



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, May 29, 2025

9:00 A.M.

MINUTES

Commission	Staff	Public
Josh Nordquist	Robert Ghiglieri	Ishyan Veleppillai
Arthur Henderson via teams	Rebecca Tims	Santiago Rabade
Nigel Bain	Garrett Wake	Eric Flodin
Mary Korpi	Dustin Holcomb	Amelia Letvin
Bob Felder	Crystal Cruson	John Casteel
		Brennan Ott
		Gregg Pazer
		Simon Jowitt
		Emily Tucker
		Bob Potts
		Ramon Scoble
		Sheldon Boyd
		Greg Ott DAG

CALL TO ORDER

9:00 AM by Josh Nordquist

Roll Call

All commissioners were present with the exception of Randy Griffin and Stephanie Hallinan.

COMMENTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC

None

I. Agenda

A. Approval of the Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda made by: Bob Felder

Seconded by: Mary Korpi

Unanimously approved

II. Minutes

A. Approval of the meeting minutes from the February 20, 2025, meeting

Motion to approve the minutes made by: Mary Korpi

Seconded by: Nigel Bain

Unanimously approved

III. Agency Business

A. Legislative Update

Robert Ghiglieri provided the commission with updates from the current legislative session. Rob covered the governor's priorities, general natural resources bills, and mining related bills. He noted that the Division's GIS Analyst is assisting the governor's office and BLM on a collaborative land disposal data sharing project. He went into detail on certain natural resources and mining related bills and where each is at in the legislative process.

B. Rulemaking Process Review

Greg Ott briefed the commission on the Nevada administrative rulemaking process review. He covered the laws that apply to rulemaking, types of rulemaking, and the regulation promulgation process. **Robert Ghiglieri** stated that the agency hasn't gone through rulemaking since 2019. The agency will continue to review its administrative code in accordance with executive order 2023-003. **Greg Ott** recommended looking at the bottom of the NAC to see when it was created and to look at both older codes and very new ones that haven't been tested.

C. Proposed Agency Rulemaking

Robert Ghiglieri proposed updates to specific NAC's pertaining to Geothermal, Oil & Gas, and Reclamation. Rob first discussed regulations recommended for update that may have processes streamlined to increase efficiency and reduce duplicative efforts. **Arthur Henderson** mentioned this was the second time it was requested to look at these NAC's and that he tried to follow the Governor's office recommendations and expectations. He said that he went through the regulations several times and thinks this is everything that can be modified. **Robert Ghiglieri** segued into discussing regulations proposed to be updated due to changes in technology. Most changes related to update code relating to geothermal, including well stimulation and induced seismicity. He then discussed other miscellaneous changes to code including moving the date for Annual Status and Production reporting to February 16th. **Josh Nordquist** asked if we knew if the data is the same as taxation. **Robert Ghiglieri** said that this information is already required to be reported to the USGS on a quarterly basis and should be provided to the Division sooner. The regulation was created in 1989 and hasn't been updated since then. **Mary Korpi** expressed concern that some of the companies don't want their information out before it is reported to their investors. **Simon Jowitt** suggested that there be some agreement between the Division of Minerals and industry that data would not be published until a specified date. **Robert Ghiglieri** agreed. He then echoed what Greg Ott stated earlier about turnover with State agencies and how this topic may have come up years ago and not pursued for a good reason. He believes it should be moved up so that the data can be made available to the public sooner. He continued the presentation by discussing long term goals to update certain agency statutes. **Arthur Henderson** asked Robert Ghiglieri to clarify if he is requesting to start the workshop this July. **Robert Ghiglieri** requested that the commission authorize the Division to start the rulemaking process initially for NACs 534A, 534B, 513, and 519A. He anticipates having a workshop over the summer. **Arthur Henderson** asked for clarification that the workshop would begin in July or August. **Robert Ghiglieri** affirmed, pending availability of commission members and staff. The workshop includes stakeholders, industry, NGOs, other state agencies, and others. He anticipates starting in mid-July would be the earliest. **Josh Nordquist** asked if the commission had any questions. He then instructed the Division to proceed with preparing for the rulemaking process.

D. Agency Budget Update

Garrett Wake updated the commission with the agency's current budget. **Robert Ghiglieri** noted that there seems to be around a twenty percent decrease in placer claims this year. **Garrett Wake** continued the presentation, stating that the agency's earlier projections of seeing a decrease in mining claim fees around five percent are still holding. He detailed the agency's current and projected revenue and expenditures through the end of the fiscal year. He also covered the agency's current contracts. **Robert Ghiglieri** stated that the budget is sitting right where we projected it with some small changes. The legislative budget for FYs 26 and 27 were approved and closed out as submitted. This included an additional full-time employee and funding for Nevada's dues to join IMCC.

E. Fluids and Bond Pool Database Update

Garrett Wake provided an update to the commission on the progress of the fluids and bond pool database. **Robert Ghiglieri** reiterated that we have the benefit of having our databases built after other agencies to capitalize on preexisting knowledge and code by the developer. **Garrett Wake** stated that \$44,600 was obligated to the bond pool database with \$7,220 remaining; \$45,675 was obligated to the fluid minerals database with \$40,845 remaining. **Robert Ghiglieri** reminded the commission that they also approved the fluid minerals file digitization project. He stated that interns spent the past few months and completed about seventy percent of the scanning. The contract was just approved to use machine learning to identify and separate filetypes within the scanned files. **Garrett Wake** said that the database developer will then use a script to read each file and place the file into its proper permit for future reference and archival. This information could then be made available to the public. **Robert Ghiglieri** noted that Governor Lombardo recognized the bond pool database project at the most recent Certified Public Manager graduation as a significant cost savings to the state. **Josh Nordquist** asked if the software foundation was built for the state. **Garrett Wake** responded that the software developer has worked with multiple state agencies developing software for databases and is able to copy the foundation of the software to personalize each database to the specific agency.

