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Governor

STATE OF NEVADA  
COMMISSION ON MINERAL RESOURCES  
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ROBERT GHIGLIERI  
Administrator

Thursday, February 19, 2026

10:00 A.M.

### MINUTES

Commission	Staff	Public
Josh Nordquist	Robert Ghiglieri	Robert Carrington
Bob Potts	Garrett Wake	Tobias Konzmann
Arthur Henderson	Lorraine Belt-Dolan	Sage Maddox
Bob Felder	Carol Shelton	Allison Anderson
Nigel Bain	Peter Engh	Joel Donalson
Randy Griffin	Sean Derby	
Stephanie Hallinan	Dustin Holcomb	

### CALL TO ORDER

10:00 AM by Chairman Josh Nordquist

### Roll Call

All commissioners were present.

### COMMENTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC

- No Public Comment

### I. Agenda

A. Approval of the Agenda

**Motion to approve the agenda made by:** Bob Potts

**Seconded by:** Randy Griffin

**Unanimously approved**

### II. Minutes

A. Approval of August 26, 2025, public workshop minutes (NACs 513, 519A, 522, and 534A)

- Administrator Ghiglieri noted that we need to add Nikki Baily Lindel to the attendance of the workshop minutes.

**Motion to approve the minutes made by:** Bob Felder with the correction

**Seconded by:** Stephanie Hallinan

**Unanimously approved**

B. Approval of the meeting minutes from the November 13, 2025, meeting

**Motion to approve the minutes made by:** Bob Felder

**Seconded by:** Stephanie Hallinan

**Unanimously Approved**

### III. Intent to Act Upon Regulations

A. NAC 513

- Administrator Ghiglieri provided an overview of the regulation changes.
- **Commissioner Potts** asked if there were any substantive changes to the regulation. **Administrator Ghiglieri** said that the change is to advance the deadline for submission next calendar year. **Chairman Nordquist** asked Administrator Ghiglieri if this was workshopped and **Administrator Ghiglieri** affirmed and noted that the regulations would still need to be codified by the legislation in the Spring or later. **Chairman Nordquist** asked if these regulations are temporary. **Administrator Ghiglieri** said they would be implemented in 2027.
- Public Comment: None.

**Motion to approve:** Bob Felder

**Seconded by:** Randy Griffin

**Unanimously approved**

B. NAC 522

- Administrator Ghiglieri provided an overview of the regulation changes.
- Public Comment: **Robert Carrington** gave Public Comment on behalf of the Nevada Association of Land Surveyors about the NAC 522 proposed amendments.
- **Administrator Ghiglieri** proposed that the Division meet with Mr. Carrington regarding his public comment prior to approving the regulation changes. **Commissioner Potts** agreed with this. **Commissioner Bain** commented that a certified land surveyor is required with location issues; however, the data is usually collected by someone else and signed off by a certified surveyor in another state or location and that surveying technology has changed significantly.
- **Chairman Nordquist** stated that the Division will work with Mr. Carrington on his response to the proposed regulation changes and that the Commission will hold off on making changes to see if there are adjustments needed.

**No action taken**

### IV. Agency Business

A. Lhoist Company Update

- Tobias Konzmann and Sage Maddox gave an update on Lhoist which can be found on the Division of Minerals website, commission meeting materials, E-packet: IV Agency Business – Exhibit A.
- **Commissioner Griffin** asked if the rollback of federal regulations on the use of coal will impact Lhoist's product sales. **Tobias Konzmann** said that it's too early to tell. **Commissioner Potts** asked how the development of the Apex Industrial Park is impacting Lhoist as a long-term tenant. **Tobias Konzmann**

said that the company operates very close to other tenants and residential areas in other areas of the world and they are used to this as a company. He further said that they have an approved permit that encompasses the resource, so they are not worried about the life of the mine. **Administrator Ghiglieri** asked what their estimated life of mine is. **Tobias Konzmann** said the exact number is not publicly available, but it will be around for generations to come. **Administrator Ghiglieri** asked about the use of the company's specialty clay for enhanced geothermal drilling which is a high temperature application. **Sage Maddox** said this is something they would be interested in. **Commissioner Griffin** asked about the company's water right situation. **Tobias Konzmann** said that the company has a secure water supply and uses it mindfully.

#### B. AngloGold Ashanti Company Update

- Joel Donalson and Allison Anderson gave an update on AngloGold Ashanti which can be found on the Division of Minerals website, commission meeting materials, E-packet: IV Agency Business – Exhibit B.
- **Commissioner Felder** asked how much drilling at the project is focused on recourse to reserve conversion versus resource growth. **Joel Donalson** said much of the drilling is focused on hydrology and condemnation. **Commissioner Felder** asked about a timeline to production on the Arthur project. **Joel Donalson** said they're expecting around 2032 to 2035. **Commissioner Felder** asked about the acquisition of Augusta. **Joel Donalson** said they had water rights, a good land position and claims, and that they had the old Bullfrog mine and the Reward project. **Commissioner Griffin** asked why gold prices are increasing so quickly. **Joel Donalson** didn't know but said grades are generally going down and costs of production are going up. **Commissioner Potts** asked about housing the workforce. **Allison Anderson** said that this is a benefit with starting smaller and phasing up; their socioeconomic study looked at the region and found that employees may have to live in different nearby cities in the region. **Commissioner Hallinan** asked if this is open pit and what recovery method is used. **Joel Donalson** said Arthur and North Bullfrog are open pit heap leaching and a small oxide mill. **Administrator Ghiglieri** said that gold production was at its lowest in the state in 2024 and asked if AngloGold has an estimate of gold production by the mid-2030s. **Joel Donalson** said their average over a ten-year period at the Merlin-Arthur project will be around half a million ounces annually and about a fifth of that at the North Bullfrog project. **Administrator Ghiglieri** asked if they are publishing a new reserve amount this year. **Joel Donalson** said he expects this within the next year possibly next quarter.

#### C. Division of Minerals Education & Outreach Update

- Garrett Wake gave an update on the Division's education and outreach activities which can be found on the Division of Minerals website, commission meeting materials, E-packet: IV Agency Business – Exhibit C.
- **Commissioner Griffin** asked if we offer tours with the teacher workshops. **Garrett Wake** affirmed this and recognized Lhoist for their support with tours. **Commissioner Felder** asked how we get our registrants for the course. **Garrett Wake** said we spread by word of mouth during our classroom

opportunities as well as sending emails. **Commissioner Felder** asked about attendance pre-pandemic and post-pandemic and why northern Nevada attendance has not recovered. **Garrett Wake** said there is a larger community in the south but wasn't sure why there was a drop off. **Administrator Ghiglieri** commended Carol Shelton, Division Education and Outreach Specialist, on reaching more than 8,000 people last year. He also noted a project she completed working with an elementary school on the need for mining in the state. **Commissioner Potts** asked if we're here to teach the teachers or the kids. **Garrett Wake** said both the teachers and students are interested and engaged in our presentations. **Commissioner Potts** asked if we were working with the UNR Cooperative Extension or 4H. **Garrett Wake** said we are not currently but will investigate it. **Commissioner Hallinan** asked if we track how many times we've been to schools and said that the Reno area could use more outreach activities. **Garrett Wake** agreed. **Commissioner Hallinan** asked about the Nevada Mining Association's outreach efforts. **Garrett Wake** said he was aware of their efforts but not the extent.

#### D. Agency Budget Update

- Garrett Wake gave an update on the Divisions budget which can be found on the Division of Minerals website, commission meeting materials, E-packet: IV Agency Business – Exhibit D.
- **Chairman Nordquist** asked about the missing fee payment from Esmeralda County. **Garrett Wake** said they are usually a bit later to pay and should pay soon. **Chairman Potts** asked if this was because staff concerns. **Garrett Wake** said he believed this may be the case. **Administrator Ghiglieri** noted that the additional funds held by the Division's bond pool for Kingston area may be soon used to clean up the Victorine Mine area.

