Michelle Lujan Grisham Governor

Sarah Cottrell Propst Cabinet Secretary

Todd Leahy, JD, Ph.D. Deputy Cabinet Secretary Mike Tompson, Interim Director Mining and Minerals Division



November 27, 2019

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

RE: New Minimal Impact Exploration Permit Application, BHP Oak Grove Exploration Drilling, Grant County, New Mexico, Permit No. GR084EM

Dear Ms. Keeven,

On November 5, 2019, the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) received a permit application from BHP Mineral Resources Inc. for a new, minimal impact exploration permit in Grant County, New Mexico. Pursuant to 19.10.3.302.G NMAC, MMD is requesting comments from your agency regarding the application. The application received from the operator can be downloaded from MMD's website at http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/MMD/MARP/GR084EM.html.

In accordance with 19.10.3.302.G NMAC, your agency has 20 days from the date of receipt of this letter in which to provide comments. The Director will consider these comments in making the determination of eligibility for minimal impact status. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (505) 476-3436 or jennifere.johnson@state.nm.us. Alternatively, you may also contact Holland Shepherd, Program Manager, at (505) 476-3437.

Sincerely.

Jenn Johnson Permit Lead

Mining Act Reclamation Program (MARP)

cc: Holland Shepherd, MARP Program Manager

Michelle Lujan Grisham Governor

Sarah Cottrell Propst Cabinet Secretary

Todd Leahy, JD, Ph.D. Deputy Cabinet Secretary Mike Tompson, Interim Director Mining and Minerals Division



November 27, 2019

Mr. Rick Reycraft
Department of Cultural Affairs, Historic Preservation Division
407 Galisteo St., Suite 236
Santa Fe, NM 87501

RE: New Minimal Impact Exploration Permit Application, BHP Oak Grove Exploration Drilling, Grant County, New Mexico, Permit No. GR084EM

Dear Mr. Reycraft,

On November 5, 2019, the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) received a permit application from BHP Mineral Resources Inc. for a new, minimal impact exploration permit in Grant County, New Mexico. Pursuant to 19.10.3.302.G NMAC, MMD is requesting comments from your agency regarding the application. The application received from the operator can be downloaded from MMD's website at http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/MMD/MARP/GR084EM.html.

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Sincerely,

Jenn Johnson Permit Lead

Mining Act Reclamation Program (MARP)

cc: Holland Shepherd, MARP Program Manager

Michelle Lujan Grisham Governor

Sarah Cottrell Propst Cabinet Secretary

Todd Leahy, JD, Ph.D. Deputy Cabinet Secretary **Mike Tompson, Interim Director** Mining and Minerals Division



November 27, 2019

Dr. Matthew Wunder NM Department of Game and Fish P.O. Box 25112 Santa Fe, NM 87504

RE: New Minimal Impact Exploration Permit Application, BHP Oak Grove Exploration Drilling, Grant County, New Mexico, Permit No. GR084EM

Dear Dr. Wunder,

On November 5, 2019, the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) received a permit application from BHP Mineral Resources Inc. for a new, minimal impact exploration permit in Grant County, New Mexico. Pursuant to 19.10.3.302.G NMAC, MMD is requesting comments from your agency regarding the application. The application received from the operator can be downloaded from MMD's website at http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/MMD/MARP/GR084EM.html.

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Sincerely,

Jenn Johnson Permit Lead

Mining Act Reclamation Program (MARP)

cc: Holland Shepherd, MARP Program Manager

Michelle Lujan Grisham Governor

Sarah Cottrell Propst Cabinet Secretary

Todd Leahy, JD, Ph.D. Deputy Cabinet Secretary Mike Tompson, Interim Director Mining and Minerals Division



November 27, 2019

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

RE: New Minimal Impact Exploration Permit Application, BHP Oak Grove Exploration Drilling, Grant County, New Mexico, Permit No. GR084EM

Dear Mr. Lewellin,

On November 5, 2019, the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) received a permit application from BHP Mineral Resources Inc. for a new, minimal impact exploration permit in Grant County, New Mexico. Pursuant to 19.10.3.302.G NMAC, MMD is requesting comments from your agency regarding the application. The application received from the operator can be downloaded from MMD's website at http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/MMD/MARP/GR084EM.html.

