

NEWS RELEASE

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**PUBLIC SAFETY IN HISTORIC MINING DISTRICT  
SUBJECT OF OPEN HOUSE**

**State Abandoned Mine Program Seeks Public Input on Sealing Old Mines**

(Salt Lake City) – The Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining’s Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program is seeking public input on the sealing of old mines near the town of Gold Hill. Gold Hill is approximately 40 miles south of Wendover, Utah. An open house will be held from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 23, 2006, in the West Wendover Library, 590 Camper Road, West Wendover, Nevada. The Gold Hill Project will seal about 200 hardrock mines in a 14-square mile area.

“Gold Hill is a historic mining area with initial ore discoveries in the 1850s and several successive booms in the 1870s, 1890s and during two world wars,” notes Chris Rohrer, project manager for the division. “There are several historic structures including an abandoned mercantile building in the town and our intention is to enhance public safety while maintaining the area’s historic character.”

Gold Hill is a popular location for history buffs, as well as rock hounds who collect mineral specimens. The Lincoln Highway passes through the project area and the town, and the Pony Express trail runs a few miles to the south. “While there are some who feel abandoned mines present an opportunity for adventure, abandoned mines are in fact very dangerous,” said Rohrer. “This project will help protect the unwary from a tragedy.”

The mines will be closed using one of several methods from simple backfilling, using surrounding earth to fill the hole, to installation of bat gates that prevent people from entering but allow bats to keep using the mine as habitat. Another method includes solid brick walls to prevent entry. The project is not scheduled to begin until the summer or fall of 2007. Additional information about abandoned mines can be found online at [www.ogm.utah.gov](http://www.ogm.utah.gov).

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