#### E. NBMG/CREG Update and Project Proposals

- Simon Jowitt gave an update on NBMG/CREG and project proposals which can be found on the Division of Minerals website, commission meeting materials, E-packet: IV Agency Business – Exhibit E.
- **Commissioner Bain** made a motion to fund two NBMG project proposals: (1) Nevada Mineral Statistics parts A and B, and (2) Nevada Metallogenic Map. **Chairman Nordquist** asked to have a detailed scope of work with milestones for the projects that the commission can follow available at the May meeting. **Commissioner Felder** seconded the motion. The total funding ask is \$120,000 for the two projects. All present commissioners approved the vote. Commissioner Hallinan was not present for the vote due to technical difficulties.

**Motion to approve:** Nigel Bain

**Seconded by:** Bob Felder

**Unanimously approved** (Commissioner Hallinan was not present)

#### F. Geothermal and NAC 534A Update

- Dustin Holcomb gave a Geothermal and NAC 534A update which can be found on the Division of Minerals website, commission meeting materials, E-packet: IV Agency Business – Exhibit F.
- **Administrator Ghiglieri** commented that the Division’s submission of regulation changes for NAC 534A are still with the Legislative Counsel Bureau and that he hopes to have them back for a hearing at the May Commission meeting. **Commissioner Griffin** asked about recent federal oil lease sales in Nevada. **Administrator Ghiglieri** said there are additional leases being purchased in eastern Nevada. **Dustin Holcomb** noted that while there were lease sales in 2025, we didn’t have a single application to drill an oil well. He said we did receive our first application in two years to drill a well in the past week. **Commissioner Henderson** said that the price of oil was too low to produce in Nevada right now. **Dustin Holcomb** said most of the oil in Railroad Valley isn’t the best for creating fuel and is used mostly for asphalt or tar.

#### G. AML Program Update

- Sean Derby gave an update on the AML program which can be found on the Division of Minerals website, commission meeting materials, E-packet: IV Agency Business – Exhibit G.
- **Administrator Ghiglieri** commented on the recent mine rescue training that the Division of Minerals conducted with the Washoe County Search and Rescue Team. He applauded Sean Derby’s effort to reestablish that connection. **Commissioner Hallinan** said that there are several teams that show up to the annual mine rescue competition and may be able to assist in making connections. **Commissioner Bain** commented that the mine rescue community has grown and train with Washoe County; he recommended communicating with the Nevada Mining Association. He noted that there is a liability aspect with this training that needs to be addressed. **Chairman Nordquist** asked if we could use an existing abandoned mine as a training facility. **Sean Derby** said that this was a good opportunity to reach out to a private landowner to assist with this effort and that we may reach out to Comstock Mining or the Tonopah Historic Mining Park for future training opportunities. **Commissioner Nordquist** suggested that we work to make an inherently unsafe area safer for this training. **Commissioner Potts** asked if the delay in approvals for abandoned mine closures is due to shortages at the BLM-DOI. **Sean Derby affirmed. Administrator Ghiglieri** also said that priorities are an issue, that abandoned mine projects keep getting deprioritized against other needs.

#### H. 2027 Agency BDR Concepts

- Administrator Ghiglieri gave an update on the Divisions 2027 BDR Concepts which can be found on the Division of Minerals website, commission meeting materials, E-packet: IV Agency Business – Exhibit H. BDR concepts include:
- Adding a new full-time position to act as a liaison between state and federal natural resources agencies to advance mining project permitting in Nevada; funding would come from use fees paid by companies that opt in to using the position.

