



Gila Resources Information Project

Promoting Healthy Communities by Protecting Our Environment Since 1998

February 18, 2013

Mr. David Otori, Permit Lead
Mining Act Reclamation Program (MARP)
Mining and Minerals Division/EMNRD
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Re: Comments on Notice of Inspection, Application for Financial Assurance Release, Modification 12-2, Permit No. GR009RE, Chino Mine, Modification 12-3 Permit No. GR010RE, Tyrone Mine

Dear Mr. Otori:

Thank you for including the Gila Resources Information Project (GRIP), as represented by myself and two of our members, on the January 31st, 2013 inspection tour of Tyrone and Chino Mines. We feel it is important for local citizens to understand the importance, the magnitude and complexity of the reclamation being implemented at local mines. We appreciate the opportunity to see first-hand the latest work being done at Tyrone and Chino.

We applaud Freeport-McMoRan in its efforts to continue to experiment and be innovative with its reclamation activities. However, GRIP is concerned with revegetation at Tyrone in the areas viewed on the recent tour, as vegetative growth is extremely sparse in some of the reclamation areas at Tyrone and especially at the test plots. We realize that revegetation is not part of the financial assurance release at this time, however we urge MMD to continue to closely monitor the use of Little Rock and Copper Mountain leach cap that appears to be too inert to support adequate vegetation. GRIP is interested in receiving Freeport-McMoRan reports on the Tyrone test plots and any MMD comments in response to these reports.

Chino vegetation seems more successful in general than Tyrone. GRIP's concern at Chino is that the few habitat structures available, while, according to NMG&F are built adequately, are too few for wildlife protection and habitat given the amount of reclaimed acreage.

GRIP is pleased that the entirety of the FA release will be taken off the 3rd party guarantee. We believe that this is appropriate and affords more financial protection for the state of New Mexico should Freeport-McMoRan be unable to fulfill its reclamation responsibilities.

I thank you for consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sally Smith".

Sally Smith
Director of Responsible Mining