

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CONTACT: Scott Fullerton**

**(775) 753-8761**

**sfullerton@oe3.org**

### **Miners' Rights Expo scheduled as concerns grow about Newmont/Barrick merger**

Elko, Nev. – Following the merger between Newmont Mining Corp. and Barrick Gold Corp. into Nevada Gold Mines (NGM), aggressive steps have been taken to reduce labor costs, from cashing out retirement plans and changing job classifications to opposing workplace safety requirements and increasing out-of-pocket costs for benefits. Union representatives believe mine owners are positioning NGM for a future without collective bargaining. As a result, mine workers are experiencing fear and uncertainty about their future and that of the union wages, benefits and protections they and the local economy have relied on since 1965.

“Newmont has continuously refused to meet and confer with the union over the effects of the corporate change from Newmont to NGM,” according to a recent statement released by Operating Engineers Local 3 (OE3), which represents approximately 1,300 employees at the mines. “On Dec. 3, 2019, the union sent Newmont and NGM a demand to bargain and a request for approximately 19 items of information. To this date, neither company has responded to a single item.”

OE3 filed an Unfair Labor Practice (ULP) charge with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) in December for NGM’s failure to recognize the union, provide information to union representatives and to bargain over the effects of the transition and the terms and conditions of employment.

“Local 3 has represented Newmont workers for the last 50 years, and we are doing all in our power to make sure these workers continue to enjoy the benefits of that representation,” said OE3 President Steve Ingersoll.

Part of that effort includes an upcoming Miners’ Rights Expo being held at the Elko Convention Center, where representatives from OE3 are inviting all mine workers to come and ask questions about the negative changes many of them have experienced, and learn what they can do about it.

“Newmont and Barrick want to present themselves as good employers, but the truth is that collective bargaining rights and an enforceable union contract is the only thing that has kept these companies mindful of workplace safety and responsive to the needs of workers,” said OE3 Director of Organizing Bruce Noel. “If miners don’t know their rights, they risk losing the ability to hold their employer accountable. We only need to look at how these companies treat unorganized workers elsewhere in the world to see what that can lead to.”

**The upcoming Miners’ Rights Expo is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 7. Doors open at 7 a.m. for the free event. To accommodate various work shifts and family needs, the expo will continue throughout the day and include food and raffle prizes. For further information, contact OE3 at (775) 753-8761 or visit the union Hall at 555 West Silver St., Ste. 104 in Elko.**