



## INDEPENDENT ASSURANCE STATEMENT

### Introduction and objectives of work

Bureau Veritas North America, Inc. (Bureau Veritas) was engaged by Newmont Mining Corporation (Newmont) to conduct an independent assurance of its 2014 Beyond the Mine Sustainability Report (the Report). This Assurance Statement applies to the related information included within the scope of work described below. The intended users of the assurance statement are the stakeholders of Newmont. The overall aim of this process is to provide assurance to Newmont's stakeholders on the accuracy, reliability and objectivity of the information included in the Report. The assurance process also evaluated Newmont's management of sustainability in accordance with the principles of inclusivity, materiality and responsiveness.

This information and its presentation in the Report are the sole responsibility of the management of Newmont. Bureau Veritas was not involved in the drafting of the Report. Our sole responsibility was to provide independent assurance on its content.

### Scope of work

Newmont requested Bureau Veritas to include in its independent assurance the following:

- Data and report text included in the Report for the calendar year 2014 reporting period;
- Appropriateness and robustness of underlying reporting systems and processes, used to collect, analyze and review the information reported;
- Evaluation of the Report against the International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM) Sustainable Development (SD) Framework Assurance Procedure;
- Evaluation of the Report in accordance with the Assurance Standard AA1000AS (2008)<sup>1</sup> Type 2 assurance; and
- Evaluation of the Report against the principles of the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Reporting Framework as defined in the GRI G3 Sustainability Reporting Guidelines.

Excluded from the scope of our work is any assurance of information relating to:

- Activities outside the defined assurance period;
- Positional statements (expressions of opinion, belief, aim or future intention) by Newmont;
- Statements of future commitment; and
- Any financial data previously audited by an external third party.

### Methodology

Bureau Veritas undertook the following activities:

1. Interviews with relevant personnel of Newmont (45 employees including executives, managers and staff members at the corporate, regional and site level);
2. Interviews with selected external stakeholders of Newmont (9 external stakeholders);
3. Review of internal and external documentary evidence produced by Newmont;

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<sup>1</sup> Published by AccountAbility: The Institute of Social and Ethical Accountability

4. Audit of performance data presented in the Report including a detailed review of a sample of data;
5. Site visit to the Twin Creeks mine site located near Winnemucca, Nevada.
6. Visit to Newmont's regional business unit office in Elko, Nevada.
7. Visit to Newmont headquarters office located in Denver, Colorado; and
8. Review of Newmont data and information systems for collection, aggregation, analysis and internal verification and review.

The work was planned and carried out to provide a high level of assurance and we believe it provides a sound basis for our conclusions.

## **Our findings**

On the basis of our methodology and the activities described above, it is our opinion that:

- The information and data included in the Report are accurate, reliable and free from significant error, material mistakes or misstatements.
- The Report provides a fair representation of Newmont's activities over the reporting period.
- The information is presented in a clear and understandable manner, and allows readers to form a balanced opinion regarding Newmont's performance and position during the 2014 reporting period.
- The Report presents information that adequately demonstrates alignment with the ICMM Sustainable Development Framework, including the 10 Sustainable Development principles and the applicable mandatory requirements set out in the ICMM position statements.
- The Report adequately reflects the organization's alignment to, and implementation of the AA1000AS (2008) principles of Inclusivity, Materiality and Responsiveness in its operations (further detail is provided below).
- The Report has been prepared in accordance with the Final Mining and Metals Sector Supplement version of the GRI G3 Guidelines (March 2010) and includes appropriate consideration of the profile disclosures, management approach disclosures and performance indicators to meet the requirements of GRI Application Level A+.
- Newmont has established appropriate systems for the collection, aggregation and analysis of relevant information, and has implemented underlying internal assurance practices that provide a reasonable degree of confidence that such information is complete and accurate.
- Newmont has processes in place for consulting and engaging with its key stakeholders in a structured and systematic manner.
- Newmont's executive management supports the development of processes for the embedding of sustainable management concepts and practices in the company.

## **Adherence to the principles of AA1000AS**

As required by the AA1000AS (2008) standard, outlined below are our observations relating to Newmont's adherence to the principles of inclusivity, materiality and responsiveness.

### **Inclusivity**

Newmont's Sustainability and Stakeholder Engagement Policy, updated in 2014, outlines the company's commitments regarding communities, stakeholders and external engagement. Newmont's global Stakeholder Relationship Management Standard, also updated in 2014, provides the minimum requirements to identify and engage with groups and individuals who may be impacted by company activities. Bureau Veritas observed the implementation of external stakeholder engagement in the community near the Twin Creeks mine during our site

visit to the area. Newmont's approach to stakeholder engagement is described in the Stakeholder Engagement and Community Relationships sections of the Report.