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Sincerely,

Jenn Johnson Permit Lead

Mining Act Reclamation Program (MARP)

cc: Holland Shepherd, MARP Program Manager

Michelle Lujan Grisham Governor

Sarah Cottrell Propst Cabinet Secretary

Todd Leahy, JD, Ph.D. Deputy Cabinet Secretary Mike Tompson, Interim Director Mining and Minerals Division



November 27, 2019

Dr. Ghassan Musharrafieh Office of the State Engineer P.O. Box 25102 Santa Fe, NM 87504-5102

RE: New Minimal Impact Exploration Permit Application, BHP Oak Grove Exploration Drilling, Grant County, New Mexico, Permit No. GR084EM

Dear Dr. Musharrafieh,

On November 5, 2019, the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) received a permit application from BHP Mineral Resources Inc. for a new, minimal impact exploration permit in Grant County, New Mexico. Pursuant to 19.10.3.302.G NMAC, MMD is requesting comments from your agency regarding the application. The application received from the operator can be downloaded from MMD's website at http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/MMD/MARP/GR084EM.html.

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Sincerely.

Jenn Johnson Permit Lead

Mining Act Reclamation Program (MARP)

cc: Holland Shepherd, MARP Program Manager

Michelle Lujan Grisham Governor

Sarah Cottrell Propst Cabinet Secretary

Todd Leahy, JD, Ph.D. Deputy Cabinet Secretary Mike Tompson, Interim Director Mining and Minerals Division



November 27, 2019

Ms. Laura McCarthy NM State Forestry Division P.O. Box 1948 Santa Fe, NM 87504-1948

RE: New Minimal Impact Exploration Permit Application, BHP Oak Grove Exploration Drilling, Grant County, New Mexico, Permit No. GR084EM

Dear Ms. McCarthy,

On November 5, 2019, the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) received a permit application from BHP Mineral Resources Inc. for a new, minimal impact exploration permit in Grant County, New Mexico. Pursuant to 19.10.3.302.G NMAC, MMD is requesting comments from your agency regarding the application. The application received from the operator can be downloaded from MMD's website at http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/MMD/MARP/GR084EM.html.

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Jenn Johnson Permit Lead

Mining Act Reclamation Program (MARP)

cc: Holland Shepherd, MARP Program Manager

Michelle Lujan Grisham Governor

Sarah Cottrell Propst Cabinet Secretary

Todd Leahy, JD, Ph.D. Deputy Cabinet Secretary Mike Tompson, Interim Director Mining and Minerals Division



November 27, 2019

Chairman Timothy Nuvangyaoma Hopi Tribe P.O. Box 123 Kykotsmovi, AZ 86039

Re: Request for Comments on Minimal Impact Exploration Permit Application, BHP Oak Grove Exploration Drilling, Grant County, New Mexico, Permit No. GR084EM

Dear Chairman Nuvangyaoma,

The Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) of the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department has received an application from BHP Mineral Resources to conduct a minimal impact exploration project under 19.10.3 NMAC of the New Mexico Mining Act (NMSA 1978, §69-36-1 et seq.). The proposed project is located in Grant County and will involve 1 borehole with a depth of 5000 feet on Bureau of Land Management property and new road on Private Property. The applicant anticipates disturbing approximately 3.5 acres associated with the exploration activities.

Minimal Impact exploration means disturbance will not exceed a total of 5 acres and limits impact to the environment. Operations must be completed in one year and reclaimed within two years, unless the permit is renewed. A new application for renewal would be required to extend exploration or reclamation beyond one year or to initiate further mining activities. Please see the attached map of the project vicinity. The application can also be viewed in its entirety by visiting the MMD web site at http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/MMD/MARP/GR084EM.html.

