

RHYOLITE RIDGE NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2023



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we approach the holiday season, I'd like to extend warm wishes to all of you. I hope this message finds you in good health and high spirits.

I want to express my gratitude to those of you who joined us at the Rhyolite Ridge Community Meeting in Fish Lake Valley on October 5. Your presence and engagement are vital to our mission, and your input at these gatherings ensures the Project remains aligned with the community's needs.

The progress we've made in the Rhyolite Ridge Project's permitting process during this year has been significant. We eagerly anticipate the publication of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), which marks the next major milestone in this journey. Following the issuance of the DEIS, you will have another opportunity to review and comment on the Project. Your valuable insights will help shape the best possible outcomes for both Esmeralda County and the environment at large.

In this newsletter, you'll be introduced to some new members of the Geology and Mining Department — a dedicated team that plays a crucial role in ensuring that the mining operations are designed in a safe and environmentally sensitive manner, while also efficiently producing lithium and boron materials necessary for a sustainable planet. Please join me in welcoming Ashley and Jeff to the loneer Team!

President's Message cont'd

Our ongoing dialogue with Tribal Nations remains a top priority for loneer, and we are committed to providing regular updates and engaging in meaningful conversations with tribes. These dialogues are essential for the sustainability of the Project and the prosperity of the region and all its citizens.

Additionally, we have been working diligently and remain dedicated to ongoing consultation with the Esmeralda County Commission, county agencies and staff and the community to formalize a Development Agreement between loneer and Esmeralda County to ensure the Project is aligned with the community's needs and concerns.

Lastly, I want to emphasize that water management remains a top priority for loneer. We are fully committed to responsible and sustainable water use, and we will continue working with the community to identify strategies and best practices as well as investing in

technologies and processes that minimize our use of this vital resource — we take a deeper dive into this topic later in this Newsletter.

In closing, I want to thank you for your ongoing support of the entire loneer team. Together, we are building a sustainable and thriving future for our communities and our environment. I wish you and your loved ones a joyful holiday season, and I look forward to the exciting year ahead.

**“I WISH YOU AND
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*Bernard Rowe
President*

Permitting Update

We're excited to share that progress remains steady with respect to the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) permitting process for the Project. The next key milestone is the issuance of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), which we currently expect to be released before year end. The DEIS will provide the public with an opportunity to review and comment on, the following among other facets of the Project's Plan of Operations:

- Environmental conclusions reached
- Submitted alternatives and analyses conducted
- Description of the environment of the area that may be affected by alternatives
- Mitigation measures that will be required of loneer
- Detailed appendices that support the conclusions reached

Following the release of the DEIS, there will be a 45-day public comment period. We'd like to thank all those who provided comments during the initial scoping period, and we strongly encourage further public participation for the remainder

of the process to ensure your voice is heard. We will be hosting events for public engagement, providing you with opportunities to review the DEIS, ask questions, seek clarifications from our loneer team members, and provide information on how to submit comments to the BLM.

We urge you to stay informed about the dates and details for these events by regularly checking our website, mailings, flyers, local news publications and other communication channels.

We currently anticipate that the NEPA process will conclude with a Record of Decision (ROD) from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in the second quarter of 2024, which will allow for construction activities to commence shortly thereafter.

We continue to expect operations will begin in 2026. For further updates and more information, please visit rhyolite-ridge.loneer.com/permitting or reach out to the loneer team at rhyoliteridgeinfo@loneer.com. Again, we thank you for your continued support, patience, and involvement over the last several years — our success is not possible without you.

Get to Know the loneers

In this edition of “Get to Know the loneers,” we will focus on two of our newest members of the team: Ashley Lobdell and Jeff Buritsch.

Ashley Lobdell, Senior Geologist

Ashley pedaled her way into our team at the end of August 2023 — and is not just an expert in planning our upcoming drilling phase; she’s also the dynamo who’s likely to breeze by you on her bike in and around Reno. Ashley’s mining journey began in 2013 in the Alaskan wilderness where she started as an ore control geologist. Over the past ten years she held various production-based roles, moving to Elko, Nevada in 2020 and ultimately finding her way to our team here at loneer earlier this year and settling in Reno.



Before joining loneer, Ashley honed her skills in reconciliation work at Carlin comparing resource models, forecast models, and ore control models. In short, she’s a “rock accountant.” When asked what she enjoys most about loneer, Ashley says she loves being part of the highly skilled and intelligent team that is excited about the unique deposit and project at Rhyolite Ridge.

But Ashley’s story is more than just about rocks and biking. It’s a tale of a geologist with a heart for adventure, a love for furry friends, and a passion for savoring the good things in life.

Having spent her childhood between British Columbia and the state of Washington, graduating high school and college near Bellingham, Ashley developed a love for exploration early on. This spirit extends to her travel adventures with her other

half, whom she met while working at the Red Dog Mine located in a remote region in Alaska about 80 miles north of Kotzebue. Ashley and her partner bonded over Sunday night card games, cycling, and their shared interests in home-brewing beer and culinary exploitations.

