Independence Mining Co. Chooses GeoLink For Major EIS Study

GeoResearch, Inc., has signed a major contract with one of the largest gold mines in the United States. The contract includes both technical support and purchase of a GeoLink Mapping System in order to produce a complex Environmental Impact Statement for a proposed mine expansion.

Independence Mining Co. Inc., located in northeastern Nevada, produces about 370,000 ounces of gold a year. Employing 700 people, the mine has disturbed about 3,000 acres since it was established in 1980. Additional ore bodies have been discovered on 2,000 acres of land to provide the required Environmental Impact Statement for the government, Independence Mining turned to GeoResearch.

"The project we are doing with the GeoLink System is a state-of-the-art development for mining in the U.S.,” said John Bokich, manager, Environmental Resources for the mine. “We are doing a Cumulative Effects Analysis (CEA) on the projected impact of the expansion. Basically, it quantifies ecological and other mine information and puts it all into a GIS (Geological Information System). It's cutting edge for our industry."

In the past, similar studies were done manually, with crude field studies manually digitized and then separately put into a GIS. Independence Mining Co. developed the current study with the Forest Service and Nevada Department of Wildlife. The GeoLink System allows them to accurately define the boundaries of different land resource areas and overlay the mine’s proposed disturbance on these. Individual and cumulative impact can then be quantified.

"For this complex operation, GeoLink is a very good system for us,” said Bokich. “It’s very time effective; an individual can go to the field, walk the boundaries of the site and plot everything directly onto the topo maps. It short-circuits the time frame and gives us greatly enhanced accuracy.” Contact: