

Freeport-McMoRan Chino Mines Company P.O. Box 10 Bayard, NM 88023 RECEIVED

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MINING & MINERALS DIVISION

April 1, 2016

## Certified Mail #70150640000636728838 Return Receipt Requested

Mr. Chris Eustice
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department
Mining and Minerals Division
Mining Act Reclamation Program
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Dear Mr. Eustice:

Re:

Freeport-McMoRan Chino Mines Company –

Modification Request to Permit No. GR009RE, Reservoir 5 Reclamation Schedule

Freeport-McMoRan Chino Mines Company (Chino) is requesting to modify Table 1. of Section 8.P of Permit No. GR009RE to change the anticipated Reservoir 5 reclamation schedule start date. Chino previously requested in a letter dated July 2, 2010 that the anticipated Reservoir 5 reclamation schedule start date be moved forward. At that time Chino believed that the Reservoir 5 site was no longer required for mine operations, but that is not the case. The Chino reclamation schedule for the Mining and Minerals Divisions Permit No. GR009RE anticipated the Reservoir 5 reclamation work to start two years following completion of Lake One reclamation.

Lake One reclamation was completed in August 2014, requiring reclamation of Reservoir 5 to start by August 2016. However, Chino continues to use this facility as part of the mine storm water management system. This area will be increasingly relied upon as the mine expands and closes other reservoirs. Chino is working with the New Mexico Environment Department to develop an enhanced surface water management plan for continued use of this facility. Also, Chino has submitted to the Environment Department an application dated November 24, 2015 for the continued use of Reservoir 5. Chino requests to change the anticipated Reservoir 5 closeout reclamation permit schedule to begin five years following the cessation of leaching operations. Chino does not propose to change the duration for reclaiming this facility. Reclamation is anticipated to be completed in two years. Chino may again change the anticipated reclamation schedule upon submission of the Updated Site Wide Closure Closeout plan.

A check in the amount of \$1,000 is attached for processing this permit modification request. At your convenience, please contact Ms. Lynn Lande at (575) 912-5235 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Lynn A. Lande, Chief Environmental Engineer

**Reclamation Services** 

Lynn a. Lande

LAL: rlm 20160401-001 Enclosures

c: Brad Reid - Ground Water Quality Bureau, NMED