In her free time, you’ll find Ashley conquering roads and gravel trails on her bike. She’s not just a weekend warrior (though she does enjoy attending concerts and electronic music) — she enjoys dragging her partner around the world on cycling adventures, always enticing him with promises of delicious food and refreshing beverages.

Ashley and her partner also have a pack of “furbabies”— two mischievous cats have turned her home into a cardboard playground, while a husky and a goldendoodle claim the couch for their snuggle sessions. And let’s not forget the betta fish living its best life in Reno!

Jeff Buritsch, Senior Mining Engineer

Before joining loneer, Jeff’s career over the past decade spanned projects at Kinross Round Mountain, Cashman Equipment, and a string of internships in the underground coal industry in Illinois. His diverse experience set the stage for his role as a key player in optimizing our drilling projects and shaping the future of mining plans. His mining journey also led him to the Haile Gold Mine in South Carolina, where he was part of a brownfield startup—a challenging venture that prepared him for the exciting endeavors at loneer.

In his role with loneer, Jeff works daily on our various drilling programs, the Project’s future plans, and collaborates with consultants to ensure



our mining sequence is as efficient as can be. But when the sun sets on the mining sites, Jeff transforms into a machine enthusiast. Trucks, boats, cars—basically anything with an engine becomes his canvas for tinkering and improvement.

Jeff and his wife Jessica tied the knot in August 2022 in Reno, and currently live in Sparks alongside their trusty dog, “Ginger.” Outside the world of mining and machines and in their spare time, Jeff and Jessica find solace in the vast backcountry and waterways of Northern Nevada and California; hot springs, scenic trails, and the serenity of nature are their go-to escapes.

What drew Jeff to Loneer? It’s not just the drilling projects or the machinery—he’s passionate about being part of a greenfield operation that’s heavily invested in the communities near the Project, and the unique technology that underpins operations at Rhyolite Ridge. The commitment to providing critical minerals for our country’s transportation system and infrastructure resonates with Jeff, making every drilling project a step towards a sustainable future.

So the next time you’re at the Esmeralda Market or crossing paths near the RR site, keep an eye out for Jeff, our Senior Mining Engineer, who’s not just shaping the future of mining but also fine-tuning engines and exploring the wonders of Nevada’s backcountry with his loving family.

Tribal Outreach

As part of Loneer’s commitment to reaching out to Tribal Nations to get feedback and provide information regarding the Rhyolite Ridge Project, we continue to communicate with interested tribes by attending council meetings, meetings with tribal departments, and attending tribal events. In the last few months, Loneer has had the opportunity to help sponsor several events including the Walker River Pinenut Festival, Duckwater Shoshone Festival, Pabanamanina Powwow and Tribal Leadership Conference for Tribes. We have also provided updates to tribal environmental managers and to the regional tribal operations caucus.

Our goal is to gain a better understanding of and respect for cultural traditions and values that tribes may have for land associated with the project, provide project updates, and understand how the tribes would like to be involved as development progresses. We are also speaking to interested tribes about potential economic development opportunities including federally funded programs, cultural monitoring agreements and understand the differences and unique needs between various tribes.

We look forward to attending more tribal events in the coming months and we want to extend an invitation to meet with any interested tribes for project updates.

For more information, please contact Loneer’s Tribal Liaison, Tashina Jim.

tjim@loneer.com 775.993.8526

Loneer’s Commitment to Being a Good Neighbor

Loneer has for many years worked closely with the Esmeralda County Board of Commissioners and other County agencies to identify how we can ensure that we remain a good neighbor in the community once construction and ultimately operational activities begin.

**WE ARE PLEASED TO SHARE
THAT IN JUNE OF THIS YEAR,
THIS COMMITMENT WAS
RATIFIED THROUGH A FORMAL
AGREEMENT WITH THE
ESMERALDA COUNTY BOARD
OF COMMISSIONERS AND THE
ROADS DEPARTMENT.**

As we have communicated for many years, once activities begin at the Rhyolite Ridge site, Loneer will be responsible for upgrading and maintaining the primary access road to the Project. To that end,

In addition to the main access road, we will also be monitoring any impacts from project-related traffic on “secondary” roads, where if it is determined that an increase in traffic due to Project activities results in extra maintenance, we will also help to keep those roads in safe condition for members of the public.

In addition to the Road Agreement, we are committed to a broader “Development Agreement” with the Esmeralda County Commission that will outline further responsibilities and expectations of Loneer once Project activities commence.

Among several areas that will be covered in this agreement, we are working closely with the county’s Department of Emergency Management and emergency services including fire, ambulance, and law enforcement departments to ensure that the county has the resources and training necessary to assure safety of the public. The agreement will also codify our commitment to encourage local hiring and support training programs to provide opportunities

for members of the community to be involved with the Rhyolite Ridge Project.

This work is ongoing, and it is our intent that this agreement be formally ratified via ordinance and approved by the County Commission prior to construction activities beginning.

