50 mg/L.

The Cortez operation applies leach solutions in a manner designed to prevent ponding, overspray, and runoff. Cortez has changed its spray system to a drip system to reduce ponding in the leach cells. In addition, Cortez has developed SOPs to address potential ponding on the heap leach pads and ramp drainage. The SOP "Ponding on Leach Pad" provides a definition of significant ponding, outlines operational requirements to maintain dripping within the lined area, and inspection requirements of ramp for drainage inside and outside the ditched lined facility. Additionally, this SOP includes corrective measures if ponding is discovered. Water bars (to prevent leach solution run off) constructed on haul roads to the heap leach pads were observed during inspections of the heap leach areas during the 2013 Re-certification Audit.


Standard of Practice 4.5: *Implement measures to protect fish and wildlife from direct and indirect discharges of cyanide process solutions to surface water.*

The operation is **in full compliance with**
 in substantial compliance with **Standard of Practice 4.5**
 not in compliance with

Basis for Audit Finding:

Cortez does not have any indirect discharge of cyanide solutions to surface waters. Cortez operates with zero discharge of process solutions. Cortez conducts monitoring of the seepage collection systems and leak detection systems to evaluate the integrity of these systems.

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Standard of Practice 4.6: *Implement measures designed to manage seepage from cyanide facilities to protect the beneficial uses of groundwater.*

The operation is **in full compliance with**
 in substantial compliance with **Standard of Practice 4.6**
 not in compliance with

Basis for Audit Finding:

Cortez has implemented solution management and seepage control systems to protect groundwater below and down gradient of the operation. The cyanide facilities are designed for zero discharge to both surface water and groundwater in accordance with NDEP regulations and Department of Interior Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Cyanide Management Policy and have all been constructed with impermeable containment systems or liners to prevent seepage.

All pipes, tanks, and other facilities in the Mill area which convey process fluids containing cyanide are located within containment areas. Sumps within containment areas collect any spilled solution for return to the process.

The tailings impoundment is a fully lined facility with a liner system comprising of smooth, 60-mil HDPE synthetic primary liner placed over a minimum of 24 inches of clayey, second liner material.

Area 28 heap leach facility has a liner system consisting of a 60-mil HDPE synthetic primary liner placed over a 12-inch thick low hydraulic conductivity soil layer secondary liner.


The Area 30 heap leach facility is constructed of either 60-mil or 80-mil HDPE liner placed over 12-inch thick low hydraulic conductivity soil layer (the 60-mil HDPE liner is used where the heap leach stacking height will not exceed 150 feet; and the 80-mil liner is used where the heap leach stacking height is approved for 300 feet.)

Area 34. Heap leach pads are constructed with a composite liner system comprised of a single layer of 80-mil double-textured HDPE geomembrane placed on a 12-inch thick Low Hydraulic Conductivity Soil Layer (LHCSL).

Process components are equipped with leak detection systems. Leak detection systems are monitored on a regular basis.

Review of the Cortez environmental monitoring data (2011, 2012 and 2013 Quarterly Reports for WPCP NEV93109) indicates that the operation had no detectable WAD cyanide (<0.01 mg/L) in the groundwater at compliance points or down gradient of the operation during that period

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Standard of Practice 4.7: *Provide spill prevention or containment measures for process tanks and pipelines.*

- The operation is**
- in full compliance with**
 - in substantial compliance with **Standard of Practice 4.7**
 - not in compliance with

Basis for Audit Finding


Cortez has spill prevention and control systems for the cyanide offload areas, the associated storage tanks, and CIL and CIC tank process areas. Area 30, Area 28, Mill, and Area 34 offloading pads are constructed of cast-in-place reinforced concrete with curbed containments that report to sumps for return to the process. The Mill cyanide storage tank secondary containment system consists of concrete walls, approximately 7 feet high. The Area 28 cyanide tank is within a secondary curbed concrete containment with tertiary containment being the lined Reclaim Pond. Area 30 has two cyanide storage tanks that are located on a concrete curb and a drainage channel is provided to the barren pond for tertiary containment. The CIL/CIC/DETOX tank process areas have containment areas constructed of reinforced concrete. Area 34 has two cyanide storage tanks located in a reinforced concrete containment area with a drainage channel that allows for any excessive spillage (spillage exceeding the capacity of the sump pump) to flow through the process building to the barren pond. Cortez has automated pumps with level controls within the containments to pump collected solutions into the process circuits

