



**JOE LOMBARDO**  
Governor

STATE OF NEVADA  
COMMISSION ON MINERAL RESOURCES  
**DIVISION OF MINERALS**  
400 W. King Street, Suite 106  
Carson City, Nevada 89703  
(775) 684-7040 • Fax (775) 684-7052  
<http://minerals.nv.gov/>



**ROBERT GHIGLIERI**  
Administrator

**Las Vegas Office:** 375 E. Warm Springs Rd. #205, Las Vegas, NV 89119  
Phone: (702) 486-4343; Fax: (702) 486-4345

Thursday, November 7, 2024

1:00 P.M.

**MINUTES**

Commission	Staff	Public
Josh Nordquist	Robert Ghiglieri	Dave Stoddard
Art Henderson via Teams	Rebecca Tims	Paige Barnes
Bob Felder	Nicole Ting, DAG via Zoom	Keibi Majia
Randy Griffin via Teams	Garrett Wake	Samantha Swing
Nigel Bain	Sean Derby	Jake Rivera
Mary Korpi	Lucia Patterson	Alex Tanchek
Stephanie Hallinan	Dustin Holcomb	Caleb Cage
	Deborah Selig	Dick Bartholet

**CALL TO ORDER**

1:00 PM by Josh Nordquist

**Roll Call**

All commissioners were present.

**COMMENTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC**

None

**I. Agenda**

- A. Approval of the Agenda

**Motion to approve the agenda made by: Mary Korpi**

**Seconded by: Nigel Bain**

**Unanimously approved**

**II. Minutes**

- A. Approval of the meeting minutes from the August 1, 2024, meeting

**Motion to approve the minutes made by: Stephanie Hallinan**

**Seconded by: Bob Felder**

**Unanimously approved**

**III. New Business**

- A. **University of Nevada Tech Hub Review**

Dick Bartholet presented to the commission regarding the University of Nevada Tech Hub Review.

**Nigel Bain**: Do we have any other (lithium) producing mines?

**Rob Ghiglieri**: No one is producing at the moment, just Albemarle. But once Lithium Americas gets online with phase 1 it's going to be up to 40,000 tons a year.

**Simon Jowitt**: Phase 1 is 40,000 tons lithium carbonate equivalent up to 80,000 tons.

**Dick Bartholet**: They are projecting the end of 2027.

**Nigel Bain**: I went to the Lithium summit, and I was surprised at the number of positive comments from each of the individual companies. Comments about all the employee training that they were getting from UNR and the state.

**Dick Bartholet**: We have 9 different entities that we have subawards with that are doing different levels of training. Part of the challenge is, if you look at Lithium Americas, they are starting to pour the foundation for the processing facilities. Most of the employees are going to be in the processing facility rather than in digging up the sediment. But they won't be ready to put those employees online until they have the facility built, so we are trying to anticipate what those needs are going to be and what kind of training can be provided right now. For the mining, I know Great Basin College is doing significant training and they have a new entity that they are working with out of Canada that is using virtual reality to train people how to work on some of the large equipment. Some exciting things are going on, but it will be everything from entry-level employees up through, in terms of EDA money, people working in the plants that have different certifications. For the engineers and scientists, they need, we didn't actually allocate dollars for that. It's occurring through the universities, but the head count for those positions is much smaller.

**Nigel Bain**: We toured Redwood facilities this morning and it was interesting to see the lock out tag out procedures, and the graphical interfaces showing where they were at that day, could be something the mining industry could adopt.

**Dick Bartholet**: They are very advanced. Many of the process engineers are being recruited out of the oil industry.

## **B. Nevada Battery Collation**

Caleb Cage did a presentation on the Nevada Battery Coalition.

**Rob Ghiglieri**: I have a question about the membership. Do you have more members outside of Lithium Americas and Comstock for mining companies?

**Caleb Cage**: Yes, Lithium Americas, of course. Ioneer is a member, which just got their record of decision two weeks ago now. Albemarle is a member. We have American Lithium and Tonopah Lithium Corporation. American Battery Technology Company is a member, they of course are a recycler with mining interests as well. We are working with a number of other mining operations that are interested in joining, and I shouldn't mention their names until they are officially members. I'm sure I'm leaving one or two out.

## **C. Fluid Minerals Program Review**

Dustin Holcomb updated the commission on the Fluid Minerals Program.

## **D. 2024 AML Summer Internship Review**

Sean Derby presented an update to the commission on the 2024 AML summer Intern program.

**Stephanie Hallinan**: Out of the 181 revisits how many require more attention and revisits?

**Rob Ghiglieri**: It varies from year to year. Last year we had over 600 revisits, many to verify the status of a hazard for a hard closure project before sending out contracted wildlife or cultural survey teams. We would

ideally re-visit every site every 5 years, but we would not be able to accomplish that, and we would not be able to inventory anything else.

**Sean Derby:** We could probably get that statistic. If a hazard is older than 5 years, it's going to need a re-visit and repair. As we adjust for next year, to make that logging versus the others match out, that's what we are taking into consideration.

**Stephanie Hallinan:** I was just curious if out in the middle of nowhere, folks tamper with things. How much of this is just continuously the same efforts over and over?

