



Gila Resources Information Project

Promoting Healthy Communities by Protecting Our Environment Since 1998

March 27, 2018

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

Via e-mail: Fernando.martinez@state.nm.us

RE: Request for Public Hearing Revision 18-1 to Closeout Plan for Permit GR009RE

Dear Mr. Martinez

Per the public notice for the revised application for Revision 18-1 to Closeout Plan Permit No. GR009RE Chino Mine, the Gila Resources Information Project requests a public hearing on the Chino Mines Closeout Plan Update.

Revision of the Chino Closure/Closeout Plan (CCP) is a significant action and warrants a public hearing given the potential for surface and groundwater contamination, impacts to wildlife, and the environment at closure. Renewal of this permit has been delayed for ten years and our community wants to see an updated CCP, permit and adequate financial assurance put in place to ensure that the Chino mine is sufficiently cleaned up and reclaimed.

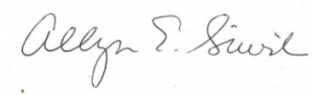
GRIP remains very concerned about post-closure water treatment and financial assurance. As you know, GRIP settled its appeal of DP-1340 with Chino Mines in 2008. In return for dropping our legal appeal, Chino committed to pumping and treating mining-impacted water rather than using clean groundwater to dilute mine effluent to standards. Given the enormous quantity of water proposed for dilution on an annual basis – three times the amount of water that Silver City uses every year – the community has a very strong interest in ensuring that adequate water treatment is included in the CCP, along with an appropriate amount of financial assurance to cover water treatment and other reclamation requirements.

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Thank you for your consideration of our request for a public hearing.

We look forward to working with you and your staff as this permit revision application moves forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Allyson Siwik". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Allyson Siwik
Executive Director

Cc: Jim Kuipers, Kuipers Associates
Holland Shepherd, Mining and Minerals Division
Kurt Vollbrecht, NMED/MECS