Members of the public will have an opportunity to review and provide comments to Loneer and the County Commission prior to formal adoption. We encourage the community to participate in this process, and if you have any suggestions or questions please reach out to us at rhyoliteridgeinfo@loneer.com.

Our Commitment to Using Water Responsibly

The Rhyolite Ridge Project is expected to commence construction in 2024 and commercial production in 2026, and will source the water needed from the Fish Lake Valley hydrographic basin. And while the unique mineralogy at Rhyolite Ridge will allow us to recycle over 50% of the water we use (which is considerably less than lithium produced elsewhere), the Project will require about 486 acre-feet per year during construction, and approximately 4100 acre-feet per year during the operational period.

As a future water user in Fish Lake Valley, Loneer is fully prepared and committed to doing our fair share to help reduce the overall pumped volume of water in Fish Lake Valley. We are focusing our efforts on reducing water pumped from the aquifers used for irrigation purposes in the valley; however, we will also employ other ways to conserve.

Our aim is to source water firstly from the aquifer at and surrounding the Project site and if required, the balance of the water requirements from the northern end of the FLV valley floor where there is existing irrigation usage. The exact split between the two areas will be determined by ground water modelling and eventually, well drilling. Any water that is sourced from the project site will result in less water drawn from the valley floor.

In all scenarios, Loneer is committed to having NO IMPACT on the water balance in Fish Lake Valley. Water that is currently being used for irrigation will be changed to mining and milling – which by law requires a reduction in permitted water volumes. Any water that is not currently being used for irrigation will be mitigated to ensure there is no impact on current Fish Lake Valley water users.

Over many years we have listened to the community, county officials, water experts, and local water users’ concerns about the potential for dust that may result from retiring active irrigation pivots and fallowing fields. As such, we are looking to reduce, but not entirely eliminate, irrigation on any particular field unless we can ensure adequate ground cover growth without irrigation (for example, establishing native vegetation).

We are eager to learn about other water reduction strategies from irrigators in Fish Lake Valley. Water conservation is an ongoing process and we are committed to continuing our efforts around water usage minimization. As we learn more and get more feedback our plans will evolve and we will provide updates when appropriate. If you have any ideas or suggestions we want to hear from you! Please drop us a line at rhyoliteridgeinfo@loneer.com



Previous and Upcoming Events

Fish Lake Valley Poker Run September 2023

We were honored to host a card stop for the second consecutive year during this year's annual Fish Lake Valley Poker Run, an event that raises funds for the community's first responders.

Participants that stopped by were able to grab a bit of shade, some water, and use the provided portable restrooms. Thanks to all of you who stopped by to say hello, and to the organizers of the event.

Thank you to all the participants, sponsors, and organizers for putting on a successful run, and we look forward to participating and supporting the event for years to come.

Community Thanksgiving Dinner Thursday, November 23 Fish Lake Valley Community Center 3:00PM

We hope that you can join us for Thanksgiving Dinner at the Fish Lake Valley Community Center, which for the second consecutive year is being sponsored by loneer.

Dinner will be served beginning at 3PM and is free for any members of the community!

Special Thanks to Patty Hudson and all the members of the community who volunteer their time to make this event possible.



We wish you and your loved ones all a very Happy Thanksgiving!



Rhyolite Ridge Community Meeting October 2023

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to those of you who joined us at the community meeting in Fish Lake Valley on October 5. Your presence and engagement are vital to our mission, and your input at these gatherings helps us better understand and serve the community's needs.

As always a big thank you to Patty and Darrell Hudson and their team for providing the food for the event, and to Jeanie Amick for helping to coordinate the use of the community center for these events.

We hope to see as many of you as possible at the next community meeting which will tentatively take place in the spring of 2024.



Opportunities to Review and Provide Comment on Draft EIS

As explained in an earlier article in this newsletter, we will be hosting several events in Fish Lake Valley, Tonopah, and Goldfield once the Draft EIS is released. Please be sure to stay up-to-date by visiting www.therhyoliteridgeproject.com/events/ and find a time and location that is convenient for you to stop by and learn how you can further participate in the process.

Listening Sessions

In addition to the events surrounding the release of the Draft EIS, we will also be hosting several listening sessions where members of the community can come and ask questions about the project and meet members of the loneer team in a casual setting. We hope you can make it to one of the next listening sessions where refreshments will be provided.

DECEMBER 14
5:00PM – FISH LAKE VALLEY SALOON, DYER

JANUARY 17
9:00AM – ESMERALDA MARKET, DYER

JANUARY 17
1:00PM – HOMETOWN PIZZA, TONOPAH

FEBRUARY 7
5:00PM – MOZART TAVEN, GOLDFIELD

FEBRUARY 8
5:00PM – FISH LAKE VALLEY SALOON, DYER



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AND A BETTER WORLD.

IONEER USA CORPORATION

9460 Double R Boulevard
Suite 200
Reno, NV 89521

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