Cortez has constructed all pipelines with spill prevention and containment measures to collect leaks and prevent releases. The pipelines are constructed either as pipe-in-pipe configuration and/or within lined ditches. The Mill uses a CIL circuit for primary gold extraction; and two CIC circuits are used for recovery of gold from clarified overflow solution and heap leach pregnant solution. All pipes, tanks, and other features in the Mill area which convey process fluids containing chemical reagents are located within containment areas. Sumps within containment areas collect any spilled solution for return to the circuit(s).

Tailings slurry is transported in a 14-inch diameter HDPE pipe. The pipe is placed between two earth berms, lined with HDPE, in a sloping roadway to the tailing impoundment. In the event of a tailings line failure, slurry is contained between the berms and flow is towards the tailing facility. The reclaim lines from the Area 28 Reclaim Pond to the Mill are also in doubled wall pipe or a containment system. Area 28 and Area 30 heap leach pad piping is either double walled HDPE pipe or is contained by lined system. Area 34 pregnant solutions (within the heap leach pad) are collected in a series of perforated and non-perforated pipes that discharge to a main collection header located in a lined pipeline channel at the down gradient edge of the pad. The main collection header collects pregnant solution and directs it to the process area.

Cortez uses steel and, HDPE pipelines, and HDPE lined steel which are compatible materials for the conveyance of high pH, cyanide solutions and slurries.

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Standard of Practice 4.8: *Implement quality control/quality assurance procedures to confirm that cyanide facilities are constructed according to accepted engineering standards and specifications.*

- The operation is** **in full compliance with**
- in substantial compliance with **Standard of Practice 4.8**
- not in compliance with

Basis for Audit Finding:

Cortez has implemented and conducted QC/QA programs for construction of all cyanide facilities including the cyanide storage facilities, pipelines, conveyance ditches, process ponds, heap leach facilities and tailings impoundment facilities. QC/QA programs have been implemented for all new cyanide facilities and modifications made to existing facilities since the Initial Certification Audit and the 2010 Re-certification Audit

Cortez has implemented QC/QA programs for all earthworks projects related to tank foundations; compacted subgrades; clay liners; geomembrane liners; and ponds, tailings and heap leach facilities. These QC/QA reports include information on subgrade preparation, grading, soil liner material properties and compaction characteristics, soil liner hydraulic conductivity, leak detection construction, solution collection piping, geomembrane liner seams and testing. The construction documentation includes copies of the field inspection reports, laboratory and field data, construction observations, drawings, and photographs.


As with previous reviews of new construction documentation, review of the construction documentation during the 2013 Re-certification Audit showed that the new construction addresses the suitability of materials and adequacy of soil compaction for earthworks for tank foundations and earthen liners, the installation of synthetic membrane liners used in ponds and leach pads, and for construction of cyanide storage and process tanks.

Cortez has retained qualified engineering personnel to review and provide construction verification documentation. The QC/QA reports are stamped by Professional Engineers licensed in the State of Nevada. The QC/QA documents have also been reviewed and approved the NDEP.

Standard of Practice 4.9: *Implement monitoring programs to evaluate the effects of cyanide use on wildlife surface and ground water quality.*

- The operation is** **in full compliance with**
- in substantial compliance with **Standard of Practice 4.9**
- not in compliance with

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Basis for Audit Finding

Cortez has written procedures entitled “Barrick Cortez Inc. Sampling and Monitoring Plan” prepared by Barrick Cortez Inc, Environmental Department, revised February 2013. This plan specifies the standard operating procedures for process solution and groundwater including sample preservation requirements. Locations of sampling sites and sample parameter lists including cyanide species are also specified. Chain of Custody procedures and shipping instructions are included.