A cultural resources inventory is included with this letter. Please provide comments to MMD within 20 days of receiving this letter. Please contact me at (505) 476-3427, or Jenn Johnson of my staff at (505) 476-3436 or jennifere.johnson@state.nm.us with any questions or if you wish to meet to discuss the application.

Sincerely,

Mike Tompson, Interim Director Mining and Minerals Division

Enclosure (Vicinity Map and Cultural Resources Inventory)

cc: Holland Shepherd, MARP Program Manager

Michelle Lujan Grisham Governor

Sarah Cottrell Propst Cabinet Secretary

Todd Leahy, JD, Ph.D. Deputy Cabinet Secretary Mike Tompson, Interim Director Mining and Minerals Division



November 27, 2019

President Arthur "Butch" Blazer Mescalero Apache Tribe P.O. Box 227 Mescalero, NM 88340

Re: Request for Comments on Minimal Impact Exploration Permit Application, BHP Oak Grove Exploration Drilling, Grant County, New Mexico, Permit No. GR084EM

Dear President Blazer.

The Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) of the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department has received an application from BHP Mineral Resources to conduct a minimal impact exploration project under 19.10.3 NMAC of the New Mexico Mining Act (NMSA 1978, §69-36-1 et seq.). The proposed project is located in Grant County and will involve 1 borehole with a depth of 5000 feet on Bureau of Land Management property and new road on Private Property. The applicant anticipates disturbing approximately 3.5 acres associated with the exploration activities.

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Sincerely.

Mike Tompson, Interim Director Mining and Minerals Division

Enclosure (Vicinity Map and Cultural Resources Inventory)

cc: Holland Shepherd, MARP Program Manager

Michelle Lujan Grisham Governor

Sarah Cottrell Propst Cabinet Secretary

Todd Leahy, JD, Ph.D. Deputy Cabinet Secretary Mike Tompson, Interim Director Mining and Minerals Division



November 27, 2019

Governor Max Zuni Pueblo of Isleta P.O. Box 1270 Isleta Pueblo, NM 87022

Re: Request for Comments on Minimal Impact Exploration Permit Application, BHP Oak Grove Exploration Drilling, Grant County, New Mexico, Permit No. GR084EM

Dear Governor Zuni,

The Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) of the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department has received an application from BHP Mineral Resources to conduct a minimal impact exploration project under 19.10.3 NMAC of the New Mexico Mining Act (NMSA 1978, §69-36-1 et seq.). The proposed project is located in Grant County and will involve 1 borehole with a depth of 5000 feet on Bureau of Land Management property and new road on Private Property. The applicant anticipates disturbing approximately 3.5 acres associated with the exploration activities.

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Sincerely,

Mike Tompson, Interim Director Mining and Minerals Division

Enclosure (Vicinity Map and Cultural Resources Inventory)

cc: Holland Shepherd, MARP Program Manager Mine File (GR084EM)

Michelle Lujan Grisham Governor

Sarah Cottrell Propst Cabinet Secretary

Todd Leahy, JD, Ph.D. Deputy Cabinet Secretary Mike Tompson, Interim Director Mining and Minerals Division



November 27, 2019

President Jonathan Nez Navajo Nation P.O. Box 7440 Window Rock, AZ 86515

Re: Request for Comments on Minimal Impact Exploration Permit Application, BHP Oak Grove Exploration Drilling, Grant County, New Mexico, Permit No. GR084EM

Dear President Nez,

The Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) of the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department has received an application from BHP Mineral Resources to conduct a minimal impact exploration project under 19.10.3 NMAC of the New Mexico Mining Act (NMSA 1978, §69-36-1 et seq.). The proposed project is located in Grant County and will involve 1 borehole with a depth of 5000 feet on Bureau of Land Management property and new road on Private Property. The applicant anticipates disturbing approximately 3.5 acres associated with the exploration activities.