**Rob Ghiglieri:** We have had a good relationship with the department of Wildlife. When we do wildlife closures and those are vandalized more than two times, we will permanently close it with a backfill. Also, the habitat is being disrupted if those are being vandalized. Fencing really depends on the location. I have been to sites that were fenced weeks before being vandalized and I've been to sites that were fenced 20 years before and still had the sign on them.

**Sean Derby:** We had 10 hard closures in the calendar year so far completed, and there are for more to be done. So that is 14 hard closures this year and that is twice as much as we normally do. Part of that has been an increase in grant money and it's also been a willingness in Forest Service and Park Service to work with us, but we are not going to keep this pace. But we have found that including the interns and these projects, in terms of vetting, going to these sites and making sure everything is ready and helps our contractors come up with better numbers. Part of the focus for next summer is going and vetting sites and getting an idea of what state they are in and ground treating and things of that nature.

**Bob Felder:** Last year you proposed funding for sampling and geochemistry, which we didn't support at the time. I thought I recall that you said that might try to do historical samples for potential funding and analysis later. Were you able to get any of that done this year?

**Sean Derby:** We did that with certain areas, where it was merited. Mina was one of them. But we didn't want to jump into that in a big way without your approval.

**Rob Ghiglieri:** One more thing on the interns, we had one intern stay on payroll in Las Vegas and he has been helping Debbie and Carol. He has been a very big help for the Las Vegas office but we can only keep him on for six months as an intern. We look forward to continuing to have him help again after he comes back on as a winter intern.

**Stephanie Hallinan:** Excellent job on the safety aspect. That is a key thing in our industry for all of our areas.

**Josh Nordquist:** The beginning of the summer, did we have certain goals as far as securing's and loggings?

**Sean Derby:** My only goal was to increase loggings. It was my hope that our contractors would have everything secured. We have had so many hard closure programs to feather in things and it was my goal to have everything they discovered secured in a calendar year. But the real focus was to see what would happen if we changed our ranking system targeting to see how many loggings we could really increase by.

#### IV. Old Business

##### A. Great Basin College, Mining Center for Excellence Update

Jake Rivera and Dave Stoddard provided an update on Great Basin College, Mining Center for Excellence.

**Mary Korpi:** I lived in Elko for about 30 years working for a mining company, and I just want to comment on a couple of things that you said. That advisory board is so important. It is important to make sure that you have got the input from the industry on the design. The need for trained professionals on entry level all the way through the industry, that need is not decreasing, if anything, its only escalating. Getting those people interested in the industry and pursuing those degrees is critical.

**Josh Nordquist:** We would like to have another update in six months.

**Jake Rivera:** That would be perfect. Thank you.

##### B. NDOM Budget Recap

Garrett Wake provided the commission with NDOM's current budget.

**C. NBMG and CREG Update**

Jim Faulds and Simon Jowitt presented an update on the NBMG and CREG.

**Bob Felder:** Did you say that Loneer was donating 183 boxes of core?

**Jim Faulds:** Yes, 3,400 feet of core.

**Bob Felder:** With your space limitations, don't you want representative sampling rather than that much stuff?

**Jim Faulds:** We decided since we have so little cuttings or core, because it's not required for anything associated with Lithium, that we would take all of those. It provides a nice record through time being that deep of a hole for Clayton Valley.

**Bob Felder:** It's one deep hole?

**Jim Faulds:** Yes, one deep hole. We thought it was important to make an exception in that case. It's already being requested for research associated with lithium resources.

**Bob Felder:** With funding sources not liking new construction, are you looking at trying to gather that money and rent new space?

**Jim Faulds:** We have no funds to rent new space. We did propose through the national geological and geophysical database preservation program, purchasing additional containers for storage at Stead. But they did not like the cost for the containers. I think that was part of our proposal a couple of years ago for the equipment match and the commission and the Division of Minerals came through, we got the match part from you folks, but we only got about half of our equipment proposal funded and they pretty much told us not to come back and request shipping containers. We have one of our senators now extremely interested in this and we have a lobbying firm that is trying to find a solution to getting funding to expand that building. This is FY26 that we are requesting, so it is a couple of years down the road.

**D. Nevada Reclamation Award Video Update**

Garrett Wake updated the commission on the Nevada Reclamation Award Video.

**Motion to approve an annual Reclamation Award Video Funding at \$20,000.00:** Bob Felder

**Seconded By:** Mary Korpi

**Unanimously approved**

**E. Administrator Report**

Rob Ghiglieri provided the commission with Administrator updates.

**F. Appreciation of Deborah Selig**

Rob Ghiglieri took this time to show appreciation to Deborah Selig for her 30+ years of service with the Division of Minerals.

**V. Commission Business**

**A. Schedule Calendar Year 2025 Commission Meetings**

- Tentative Dates of:
  - February 20, 2025
  - May 29, 2025
  - August 14, 2025
  - November 6, 2025

**B. Correspondence to the Commission**

**C. Review of Staff Monthly Activity Reports**

**D. Future Agenda Items**

**COMMENTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

3:58 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).