Cortez provides training to inspect for, watch for, and prevent wildlife mortality to all employees with an annual refresher. Each employee is responsible for filing a report should they encounter wildlife mortality. In addition, wildlife mortality inspections are conducted weekly by the Environmental Department.

Cortez conducts monitoring at frequencies adequate to characterize the groundwater, seepage collection systems, leak detection systems, wildlife, and process solutions. Groundwater samples are collected and analyzed on a quarterly basis. The seepage collection systems are sampled on a quarterly basis. The leak detection systems are pumped on a weekly basis and reported as a daily average. The wildlife monitoring is continuous while employees are outside on the property. Process solutions are monitored at least daily and in many cases several times per day

PRINCIPLE 5 – DECOMMISSIONING

Protect communities and the environment from cyanide through development and implementation of decommissioning plans for cyanide facilities.

Standard of Practice 5.1: ***Plan and implement procedures for effective decommissioning of cyanide facilities to protect human health, wildlife and livestock.***

	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	in full compliance with	
The operation is	<input type="checkbox"/>	in substantial compliance with	Standard of Practice 5.1
	<input type="checkbox"/>	not in compliance with	

Basis for Audit Finding:

Cortez has prepared closure plans as part of their permitting programs for the operations that have been reviewed and approval by the US Department of Interior Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and NDEP. The closure plan includes “Cortez Gold Mines (NVN-067575) 2011 Amendment to Plan of Operations and Reclamation Permit Applications”, prepared February 2012. (This plan has been prepared for the Cortez Hills Complex and includes the area identified by the Cortez Operations as Area 34.)

The plans provide seasonal, temporary, and tentative final closure plans. The tentative final closure plans presents preliminary details for final closure of all project facilities following cessation of mining, heap leaching operations, and solution processing operations.

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Standard of Practice 5.2: *Establish an assurance mechanism capable of fully funding cyanide related decommissioning activities.*

The operation is **in full compliance with**
 in substantial compliance with **Standard of Practice 5.2**
 not in compliance with

Basis for Audit Finding

Cortez has developed a cost estimate for the funding of third party implementation of the decommissioning activities defined in the reclamation and closure plans. The cost estimate is part of "Cortez Gold Mines (NVN-067575) 2011 Amendment to Plan of Operations and Reclamation Permit Applications", prepared February 2012 and utilized the Nevada Standard Reclamation Cost Estimator (SRCE) to estimate the reclamation and closure costs. The estimated reclamation and closure cost is for the entire Cortez Gold operations. The cost estimate has been reviewed and approved by the Nevada Bureau of Mining Regulation and & Reclamation and the BLM and Cortez has correspondence from the BLM dated August 24, 2012, approving the surety amount

PRINCIPLE 6 - WORKER SAFETY

Protect workers' health and safety from exposure to cyanide.


Standard of Practice 6.1: *Identify potential cyanide exposure scenarios and take measures as necessary to eliminate, reduce and control them.*

The operation is **in full compliance with**
 in substantial compliance with **Standard of Practice 6.1**
 not in compliance with

Basis for Audit Finding:

Cortez has procedures, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and critical task procedures that describe the management and operation of the cyanide facilities. These plans and procedures cover the safe operation of the entire cyanide management facilities and cover decontamination prior to maintenance work. These procedures are detailed in the evidence observed section. The documents describe Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) requirements, operator responsibilities, and procedures for using and handling cyanide and have been updated regularly.

Safety Critical Tasks are defined by a flow chart decision making process which includes a trigger such as the exposure to potentially toxic chemicals such as cyanide. Through this process all tasks that would potentially involve cyanide exposure would have a safety critical task procedure developed. Examples

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include maintenance activities such as pump replacements, repairing pumps or valves associated with the cyanide system and inspections of cyanide containment areas.

