

State of New Mexico  
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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Michelle Lujan Grisham  
Governor

Sarah Cottrell Propst  
Cabinet Secretary

Todd Leahy, JD, PhD  
Deputy Cabinet Secretary

Fernando Martinez, Acting Director  
Mining and Minerals Division



March 28, 2019

Ms. Leighandra Keeven  
BLM Las Cruces  
1800 Marquess St.  
Las Cruces, NM 88005

**Re: Request for Agency Comments, Financial Assurance Cost Estimate for Site Wide Closure/Closeout Plan Update 2018, Revision 18-1, Chino Mine, Grant County, Permit No. GR009RE**

Dear Ms. Keeven,

On March 25, 2019, the Mining and Minerals Division ("MMD") of the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department received the Financial Assurance Cost Estimate for the 2018 Closure/Closeout Plan ("CCP") Update from Freeport-McMoRan Chino Mines Company ("FMI") for the Chino Mine ("Chino") located in Grant County, New Mexico. The Financial Assurance Cost Estimate is based on the conceptual reclamation design presented in the 2018 Updated CCP and is intended to meet the financial assurance requirements of Part 19.10.12 NMAC. The Financial Assurance Cost Estimate is being processed by MMD under Revision 18-1 to Permit Number GR009RE.

In accordance with §19.10.5.505.B(3) and §19.10.5.506.E NMAC, MMD requests that your agency review the Financial Assurance Cost Estimate and provide comments within 60-days after the receipt of this letter. A copy of the Financial Assurance Cost Estimate may be downloaded from MMD's website at [http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/MMD/MARP/GR009RE\\_Revision18-1.html](http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/MMD/MARP/GR009RE_Revision18-1.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: Mine File (GR009RE)