

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

Susana Martinez
Governor

David Martin
Cabinet Secretary-Designate

Brett F. Woods, Ph.D.
Deputy Cabinet Secretary

Fernando Martinez, Director
Mining and Minerals Division



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CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

December 8, 2014

Mr. Eric Jantz, Esquire
New Mexico Environmental Law Center
1405 Luisa St. Suite 5
Santa Fe, NM 87505

**RE: Request for Public Hearing, Application for Renewal of Standby, Revision 14-1,
Mount Taylor Mine, Rio Grande Resources Corporation, Permit No. CI002RE**

Dear Mr. Jantz:

The New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division ("MMD") received your letter, dated November 4, 2014, requesting a public hearing for the application for Revision 14-1 to Permit No. CI002RE, for the Mount Taylor Mine, operated by Rio Grande Resources, located in Cibola County, New Mexico.

We received your letter requesting a public hearing for Revision 14-1 on November 4, 2014. According to our records, the newspaper publication of the standby renewal application for the Mt. Taylor Mine was published in the Gallup Independent and the Cibola Beacon newspapers on October 3, 2014. Pursuant to 19.10.9.904.A NMAC, requests for a public hearing must be made within 30 days of the date of newspaper publication of the notice of application. MMD received your letter requesting a public hearing 32 days after October 3, 2014. Therefore, we have determined your request for public hearing is not timely.

However, pursuant to 19.10.9.904.A NMAC the Director is authorized to hold a public hearing absent a request, which the Director has determined to do in this case. A date for the public hearing has not yet been set. MMD will advertise the date, time and location of the public hearing pursuant to 19.10.9.904.B NMAC.

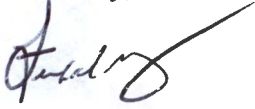
We thank you for the comments in your letter. Written comments may be submitted up to the close of the hearing record, and you are welcome to submit further detail regarding your concerns. Please contact me at 505-476-3435, or David Ohori, of my staff, at 505-476-3432, with any questions.

RE: Request for Public Hearing, Application for Renewal of Standby, Revision 14-1, Mount Taylor Mine, Rio Grande Resources Corporation, Permit No. CI002RE

December 8, 2014

Page 2

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fernando Martinez", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Fernando Martinez, Director
Mining and Minerals Division

cc: Holland Shepherd, Program Manager, Mining Act Reclamation Program ("MARF")
Mark Smith, Assistant General Counsel, EMNRD
David Ogori, Permit Lead, MARF
Joe Lister, Mine Manager, Mt. Taylor Mine
John Hall, Mining Act Team Leader, NMED GWQB
Mine File (CI002RE)