Procedures to review proposed process and operational changes and modification for their potential impact on work health and safety are controlled under Barrick's Corporate online Management of Change (MoC) procedure. The Corporate procedure was adopted at Cortez in 2011. Prior to this date a site specific procedure was used which incorporated similar steps to those in the Corporate program.

Standard of Practice 6.2: *Operate and monitor cyanide facilities to protect worker health and safety and periodically evaluate the effectiveness of health and safety measures.*

The operation is **in full compliance with**
 in substantial compliance with **Standard of Practice 6.2**
 not in compliance with

Basis for Audit Finding:

The 'Managing Cyanide Levels and pH in Solution' procedure states that all process solutions contain cyanide and that 'We need to maintain a pH over 10 and under 11.5'. The SOP details that pH can be maintained by adding lime predominantly at belt 3, although it can also be added at the mill surge tank, grind thickener, CIL tanks, No. 2 thickener and detox reactor tank.


The leach pad cyanide solution for Areas 28, 30 and 34 is maintained at a pH above 10. The Process Maintenance Cyanide Safe Job Procedure states that 'if water or acidic solutions contact sodium cyanide, poisonous hydrogen cyanide gas (HCN) forms. Solutions throughout the processing areas of the facility contain Sodium Cyanide. In these solutions, it is absolutely necessary to maintain a high pH to prevent the formation of Hydrogen Cyanide Gas. In weak Cyanide solutions the pH should be at a minimum of 9.0. In strong Cyanide solutions (such as in Cyanide makeup), the pH should be at a minimum of 11.0'.

Automatic read outs of pH from areas 30 and 34 can be read on the DCS both at each of these locations as well as back at the central control room in the Mill 2.

Fixed HCN monitors are installed in critical locations: the detox building, the elutions area, the carbon in column (CIC) area and the grind circuit. Four fixed monitors have also been installed in identical locations in each of the Area 30 and Area 34 Heap Leach buildings on the ground floor and then on floors 2 through 4. This brings the total of fixed HCN monitors to 12. All are identical models.

The fixed monitors have warning lights at 4.7 ppm and a visible light and evacuation horn. These are alarmed in the central control room in the Mill, and at the controls rooms in Areas 30 and 34. The Area 30 and 34 alarms are also connected to the CCR as these areas may not consistently have an operator on duty. At a 4.7 ppm alarm the area is evacuated except for the Operator on duty that will investigate the alarm; at 10 ppm a full evacuation is initiated. Based on interviews with the Operator on duty and a Grinding Circuit employee there have been no alarms over 4.7 ppm in the last three years.

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Based on a review of the completed survey forms in 2011, occasional alarms above 4.7 ppm were recorded during certain tasks performed by the operators during their daily rounds. For example an alarm of 10 was recorded while cleaning the cyanide pump (10/3/2011) and 10.1 while cleaning the ball circuit (10/7/2011). Based on interviews with Site representatives the survey results were discussed with the worker at completion to determine if there were any unusual activities if an alarm was sounded. Depending on the outcome of this conversation further action may be conducted. At the time of the audit, Cortez was not recording these follow up activities and has therefore revised their procedure to ensure these actions are documented.

Bi-annual HCN surveys are conducted for Mill 2 operators in the following areas: Grinding, CIL, Detox and Elutions. The Operators wear the badges for a 12 hour shift and record any alarms above 4.7 ppm that occur. Both day and night shifts participate in the survey. No alarms above 4.7 were detected during the bi-annual surveys conducted in 2012 and 2013.

Cortez has eight hand held HCN monitors (five ITX Multi-Gas monitors and three Industrial Scientific GasBadge Pro monitors). These HCN monitors are used when conducting specific activities where the risk of exposure may be higher, such as during a confined space entry procedure. Employees are able to sign out the gas badges as needed.

The five ITX Multi-Gas monitors and four Industrial Scientific GasBadge Pro monitors are maintained by the Electrical and Instrumentation Department.

