



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Las Cruces District Office
1800 Marquess Street
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88005
www.blm.gov/new-mexico



IN REPLY REFER TO:

3809 (L0310)
NMNM 136678

JUL 12 2019

Dear Interested Party,

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Las Cruces District Office (LCDO) invites you to participate in a public process to gather input regarding the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for a proposed magnesium/dolomite quarry mine application submitted by American Magnesium, LLC (AmMg). The BLM LCDO received a Plan of Operations (PoO) for the proposed mine located near Deming, in Luna County, New Mexico. This letter invites you to attend a public scoping meeting and initiates a 30-day external public scoping period for the Foothill Dolomite Mine Project and proposed PoO. The BLM will host an informational public meeting, with presentation, at the following date and location:

Date: Thursday, July 25, 2019
Time: 6:00-8:00 pm; (Presentation at 6:00 pm, followed by question and answer opportunity)
Location: Mimbres Valley Learning Center
2300 E. Pine St, Deming, NM 88030

Project Overview

AmMg submitted a PoO to the BLM LCDO to develop an approximately 40-acre site as a dolomite quarry mine on BLM-managed public lands 12 miles south of Deming in Luna County (see attached map). Dolomite is a form of the mineral magnesium, which has been identified as a critical mineral by Executive Order 13817, *Federal Strategy to Ensure Secure and Reliable Supplies of Critical Minerals* and is listed on the Department of Interior's Final List of Critical Minerals.

The Proposed Action consists of improvements to an existing BLM road, construction of a new mine site access road, development of construction laydown yard and temporary structures, resource verification drilling, and excavation and removal of dolomite resources. The anticipated total surface disturbance for the project would be approximately 30-acres total. Surface disturbance would occur in phases and would be subject to refinement based on the results of the resource verification drilling that would occur during the initial phase of mine development. Access road improvements include expanding, improving, and maintaining 2 miles of one existing BLM road and constructing and maintaining a 0.25-mile new road from the BLM road to the access the mine site. Public access would be restricted on the new 0.25-mile mine access road and within the proposed mine site.

The mining operations would involve the blasting and removal of the dolomite deposit over three phases, working from the highest elevation of each phase, until reaching the valley floor. Extracted ore would be transported to a manufacturing facility off-site using the access roads described above. No permanent structures would be needed to support the mining operation; only mobile facilities would be used for offices, portable toilets, and sanitation facilities. It is estimated that the mine would be operational for 20 years. Upon completion of mining, the mine would be a shallow bowl that would be open to the natural slope on the southwest side of the foothill. Reclamation of surface disturbance at closure would include removing culverts, recontouring and reseeding of the mine access road, seeding and mulching the floor of the mine, and stabilizing mine walls. Applicant-committed measures and the reclamation plan, included in AmMg's PoO, are part of the proposed project design.

The applicant-committed measures incorporate applicable best management practices and environmental protection measures, which are industry- or agency-recommended construction methods that are routinely or specifically implemented to minimize impacts to resources.

How to Comment

Public comments on this proposed project will be accepted until August 16, 2019. Comments can be submitted by one of the following methods:

- **Email:** File your comments electronically by sending them to: BLM_NM_LCDO_Comments@blm.gov. Please include "Foothill Dolomite Mine EA" in the subject line of your email.
- **Mail:** Send your comments to:

BLM Las Cruces District Office
ATTN: Foothill Dolomite Mine EA
1800 Marquess Street
Las Cruces, NM 88005
- **Public Meeting:** Written comments will be accepted at the public meeting, on designated comment forms which will be provided.

For all comments submitted, please identify whether you are submitting comments as an individual or as the designated spokesperson on behalf of an organization.

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold from public review your personal identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

If you have questions regarding the proposed project, or would like to be added or removed from the mailing list, contact Leighandra Keeven, Project Lead at (575) 525-4337 or via email at lkeeven@blm.gov. Thank you for your interest in the management of public land.