F. NBMG Contract Update

Simon Jowitt updated the commission with an overview of the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology (NBMG), NBMG funding and budget, federal collaboration and current ongoing contracts, current research and projects, updates at the Center for Research in Economic Geology (CREG), recent news publications with quotes from Simon Jowitt, update on critical metals and minerals funding and projects, recent publications in partnership with the Division, federal geophysical data acquisitions within Nevada, CREG challenges and uncertainty, and return on investment for investing in geophysical data. **Robert Ghiglieri** asked Simon Jowitt for this presentation and discussed the current contracts the Division has in place with NBMG that are already budgeted for over the next biennium. He met with Simon to discuss the annual Mineral Industry report, Exploration Survey, and sample curation, and came to an agreement on timelines and deliverables. **Simon Jowitt** noted that feedback on what the NBMG is producing helps and improves future reports. **Nigel Bain** asked Simon Jowitt when he goes to PDAC or other conferences if there are different publications that people are interested in regarding mining. **Simon Jowitt** stated people are after critical minerals and maps of mineral deposits. Simon believes information like this, as well as production information, is very useful. Right now, they don't have the people needed to undertake some of the projects they would like to. **Robert Ghiglieri** stated that mining is at the forefront of daily conversation like it has never been before. With companies now recycling some of these minerals, what is our capacity to process the product of the recycling facilities as well as an increase in mined minerals like copper. CREG will be a big part of that conversation. **Simon Jowitt** said there are opportunities happening right now. The UAE is investing four billion dollars in a smelter in Oklahoma. We need to make sure we're on the radar.

G. Copper Processing Study Update

Robert Ghiglieri provided some background on why we were looking to complete a new copper processing report. The Nevada Mining Association worked with the Division of Minerals and Critical Mineral Forum to produce this report; the Mining Association funded the report. **Ralston Pedersen** presented to the commission on the ongoing copper processing study looking into the domestic smelting and copper manufacturing potential of Nevada. The goals of the project are to inform federal, state and local government, as well as the general public, on the feasibility and economic benefits of building copper processing facilities in Nevada. **Robert Ghiglieri** stated that one of the goals of the report is that when a company is looking to invest in copper processing facilities they look toward Nevada. This would benefit mines to come online but also downstream manufacturing. This is not a fully comprehensive study, but it puts us on display. **Bob Felder** asked if the Bureau will be publishing the report. **Robert Ghiglieri** stated that the Division of Minerals is publishing the report. This is the contribution of the Division using an existing statewide contract. The publisher received the draft yesterday and the final is going through peer review. Robert Ghiglieri doesn't feel that this will be the final report, and this will open doors and open additional opportunities to look at more specific aspects of the supply

chain. Conversations around other metal processing are already happening from initiating this study. **Simon Jowitt** asked if anyone has reached out to any major industry players. **Robert Ghiglieri** talked about the potential of the Yerington district. He said this may lead to opportunities for additional research on specific topics and ideas. It's a starting point and with the critical mineral forum's direct connection to the White House they want it as soon as possible.

H. Administrator's Report

Robert Ghiglieri provided his Administrator's report. The State Museum is still working on their mining exhibit with help from Lucia; funding will likely follow next fiscal year. Lucia Patterson received an award from Governor Lombardo, and she was also recognized by the Nevada Women's Fund. There are three projects on the FAST-41 list here in Nevada, companies are using the expedited NEPA process for permitting. Agency had presentations at MALRI, with a Swedish delegation with GOED, U.S. Consulate General in Toronto, and the U.S. Commercial Services of Canada. EPA is advancing the Good Samaritan program and Robert Ghiglieri did a press release with NV Rep. Susie Lee on the act's passage. Carol Shelton received praise from the Clark County School District on the All About Mining virtual course. Agency has a new NEPA viewer on the Division's Open Data website. Geothermal and fluid minerals had the most permits last year since 2011; enhanced geothermal's fruition may mean the agency needs additional staff. NBMG applied for the third round of the USGS Mine Waste study, which helps fund NDEP's AML program. The Division has received unofficial notification of receipt of the first AML program hard rock grant from the Department of Interior at \$200,000 to the Division for closure work and \$500,00 to NDEP for inventory work. AML interns started; the Division has eight interns for the first time in years. The Division assisted the National Association of Abandoned Mine Lands Programs and Interstate Mining Compact Commission to produce a comprehensive nationwide AML hard rock report which should be published in August.

IV. Commission Business

A. Correspondence to the Commission

Robert Ghiglieri recognized Mary Korpi for her longstanding work and dedication as a commissioner as she is not renewing her status as a commissioner next term. **Mari Korpi** said she was honored to serve as a commissioner and how important the Division is. **Josh Nordquist** thanked Mary and recognized her contributions. **Bob Felder** asked about succession planning for the position. **Robert Ghiglieri** stated that there are applications but no confirmation. He said that all commissioners have reapplied for their terms except for Mary. He stated that the Division mails out monthly reports to the commission and other stakeholders and asked if they wanted the Division to send the reports out to anyone else.

B. Review of Staff Monthly Reports

The Commission reviewed staff reports.

C. Future Agenda Items

None noted

COMMENTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC

None

ADJOURNMENT

11:57 AM

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.