There were no cyanide related incidents that required investigation in the previous three years.

Standard of Practice 6.3: *Develop and implement emergency response plans and procedures to respond to worker exposure to cyanide.*

The operation is	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	in full compliance with	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	in substantial compliance with	Standard of Practice 6.3
	<input type="checkbox"/>	not in compliance with	

Basis for Audit Finding:

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is located in cabinets adjacent to the cyanide unloading areas and the cyanide storage tanks. The PPE cabinets which contain bag valve masks, respirators, overalls, face shields, boots and gloves. First aid procedures for cyanide poisoning and details regarding cyanide poisoning symptoms are posted on the inside front door of the cupboards. Inside there is a list of all equipment that should be present. Additionally self-contained breathing apparatus are held by the Emergency Response team. Antidote kits (amyl nitrite) are stored in five temperature controlled fridges on-site. (Control #2 first aid room, laboratory complex, process mill control room, and Area 30 and Area 34 process).

First Responders are trained to use and know the location of the equipment and antidote kits. The 'Off-loading Cyanide' procedure requires the driver of the cyanide transportation truck to report to the gate (Control #2) and pick-up a radio before proceeding to the off-load site. Additionally, video cameras are

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placed at each of the off-load sites allowing the Mill 2 Control Room to monitor off-load operations. When the cameras are not working a Mill 2 representative is required to be physically present during the entire off-load.

The cyanide PPE cupboards are inspected every week by the Process Department and the amyl nitrite and emergency response vehicle is currently checked on a monthly basis by the Emergency Response team. Other relevant monthly inspections conducted by Cortez include the AED, first aid rooms and emergency response vehicle which are inspected monthly by the emergency response team.

The Emergency Response Plan details specific written emergency response plans to respond to cyanide exposures in the sections 'Immediate Actions for Sodium Cyanide Release of Exposure' and 'Immediate Actions to be Taken in the Event of an Emergency'. Also included in the 'Process Maintenance Division Sodium Cyanide (NaCN) Safe Job Procedure' are emergency response procedures, information, and instructions for cyanide exposure.

Cortez has formal arrangements with Northeastern Nevada Regional Hospital through a commitment letter. The letter states that the hospital emergency department will readily receive and treat cyanide exposed patients. It also acknowledges that they keep in stock two cyanide poisoning kit with information and instruction material. The letter has been re-authorized in 2012 and 2013 to ensure currency of this acknowledgement.

PRINCIPLE 7 - EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Protect communities and the environment through the development of emergency response strategies and capabilities.

Standard of Practice 7.1: *Prepare detailed emergency response plans for potential cyanide releases.*

The operation is **in full compliance with**
 in substantial compliance with **Standard of Practice 7.1**
 not in compliance with

Basis for Audit Finding:

The emergency response plan details immediate actions to be taken in the event of an emergency spill which details cyanide separately. Additionally, the emergency response team has developed a cyanide release response pre-plan which is a comprehensive listing of all the potential types of emergencies related to cyanide, different levels of cyanide exposure and response requirements. The pre-plans are considered a supplement to the overall emergency response plan that is applicable for all emergencies across the site.

The Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Plan outlines the emergency procedures required for any situation involved hazardous waste, or the generation of hazardous waste such as the release of cyanide.

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It outlines both emergency procedures as well as managing cyanide waste according to MSDS instructions, ensuring separation from acidic wastes and water. Preferred disposal of cyanide wastes is through the heap leach facilities to recycle the cyanide.

Plans contain procedures for potential scenarios such as: 1) catastrophic releases of cyanide; 2) accidents during cyanide transportation; 3) releases during offloading; 4) release of cyanide during fires and explosions; 5) pipe, valve or tank ruptures; 6) overtopping of ponds and impoundments; 7) power failure; 8) uncontrolled seepage; 9) tailings impoundment failure; 10) cyanide spill control and clean-up; and 11) decontamination and emergency evacuation.