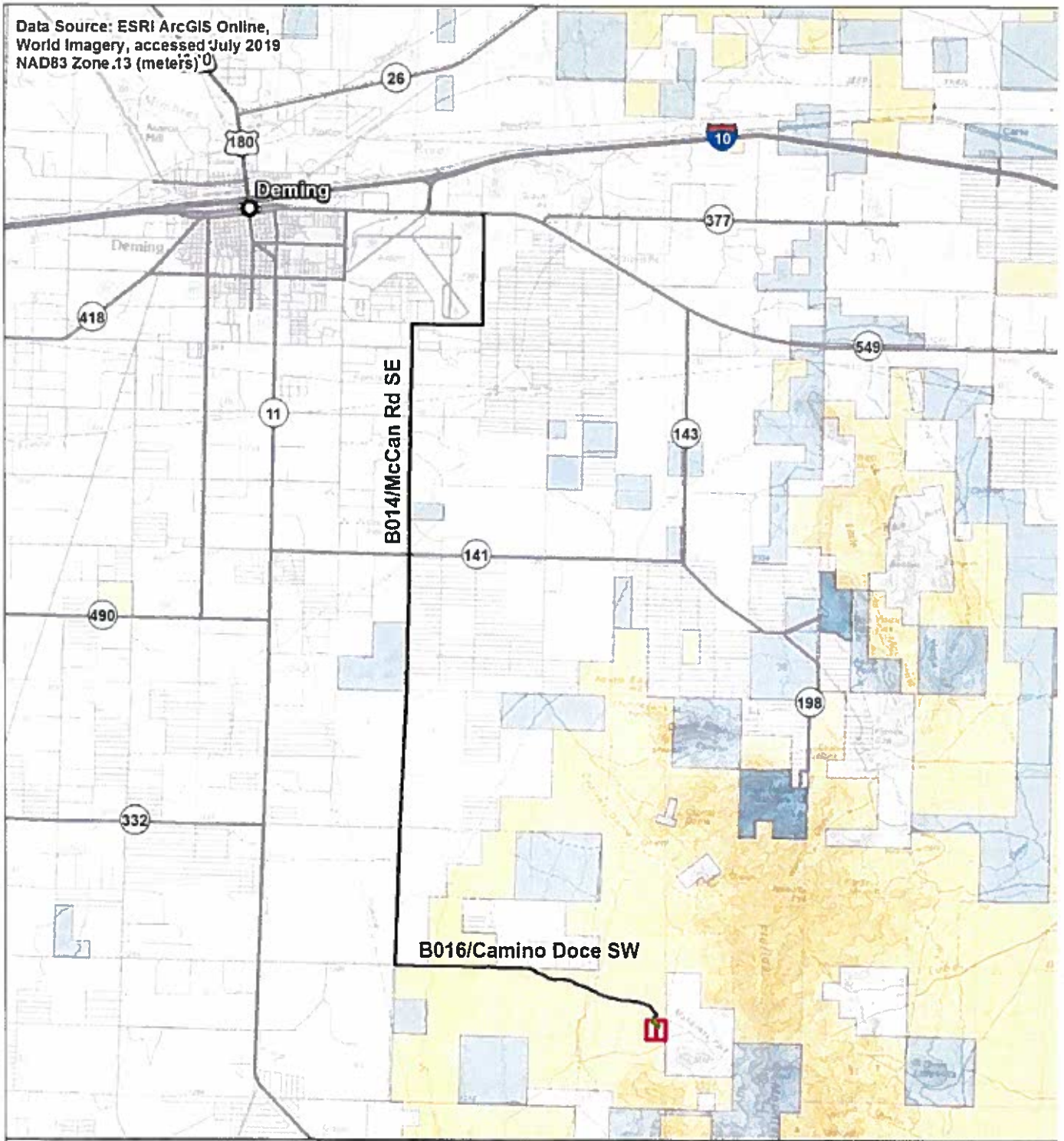
Sincerely,



Bill Childress
District Manager
Las Cruces District Office

Enclosure: Project Vicinity Map

Data Source: ESRI ArcGIS Online,
World Imagery, accessed July 2019
NAD83 Zone 13 (meters) 0



Project Area



N
1:150,000



Project No. 56309
File: 56309_Project Area
Map Created: 7/9/2019
Map Updated: 7/11/2019

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| ○ City/Town | Land Ownership |
| — Roadway | ■ BLM |
| — Proposed Access Road | ■ Private |
| — Project Area | ■ State |
| | ■ State Park |



New Mexico