



Herman G. Honanie
CHAIRMAN

Alfred Lomahquahu Jr.
VICE-CHAIRMAN



July 5, 2017

Fernando Martinez, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
Attention: David, J. Ennis
New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Dear Mr. Martinez,

This letter is in response to your correspondence dated July 27, 2017, regarding a request by Mesa Verde Resources: Modification 17-1 to expand the permit area on Bureau of Land Management land in McKinley County for the Pueblo Alto Mine, Permit No. MK008ME.

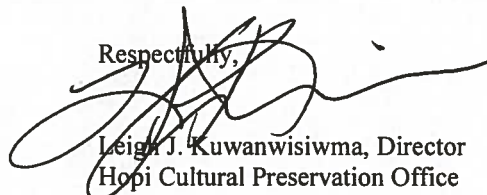
The Hopi Tribe claims cultural affiliation to prehistoric cultural groups in New Mexico. The Hopi Cultural Preservation Office supports identification and avoidance of prehistoric archaeological sites and Traditional Cultural Properties, and we consider the archaeological sites that are habitations of our ancestors to be "footprints" and Hopi Traditional Cultural Properties. Therefore, we appreciate your solicitation of our input and your efforts to address our concerns.

As you may know, the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office usually responds to a correspondence like this by requesting a copy of the cultural resources survey of the area of potential effect, and if prehistoric cultural resources are identified that will be adversely affected by the proposal, a copy of the proposed treatment plan, for review and comment. In the enclosed letters dated October 18, 2010 and December 29, 2010, we responded to correspondences from the New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division regarding the Pueblo Alto Mine.

We understand the requested expanded permit area in at the Pueblo Alto Mine is and 80 acres and minimal impact mining means disturbance will not exceed a total of 40 acres at any given time. Therefore, we continue to question how requests exceeding minimal impact new mining limits continue to be permitted under the New Mexico Mining Act.

To enable us to determine if this proposal may affect cultural resources significant to the Hopi Tribe, please provide us with a copy of the cultural resources survey of the area of potential effect for review and comment. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Terry Morgart at tmorgart@hopi.nsn.us. Thank you for your consideration.

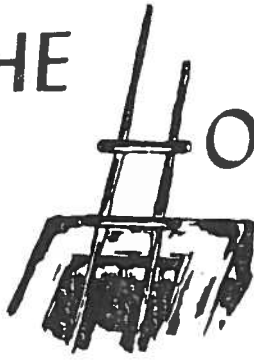
Respectfully,



Leigh J. Kuwanwisiwma, Director
Hopi Cultural Preservation Office

Enclosures: October 18 and December 29, 2010 letters
xc: BLM, Farmington Field Office
New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office

THE HOPI TRIBE



LeRoy N. Shingoitewa
CHAIRMAN

Herman G. Honanie
VICE-CHAIRMAN

December 29, 2010

Charles Thomas, Acting Director, Mining and Minerals Division
New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Dear Mr. Thomas,

This letter is in response to your two correspondences dated December 16, 2010, regarding requests by Mesa Verde Resources: Modification 10-3 to Redefine Permit Area, Pueblo Alto Mine, Permit No. MK008ME, and Modification 10-2 to Redefine Permit Area, Mesa Verde Star Lake Mine, Permit No. MK007ME. The Hopi Tribe claims cultural affiliation to prehistoric cultural groups in New Mexico. The Hopi Cultural Preservation Office supports identification and avoidance of prehistoric archaeological sites and Traditional Cultural Properties, and we consider the archaeological sites that are habitations of our ancestors to be "footprints" and Hopi Traditional Cultural Properties. Therefore, we appreciate your solicitation of our input and your efforts to address our concerns.

The Hopi Cultural Preservation Office usually responds to correspondences like these by requesting copies of the cultural resources surveys of the areas of potential effect, and if prehistoric cultural resources are identified that will be adversely affected by the proposal, a copy of the proposed treatment plan, for review and comment.