Standard of Practice 7.2: Involve site personnel and stakeholders in the planning process.

The operation is **in full compliance with**
 in substantial compliance with **Standard of Practice 7.2**
 not in compliance with

Basis for Audit Finding:

Cortez workers attend meetings of the Lander County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC). Through participation on the LEPC these workers have been able to inform the community that Cortez uses cyanide at the operation and that it has prepared an ERP to address emergency situations. Cortez has submitted the ERP to the LEPC for their use and reference.


Cortez workers participate in emergency mock drills that allow them to experience and comment on the procedures developed in the ERP. During the mock drill that took place in October 2013 members of the Lander and Eureka Counties were asked to participate.

Cortez has notified the Northeast Nevada Regional Hospital, in Elko in writing that the mine operation uses cyanide and there is the potential for cyanide exposed victims. The hospital has acknowledged that the emergency room staff does know the proper procedure for treating cyanide poisoning.

Standard of Practice 7.3: Designate appropriate personnel and commit necessary equipment and resources for emergency response.

The operation is **in full compliance with**
 in substantial compliance with **Standard of Practice 7.3**
 not in compliance with

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Basis for Audit Finding:

Roles and responsibilities are clearly laid out in the ERP including responsibilities of the following departments: Human Resources, safety and Health, Environment, and Security. These stakeholders, as well as representatives from processing are part of the review team for the ERP when revisions are made.

Emergency response equipment, including Personal Protection Equipment, available along transportation routes and/or on-site is detailed in the Emergency Equipment and Supplies section, this is sub divided into surface operations, fire equipment, rope rescue, hazardous materials response equipment and underground operations

The ERP Assisting Agency Phone List includes contact numbers for Ambulance service, Clinic, Hospitals, Government agencies, MSHA, Nevada Division of Safety, Health and Training, Fire services, and Law enforcement.

Standard of Practice 7.4: *Develop procedures for internal and external emergency notification and reporting.*


- | | | | |
|-------------------------|--|---|---------------------------------|
| The operation is | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in full compliance with | <input type="checkbox"/> in substantial compliance with | Standard of Practice 7.4 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> not in compliance with | | |

Basis for Audit Finding:

The ERP Assisting Agency Phone List includes contact numbers for Ambulance service, Clinic, Hospitals, Government agencies, MSHA, Nevada Division of Safety, Health and Training, Fire services, and Law enforcement.

The basic command structure outlined in the ERP includes identification of a public information officer who acts as the media spokesperson. It is the Incident Commander's responsibility to determine when and how to issue information to the media.

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Standard of Practice 7.5: *Incorporate into response plans and remediation measures monitoring elements that account for the additional hazards of using cyanide treatment chemicals.*

The operation is **in full compliance with**
 in substantial compliance with **Standard of Practice 7.5**
 not in compliance with

Basis for Audit Finding:

The ERP Immediate Actions section titled ‘In the event of a Chemical Spill’ and the ‘Sodium Cyanide Release or Exposure’ sections of the ERP details that a solution of sodium hypochlorite (which should have a pH value of at least 8 but should not exceed a pH value of 10.5) should be available for use in decontamination procedures. Soft brushes should be available to remove contamination from PPE. Labelled, durable polyethylene bags should be available for disposal of contaminated PPE. The plan details in each Immediate Action scenario that the person in charge of the incident should coordinate reporting and clean-up activity with the Environmental Department.

The Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Plan details procedures for any accidents involving hazardous waste. The plan is designed to minimize hazards to human health or the environment from fires, explosions or any unplanned sudden or non-sudden release of hazardous waste or hazardous waste constituents to air, soil or surface water.

There are no natural surface water bodies on the property or adjacent to the property and treatment of a cyanide release to surface waters is not applicable

Standard of Practice 7.6: *Periodically evaluate response procedures and capabilities and revise them as needed.*

The operation is **in full compliance with**
 in substantial compliance with **Standard of Practice 7.6**
 not in compliance with

Basis for Audit Finding:

The Emergency Response Department in cooperation with process management review and update the ERP on a regular basis and it has been reviewed at least annually since 2011. The most recent full review of the plan occurred in March 2013.