- **Commissioner Potts** asked about a fiscal note on this. **Administrator Ghiglieri** said we don't have this yet. This would begin using an existing FTE that's already funded, but in the future this would be funded by proponent funding. **Commissioner Hallinan** asked if this would be help completing permitting applications. **Administrator Ghiglieri** said this would be a collaborative effort between permitting agencies to meet and advance projects. FAST-41 projects may be included if we enter into an MOU with the permitting council. He further said this is conceptual and only initial conversations with the Governor's office have occurred. He also noted that this will not change any timelines at the federal level, this is more to ensure permits don't get lost and get the attention they need to move along. **Commissioner Hallinan** asked what the forum would look like between Minerals and the DCNR permitting bureaus. **Administrator Ghiglieri** said it would start at the director level to identify agency liaisons to work with directly throughout this process and hold regular meetings.
- Moving the Department of Business and Industry's Mine Safety and Training Section under the Nevada Division of Minerals due to the similar nature of both agencies duties and responsibilities.
  - **Commissioner Potts** supported the idea.
- Expanding NRS 534B to include dissolved mineral production, not just exploration, if using a de minimis amount of water. He noted that this BDR is at the early conceptual stage.
  - **Chairman Nordquist** recognized that there is a company trying to tread this path. **Administrator Ghiglieri** affirmed this. He further said that NRS 534B was created to address exploration but at some point we may need to address production as well.
- Two budget priorities: (1) address Division staff unclassified pay scales due to changes in job duties over the years at the same rate as similar jobs across the state, and (2) to add a management analyst position and discontinue use of services from the Administrative Services Division.
  - **Commissioner Potts** agreed with the Division hiring its own management analyst. **Administrator Ghiglieri** noted that the Division has had eight different budget analysts in the past budget cycle and the costs have increased significantly above initial estimates.
- Review agency funding mechanisms: review mining claim fees and NRS 519A for funding for the Abandoned Mine Lands program.
- **Chairman Nordquist** asked when the Commission would see draft BDRs. **Administrator Ghiglieri** said he would begin drafting after Commission approval. The Governor's office requires conceptual review next month. He said that August may be when they will be available.

## I. Administrator Report

- **Administrator Ghiglieri** gave an agency administrator report that we have a new website and stated that if anyone sees things that needs to be changed or updated, please let the agency know.
- **Peter Engh** gave an update on the Good Samaritan Act and communication with the EPA regarding the Division's efforts to fund closure of an abandoned mine through the act's funding. Administrator Ghiglieri believes the law may be interpreted in a way which may provide funding for this closure project.
- **Administrator Ghiglieri** stated he was appointed to the Governor's Fuel Resiliency Committee with a focus on the impact on the minerals industry. He is also on the executive director's search committee for Interstate Mining Compact Commission.
- **Administrator Ghiglieri** and **Dustin Holcomb** recently attended the Groundwater Protection Council's Underground Injection Control training and Division staff presented. He also presented at a workshop hosted by a company trying to repurpose mine waste.
- Division staff attended the American Mineral Exploration Roundup conference and will be attending the Society of Mining and Metallurgy and Engineering conference, the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada conference, and will be meeting with lawmakers in Washington, DC.
- The Division is hosting the National Association of Abandoned Mine Lands Program (NAAML) winter business meeting at Lake Tahoe and has close to 20 different states and tribes attending.

## **V. Commission Business**

### **A. Correspondence from the Commission**

There was no correspondence for the commission.

### **B. Review of Staff Monthly Reports**

There were no comments.

### **C. Future Meeting Agenda Items, Location, and Date**

- Scheduled for May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026 in the Reno/Carson area.

## **COMMENTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC**

- No Public Comment

## **ADJOURNMENT**

- The meeting adjourned at 2:55 PM.

## **NOTICE TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

Members of the public who are disabled and require special accommodations or assistance at the meeting are requested to notify the Division of Minerals, 400 W. King Street, Suite 106, Carson City, NV 89703 or contact Rebecca Tims at (775) 684-7043 or by email at [rtims@minerals.nv.gov](mailto:rtims@minerals.nv.gov).