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Sincerely,

Mike Tompson, Interim Director Mining and Minerals Division

Enclosure (Vicinity Map and Cultural Resources Inventory)

cc: Holland Shepherd, MARP Program Manager

Michelle Lujan Grisham Governor

Sarah Cottrell Propst Cabinet Secretary

Todd Leahy, JD, Ph.D. Deputy Cabinet Secretary Mike Tompson, Interim Director Mining and Minerals Division



November 27, 2019

Governor Brian Vallo Pueblo of Acoma P.O. Box 309 Acoma, NM 87034

Re: Request for Comments on Minimal Impact Exploration Permit Application, BHP Oak Grove Exploration Drilling, Grant County, New Mexico, Permit No. GR084EM

Dear Governor Vallo,

The Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) of the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department has received an application from BHP Mineral Resources to conduct a minimal impact exploration project under 19.10.3 NMAC of the New Mexico Mining Act (NMSA 1978, §69-36-1 et seq.). The proposed project is located in Grant County and will involve 1 borehole with a depth of 5000 feet on Bureau of Land Management property and new road on Private Property. The applicant anticipates disturbing approximately 3.5 acres associated with the exploration activities.

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Sincerely,

Mike Tompson, Interim Director Mining and Minerals Division

Enclosure (Vicinity Map and Cultural Resources Inventory)

cc: Holland Shepherd, MARP Program Manager Mine File (GR084EM)

Michelle Lujan Grisham Governor

Sarah Cottrell Propst Cabinet Secretary

Todd Leahy, JD, Ph.D. Deputy Cabinet Secretary Mike Tompson, Interim Director Mining and Minerals Division



November 27, 2019

Chairwoman Gwendena Lee-Gatewood White Mountain Apache Tribe P.O. Box 700 Whiteriver, AZ 85941

Re: Request for Comments on Minimal Impact Exploration Permit Application, BHP Oak Grove Exploration Drilling, Grant County, New Mexico, Permit No. GR084EM

Dear Chairwoman Lee-Gatewood,

The Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) of the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department has received an application from BHP Mineral Resources to conduct a minimal impact exploration project under 19.10.3 NMAC of the New Mexico Mining Act (NMSA 1978, §69-36-1 et seq.). The proposed project is located in Grant County and will involve 1 borehole with a depth of 5000 feet on Bureau of Land Management property and new road on Private Property. The applicant anticipates disturbing approximately 3.5 acres associated with the exploration activities.

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Mike Tompson, Interim Director Mining and Minerals Division

Enclosure (Vicinity Map and Cultural Resources Inventory)

cc: Holland Shepherd, MARP Program Manager Mine File (GR084EM)

Michelle Lujan Grisham Governor

Sarah Cottrell Propst Cabinet Secretary

Todd Leahy, JD, Ph.D. Deputy Cabinet Secretary Mike Tompson, Interim Director Mining and Minerals Division



November 27, 2019

Chairwoman Lori Gooday-Ware Fort Sill Apache Tribe Route 2, Box 121 Apache, OK 73006

Re: Request for Comments on Minimal Impact Exploration Permit Application, BHP Oak Grove Exploration Drilling, Grant County, New Mexico, Permit No. GR084EM

Dear Chairwoman Gooday-Ware,

The Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) of the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department has received an application from BHP Mineral Resources to conduct a minimal impact exploration project under 19.10.3 NMAC of the New Mexico Mining Act (NMSA 1978, §69-36-1 et seq.). The proposed project is located in Grant County and will involve 1 borehole with a depth of 5000 feet on Bureau of Land Management property and new road on Private Property. The applicant anticipates disturbing approximately 3.5 acres associated with the exploration activities.

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Mike Tompson, Interim Director Mining and Minerals Division

Enclosure (Vicinity Map and Cultural Resources Inventory)

cc: Holland Shepherd, MARP Program Manager Mine File (GR084EM)

1220 South St. Francis Drive • Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505 Phone (505) 476-3200 • Fax (505) 476-3220 • www.emnrd.state.nm.us