

INFORMATION SHEET

ORDER NO.

THE JAMESTOWN TRUST I, THROUGH ITS TRUSTEE
COUNTY OF TUOLUMNE, GARY WILSON, AND ROBERT CAMERON
DISCHARGE OF MINE WASTEWATER TO HARVARD MINE PIT
TUOLUMNE COUNTY

These Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) are interim requirements with limited scope. They do not replace existing WDRs 98-082 for the Jamestown Mine facility. These WDRs are limited to the transfer of water from the Tailings Management Facility to the Harvard Mine Pit and thus allow cleanup activities to start during the 2006 construction season. The Harvard Mine Pit and the Jamestown Mine Tailings Management Facility (TMF) are within the Jamestown Gold Mine approximately one mile southwest of Jamestown in Tuolumne County. The Jamestown Mine is an inactive gold mine that last operated from 1986 to 1994. The Jamestown Trust I through its trustee (operator), and County of Tuolumne, Robert Cameron and Gary Wilson (jointly owners) currently operate and own the Jamestown Mine.

The TMF is an approximately 120-acre lined mine tailings impoundment. Polluted water from the TMF drains to the Process Water Retention Pond (a lined Group B mining waste surface impoundment), to the Supernatant Pond (an unlined evaporation pond on the TMF surface) and interstitially in the tailings. The current TMF water handling system does not dewater the TMF. To close the TMF, approximately 480-acre feet of water must be removed over a six-year period. The Discharger proposes to transfer TMF water to the Harvard Mine Pit.

The Harvard Mine Pit is an open mine pit excavated to extract gold. The Harvard Mine Pit is approximately 520 feet deep and has a 72-acre footprint. During active mining, groundwater was pumped to dewater the mine pit and surrounding area. When active mining ceased in 1994, the dewatering pumps were turned off and the pit started slowly refilling with poor quality water impacted through interaction with the shattered mineralized wall rock and with mineralized waste rock in the adjacent Rock Storage Area. Water in the Harvard Mine Pit and water in the TMF are of similar poor quality.

As long as water levels in Harvard Mine Pit remain below groundwater levels and below the level of nearby Woods Creek, water in the pit will be contained. Because it operates as a groundwater sink, the Harvard Mine Pit can be used to contain wastewater. Predictive modeling indicates that with no inputs other than inflowing groundwater and precipitation, water levels in the pit will equilibrate in the year 2045 at a level that will prevent discharge from the pit. Adding 480-acre feet of water from the TMF over the next six-years will decrease the time to reach equilibrium levels but should not change the equilibrium water level.

These WDRs classify the Harvard Mine Pit as a Group B mining waste containment unit, allow the discharge of TMF water to the Harvard Mine Pit, require quarterly monitoring of the discharge to the pit and water in the pit, and regulate future management of Harvard Mine Pit to prevent discharge. Discharging TMF water to Harvard Mine Pit is necessary to close the TMF.

RDA; 4 April 2006