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## **NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

- PROJECT NAME:** Heraeus Precious Metals North America LLC  
Proposed Rhodium Purification Line Project
- SUBJECT:** Notice of Intent to Adopt a Negative Declaration –  
Environmental Review (California Environmental Quality Act, CEQA)
- LEAD AGENCY:** City of Santa Fe Springs  
Planning and Development Department  
11710 Telegraph Road  
Santa Fe Springs, California 90670
- APPLICANT:** Mr. Peter Eckert, Heraeus Precious Metals North America LLC
- CITY/COUNTY:** Santa Fe Springs, Los Angeles County
- LOCATION:** 15611 Resin Place, Santa Fe Springs, California 90670, Assessor's Parcel  
Number (APN 7005-014-070)
- DESCRIPTION:** This Initial Study evaluates the environmental impacts associated with the construction and subsequent operation of a Rhodium Purification Process Line at Heraeus Precious Metals North America LLC. The process line will be installed within an existing building, 15611 Resin Place. The proposed Project would install three 750-gallon closed reactors with condensers; electrolytic cells for rhodium sponge production; an electrically heated hydrogen furnace for drying and reducing the rhodium sponge; a small grinder to refine the grain size of the rhodium sponge, and various tanks to support the operations. Two scrubbers will be installed outside of and immediately adjacent to the building to control emissions from the new process line, including a nitrogen oxides scrubber and a hydrochloric acid scrubber. The proposed Project will require the transport, storage, and use of a variety of hazardous chemicals, including hydrochloric acid, nitric acid, sodium hydroxide, sodium chlorate, and hydrogen. The proposed Project will increase water consumption at the facility by approximately 8.7 million gallons per year. The Project will create 12 new jobs. It should be noted that a rhodium purification line was

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operated at the same facility using a different chemical technology until recently.

Discretionary approvals required as part of the proposed Project's implementation include the following:

- Amendment of Conditional Use Permit (ACUP Case No. 497) to allow the operation and maintenance of a rhodium purification use in conjunction with an existing precious metals reclamation and product manufacturing use; and
- Approval of the Initial Study/Negative Declaration

Other permits that will also be required include the following:

- SCAQMD permit for the construction and operation of the new process reactors and scrubbers;
- DTSC permit for the new wastewater storage lift station tank;
- Building permits for the new process reactors and scrubbers; and
- Approvals from the City of Santa Fe Springs Fire Department for hazardous materials storage and use.

**FINDINGS:**

The environmental analysis provided in the attached Initial Study indicates that the proposed project will not result in any significant adverse impacts to the environment. For this reason, the City of Santa Fe Springs determined that a Negative Declaration is the appropriate CEQA document for the proposed project. The following findings may be made based on the analysis contained in the attached Initial Study:

- The proposed project will not have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment.
- The proposed project will not have the potential to achieve short-term goals to the disadvantage of long-term environmental goals.
- The proposed project will not have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable, when considering planned or proposed development in the City.
- The proposed project will not have environmental effects that will adversely affect humans, either directly or indirectly.

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The environmental analysis is provided in the attached Initial Study prepared for the proposed Project. The proposed Project is also described in greater detail in the attached Initial Study.

**REVIEW:**

The Initial Study and Negative Declaration will be available for public review at the following locations:

Planning and Development Department (Planning Counter)  
11710 Telegraph Road  
Santa Fe Springs, California 90670

A copy of the IS/ND can also be found online at: [www.santafesprings.org/cityhall/planning/planning/environmental\\_documents.asp](http://www.santafesprings.org/cityhall/planning/planning/environmental_documents.asp). Please send your comments to the attention of Vince Velasco, Associate Planner, City of Santa Fe Springs, Planning and Development Department, 11710 Telegraph Road, Santa Fe Springs, California 90670. Mr. Velasco's contact number with the City is (562) 868-0511. The project is tentatively scheduled to be considered by the Planning Commission at the regularly scheduled meeting on October 11, 2021, at 6:00 pm in the City Council Chambers.



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Vince Velasco, Associate Planner

09/13/2021

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Date: September 13, 2021

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