

State of New Mexico  
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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**Susana Martinez**  
Governor

**David Martin**  
Cabinet Secretary

**Tony Delfin**  
Deputy Cabinet Secretary

**Fernando Martinez, Director**  
Mining and Minerals Division



April 29, 2016

Mr. Jeff Lewellin  
NMED Ground Water Quality Bureau  
P.O. Box 5469  
Santa Fe, NM 87502-5469

**Re: Request for NMED Comments on Modification 16-4, Freeport-McMoRan Chino Mines Company, Chino Mine, Grant County, Permit No. GR009RE**

Dear Mr. Lewellin,

On April 25, 2016, the Mining and Minerals Division ("MMD") of the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department received a permit application ("Application") from Freeport-McMoRan Chino Mines Company ("FMI") requesting to change two aspects of Chino's financial assurance for closeout of the Chino Mine. Specifically, FMI requests to increase the amount of the Trust by \$10MM and decrease the amount obligated by Freeport-McMoRan Inc.'s third party guarantee by \$10MM. MMD is processing the Application as Permit Modification 16-4 to Permit No. GR009RE.

In accordance with §19.10.5.505.B(3), MMD requests that your agency review the Application and provide comments on the Application within 14-days after the receipt of this letter. A copy of the Application may be downloaded from MMD's website at <http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/MMD/MARP/GR009RE.html>

If you have any questions, please contact me at (505) 476-3434 or by email at [david.ennis@state.nm.us](mailto:david.ennis@state.nm.us).

Sincerely,

David J. (DJ) Ennis, P.G., Permit Lead  
Mining Act Reclamation Program (MARP)

cc: Holland Shepherd, Program Manager, MARP  
Mine File (GR009RE)