### **Materiality**

Newmont commissioned a materiality assessment during 2013 that included identifying issues of importance for external stakeholders and internal Newmont representatives. The materiality assessment findings are described in the section of The Report entitled "Our Approach to Sustainability." The Report is organized to align with the top issues defined in the materiality assessment.

### **Responsiveness**

Newmont has developed minimum requirements and systems to respond to stakeholder issues such as grievances and complaints. For example, the Stakeholder Relationship Management Standard requires sites to maintain a commitment register and a complaints and grievances register and to monitor the status on a regular basis. The Report includes metrics related to responsiveness, including a summary of the number of complaints and grievances by region and the percent resolved within 30 days.

### **Alignment with ICMM Sustainable Development Requirements**

Newmont has demonstrated that it is implementing the five ICMM Subject Matters in their business and has reported on these areas as described below.

*Subject Matter 1. The alignment of Newmont's sustainability policies and procedures to ICMM's 10 Sustainable Development (SD) Principles and any mandatory requirements set out in ICMM position statements.*

Newmont has committed to implementing ICMM's 10 principles for sustainable development (SD). Evidence of the company's commitment to implementing the 10 SD principles and the mandatory requirements of position statements were observed during Bureau Veritas' assurance process.

*Subject Matter 2. Newmont's material sustainable development risks and opportunities based on its own review of the business and the views and expectations of its stakeholders.*

As discussed under the principles of the AA1000AS above, material risks and opportunities have been identified through both internal assessments and consideration of stakeholder expectations. A formal materiality assessment was completed during 2013. Additionally, the company has a robust risk assessment process.

*Subject Matter 3. The existence and status of implementation of systems that Newmont is using to manage the identified material sustainable development risks and opportunities.*

The Report includes a description of the company's sustainability framework that is designed to manage the identified material SD risks and opportunities. Additionally, the company has developed global strategies to improve performance in the areas of water, climate and human rights. Concurrent reclamation continues to be a priority as observed during the site visit to Twin Creeks mine site..

*Subject Matter 4. Newmont's performance during the given reporting period for the identified material sustainable development risks and opportunities.*

The company's performance in areas of material risks and opportunities pertaining to ethics and governance; economic and social development; environmental stewardship, health and safety; the workplace and workforce rights are described in the Report. The narrative is supported by detailed metrics and illustrative case studies.

*Subject Matter 5. Newmont's self-declared application level of the G3 Guidelines.*

Newmont has responded to the GRI G3 reporting requirements for a Level A+ rating and also has addressed indicators included in the final version of the Metals and Mining Sector

Supplement (March 2010). The Report's GRI Index indicates how each indicator is addressed and references the section of the report with relevant information.

### **Key Observations and Recommendations for 2015**

- Newmont showed continued improvement in safety performance. This is evident both through improvement in lagging indicators (e.g., injury and illness rates) as well as leading indicators such as safety interactions. Management commitment to a safe workplace is evidenced by the continuing implementation of the Vital Behaviors program as well as the introduction of the Safety Leadership Coaching program.
- Newmont's commitment to continuous improvement in environmental performance and community relations is evident from capital investments made to improve air quality control.
- Newmont's updated sustainability and external relations standards are designed to provide consistency across sites and clearly establish minimum requirements in each area. Evidence of the implementation included gap assessments against the standards conducted by most of the regions and action plans developed to close identified gaps.
- Systems for collecting and compiling data for the Report have improved during recent years to allow for less manual handling of data. Continued development of written documentation of the data collection systems will assist with ensuring consistent data management in the future.
- Performance data are currently collected annually for the Report. Some types of data are logically collected throughout the year and consolidated annually, such as environmental compliance data that will be submitted annually to regulatory agencies. However, other key performance indicators should be collected and reviewed more frequently to allow for observation of trends and identify areas for improvement throughout the year.
- The Report has evolved to become more concise and focused on material issues. Additionally, the reporting process has become more streamlined and documentation to substantiate claims in the report has become more readily available.

### **Statement of independence, impartiality and competence**

Bureau Veritas is an independent professional services company that specializes in Quality, Health, Safety, Social and Environmental management with over 180 years history in providing independent assurance services, and an annual 2014 revenue of 4.2 Billion Euros.

No member of the assurance team has a business relationship with Newmont, its Directors or Managers beyond that of verification and assurance of sustainability data and reporting. We have conducted this verification independently and we believe there to have been no conflict of interest. Bureau Veritas has implemented a Code of Ethics across the business to maintain high ethical standards among staff in their day-to-day business activities.

The assurance team has extensive experience in conducting assurance over environmental, social, ethical and health and safety information, systems and processes, has over 20 years combined experience in this field and an excellent understanding of Bureau Veritas standard methodology for the Assurance of Sustainability Reports.



**Bureau Veritas North America, Inc.**

**Denver, Colorado**

**April 2, 2015**