However, we understand the requested permit areas in these correspondences are 177 acres at the Pueblo Alto Mine and 244 acres at the Mesa Verde Star Lake Mine. We also understand the operator is only allowed under the New Mexico Mining Act "minimal impact existing mining" to create up to 10 acres of disturbance at any time. Therefore, we conclude that these requests are not allowed under the New Mexico Mining Act, and therefore we expect the Mining and Minerals Division to deny them.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Terry Morgart at tmorgart@hopi.nsn.us. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Leigh J. Kuwanwisiwma", written over a circular stamp or seal. The signature is fluid and cursive, extending to the right with a long horizontal stroke.

Leigh J. Kuwanwisiwma, Director
Hopi Cultural Preservation Office

xc: New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office



LeRoy N. Shingoitewa
CHAIRMAN

Herman G. Honanie
VICE-CHAIRMAN

October 18, 2010

Bill Brancard, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

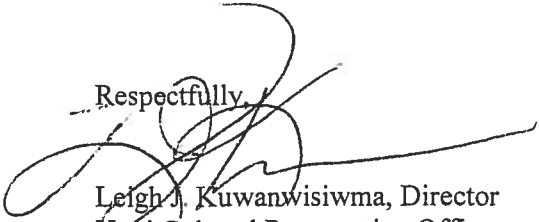
Dear Mr. Brancard,

This letter is in response to your correspondence dated October 6, 2010, regarding a Modification of Permit and Redefinition of Permit Boundary, Pueblo Alto Mine, McKinley County, Permit No. MK008ME. The Hopi Tribe claims cultural affiliation to prehistoric cultural groups in New Mexico. The Hopi Cultural Preservation Office supports identification and avoidance of prehistoric archaeological sites and Traditional Cultural Properties, and we consider the archaeological sites that are "footprints" of our ancestors to be Hopi Traditional Cultural Properties. Therefore, we appreciate your solicitation of our input and your efforts to address our concerns.

And therefore, if any National Register eligible prehistoric sites are identified by a cultural resources survey of the additional 10 acres that will be disturbed to extract humate, and if any of those sites will be adversely affected by project activities, please provide us with copies of the survey report and any proposed draft treatment plan for review and comment. In addition, we recommend that if any cultural features or deposits are encountered during project activities, these activities must be discontinued in the immediate area of the remains, and the State Historic Preservation Office must be consulted to evaluate their nature and significance. If any Native American human remains or funerary objects are discovered during construction they shall be immediately reported as required by law.

We note that this is the third 10 acre area disturbed by this mining operation, and that Mesa Verde Resources' enclosed letter states, "please find our Mine Plan for the next 10 acres to be disturbed under the subject permit." Therefore, we wonder how many times ten acres at a time can be disturbed under the Minimal Impact Existing Mining Operation regulations. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Terry Morgart at tmorgart@hopi.nsn.us. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Leigh J. Kuwanwisiwma, Director
Hopi Cultural Preservation Office

xc: New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office



White Mountain Apache Tribe

Office of Historic Preservation

PO Box 1032

Fort Apache, AZ 85926

Ph: (928) 338-3033 Fax: (928) 338-6055

To: Fernando Martinez, Director Mining and Minerals Division

Date: July 13, 2017

Re: Existing Mining Operations Modifications 17-1 – Pueblo Alto Mine – Permit No. MK008ME
Existing Mining Operations Modifications 17-1 – Star Lake Mine – Permit No. MK007ME

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The White Mountain Apache Tribe Historic Preservation Office appreciates receiving information on the proposed project, dated June 27, 2017. In regards to this, please attend to the following checked items below.

Please refer to the additional notes in regards to the proposed project:

Thank you for allowing the White Mountain Apache tribe the opportunity to review and respond to the above proposed expansion of the two existing mines, located on private lands, McKinley County, New Mexico, and we have determined the proposed project **will not have an impact** on the White Mountain Apache tribe's historic properties and/or traditional cultural properties.

Regardless, any/all ground disturbing activities should be monitored **"if"** there are reasons to believe that there are human remains and/or funerary objects present, and if such remains are encountered they shall be treated with respect and handled accordingly until such remains are repatriated to the affiliated tribe(s).

Thank you. We look forward to continued collaborations in the protection and preservation of places of cultural and historical importance.

Sincerely,

Mark T. Altaha

White Mountain Apache Tribe - THPO