The most recent physical mock drills occurred in 2012 (pipeline failure) and 2013 (transportation related incident with a tanker). The October 2013 drill included full escalation of the emergency to a crisis and

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involved notification of Cyanco (cyanide supplier, surrounding counties (Elko, Lander, and Eureka). The full debrief from the October 2013 incident was not yet available, however, a full debrief of the 2012 mock drill was reviewed. Based in interviews, actions from the mock drill were undertaken and entered into a database.

PRINCIPLE 8 – TRAINING

Train workers and emergency response personnel to manage cyanide in a safe and environmentally protective manner.

Standard of Practice 8.1: *Train workers to understand the hazards associated with cyanide use.*

The operation is **in full compliance with**
 in substantial compliance with **Standard of Practice 8.1**
 not in compliance with

Basis for Audit Finding:


All site personnel are trained in cyanide safety as part of Cortez’s four day New Hire Training which includes a PowerPoint presentation called Cyanide Training. Cortez requires all workers to have an annual refresher training (ART) that includes cyanide training

Workers who are assigned to specific areas of operations where cyanide is an integral part of the process (i.e. all mill employees, leach pad operators etc.) are given 37 hours ‘onboarding’ training which includes the safe use and handling of cyanide with on the job departmental training. For example, mill workers are trained for a job, including instruction related to cyanide use and handling, before beginning work in the designated area. Detailed training manuals exist for operation in detox, grind CIL and elutions. The manuals are detailed and have clear instructions with pictures and annotations.

In addition, the visitor and contractor inductions required before any person can access the site, includes a component on cyanide awareness.

In 2010, Cortez began using an online Learning Management System (LMS) which is a database tool to record and track training and has a searchable functionality. In addition, paper copies of sign off sheets are maintained in the training department and eventually archived onsite. In addition to print out from the LMS outlining completed training, a review of the LMS was conducted during the audit by requesting certain employees training records and then backtracking through the system to ensure that annual requirements were met. The LMS proved efferent in tracking these records.

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Standard of Practice 8.2: *Train appropriate personnel to operate the facility according to systems and procedures that protect human health, the community and the environment.*

The operation is **in full compliance with**
 in substantial compliance with **Standard of Practice 8.2**
 not in compliance with

Basis for Audit Finding:

Workers assigned to specific areas where cyanide is an integral part of the operation, such as unloading, processing, and maintenance activities, are trained on the safe use and handling of cyanide.

Following the new hire training and job departmental training, the primary training method is on-the-job training and is provided by a competent person. The employee is instructed on the proper use of the equipment and related safety issues.

An employee is required to demonstrate competency prior to working without supervision in an area. This is achieved through dialogue with the trainer and by observing the employee. A record is maintained demonstrating the level of training the employee has received and is maintained in the LMS.

Since June 2013 this progression training has been formalized through training criteria checklist (TCC) which outlines the skills and competencies that are required for a specific level of employee in a specific functional area. For example, the TCC for mill employees all require knowledge and safety around cyanide. For higher level employee's additional management knowledge around cyanide is required as progression towards more leadership roles.


Standard of Practice 8.3: *Train appropriate workers and personnel to respond to worker exposures and environmental releases of cyanide.*

The operation is **in full compliance with**
 in substantial compliance with **Standard of Practice 8.3**
 not in compliance with

Basis for Audit Finding

Workers involved in the use and handling of cyanide, such as unloading, mill operations, and maintenance, are trained on the risks and proper handling techniques including decontamination and first aid procedures. These workers receive new hire training on use of first aid for cyanide (i.e. amyl nitrite) and decontamination procedures as well as 'onboarding' training on the Cyanide Equipment Decontamination SOP. They also receive annual cyanide refresher training which includes decontamination and first aid procedures for cyanide.

