

NEWS Release BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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BLM
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PUBLIC MEETINGS SET TO DISCUSS EP MINERALS PROPOSED MINE EXPANSION

HINES, Oregon – Two public scoping meetings to discuss the proposed mine expansion by EP Minerals are set for the end of October in Vale and Burns. EP Minerals, formerly known as EaglePicher Minerals, maintains a diatomite mine complex in northeastern Harney County. The Complex currently consists of three open-pit mines called Beede Desert (on private land), Kelly Field (on federal land), and Section 36 (on State land). EP Minerals proposes to expand mining on federal land and conduct exploratory drilling across a larger area.

The ‘open-house’ style public meetings allow attendants to see maps of the proposed mine expansion and discuss issues with Bureau of Land Management (BLM) resource specialists and EP Minerals representatives. Those interested can attend at the following locations:

- Wednesday, October 29, in Vale, Oregon, 5:30-6:30 p.m. (MT) at the Vale District BLM Office [100 Oregon St., Vale, Oregon, 97918]
- Thursday, October 30, in Burns, Oregon, 5:30-6:30 p.m. (PT) at the Harney County Senior Center [17 S Alvord, Burns, Oregon, 97720]

During the meetings, formal comments can be submitted in writing. Written comments outside the meetings may be submitted by mail to Celatom Mine Expansion EIS Lead, Burns District BLM, 28910 Highway 20 West, Hines, OR 97738, or by email to OREPCME@blm.gov. Public comments will be used to direct environmental analysis of the proposed expansion and will be accepted until November 14, 2008.

For more information, or to have your name added to the EP Minerals proposed mine expansion mailing list, call (541) 573-4484.