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Since 2010 Cortez Process department has a monthly work order to conduct mock drills. The form 'Cyanide Emergency Mock Drill' details the drill date, location, overview, participants, and objectives, it has a check list of all items covered in the drill, such as emergency call, checking wind direction, first aid details, retrieving amyl nitrite, the form requires a list of corrective actions needed to improve awareness and emergency readiness. In addition periodic mock drills on a larger scale are undertaken which include cyanide related incident.

The October 2012 mock drill planning document clearly included mill employees as part of the notification and response to a simulated pipeline break. Emergency responders were also key participants.

Emergency Response Coordinators and members of the ERT (First Responders) are trained on the procedures and guidelines outlined in the ERP such as the response to a cyanide spill, release, or emergency. Training also includes the use of the cyanide antidote, SCBA, and other PPE necessary to respond to a cyanide emergency.

PRINCIPLE 9 – DIALOGUE

Engage in public consultation and disclosure.

Standard of Practice 9.1: *Provide stakeholders the opportunity to communicate issues of concern.*


	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	in full compliance with	
The operation is	<input type="checkbox"/>	in substantial compliance with	Standard of Practice 9.1
	<input type="checkbox"/>	not in compliance with	

Basis for Audit Finding:

Members of Cortez's management participate in quarterly Town of Crescent Valley meeting and also attend Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) meetings. They and workers attend civic activities where they interact with the general public and public officials. Based on the minutes of the meetings that were reviewed cyanide was not a specific topic of discussion, as there were no members that have brought this issue up as a concern.

Landowners and local tribes do have the ability to participate in any of the public tours that are offered. The most recent meeting with the Western Shoshone was in December 2013 and included an overall summary of mining operations. The Cortez GM participated in this meeting.

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Standard of Practice 9.2: *Initiate dialogue describing cyanide management procedures and responsibly address identified concerns.*

The operation is **in full compliance with**
 in substantial compliance with **Standard of Practice 9.2**
 not in compliance with

Basis for Audit Finding:


Any person or organization can visit the mine site to learn more about the operation. A site visit can be arranged by an individual or organization submitting a "Visitor/Tour, Preauthorization Form". These are organized by personnel in the Barrick Shared Business center based in Elko. There is approximately one visit a month and they have included university visits, overseas visits and those arranged by the Nevada Mining Association. Visitors included local landowners, politicians and other community leaders. Visitor information includes an explanation about the Cyanide Code and requires a cyanide training induction prior to participating in a tour. These visits present visitors with the opportunity to ask questions about the use of cyanide; and provides the company with the opportunity to explain the use of cyanide at the operation

Cortez holds group meetings with local landowners as requested and local tribes quarterly. The local landowner has been assigned one person (John Mack, now Al Plank) for all communications. This means a proactive one to one relationship is formed. Information regarding any changes or other items of interest are discussed and any questions or areas of concern are answered. There is one primary local landowner in the area of Cortez who owns the Filippini Ranch.

Standard of Practice 9.3: *Make appropriate operational and environmental information regarding cyanide available to stakeholders.*

The operation is **in full compliance with**
 in substantial compliance with **Standard of Practice 9.3**
 not in compliance with

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Basis for Audit Finding:

In March 2013 Cortez hosted a STEM Workshop (science and technology program) for teachers and students. This included a presentation on the economic lifecycle of a mine that included the use of cyanide. Students then built their own mock leach pad and learned about how cyanide is used to leach valuable metals.

The Cortez Water Pollution Control Permit (WPCP) and accompanying Fact Sheet that describes the use and management of cyanide at the site are public documents that are available from Cortez or from the Nevada Department of Environmental protection (NDEP). Also, WPCP Quarterly Monitoring Reports are available to the public. These documents outline Cortez's use of cyanide.

Any incident requiring regulatory reporting as per the Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Plan or the ERP would become publicly available through freedom of information processes. In addition, any such incidents would be discussed during the quarterly meetings with the local landowners and tribes.

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