

State of New Mexico  
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

Michele Lujan Grisham  
Governor

Sarah Cottrell Propst  
Cabinet Secretary

Todd E. Leahy, JD, PhD  
Deputy Cabinet Secretary

Fernando Martinez, Director  
Mining and Minerals Division



April 01, 2019

David Wallace, BLM Project Manager  
Bureau of Land Management  
Las Cruces District  
1800 Marquess Street  
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88005

**RE: Request for Review and Comment, Minimal Impact Exploration Operation Permit Application, Kennecott Steeplerock Exploration Project, Grant Co., NM Permit Tracking No. GR082EM**

Dear Mr. Wallace:

Pursuant to §19.10.3.302 NMAC, the New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division has determined that a Minimal Impact Exploration Permit Application ("application") submitted on February 28, 2019 is administratively complete. The application was submitted by Kennecott Exploration Company ("Kennecott"), for its Kennecott Steeplerock Exploration Project and proposes to disturb a total of up to 3.63 acres of combined Bureau of Land Management (1 hole), and Private Property (10 holes) within the boundaries of claim numbers identified in the application for exploration located approx. 14 miles NE of Duncan, AZ in Grant County New Mexico. Because Kennecott has agreed not to exceed 5 acres of total disturbance at all times, MMD is processing this application as a minimal impact exploration permit pursuant to §19.10.3.302 (A) NMAC.

"Minimal Impact Exploration Operation" means disturbance will not exceed a total of 5 acres at any given time, which therefore limits impact to the environment. The application and map for the Kennecott Steeplerock Exploration Project can be viewed in its entirety by visiting the MMD website at:

<http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/MMD/MARP/GR082EM.html>

Please provide concerns or comments regarding the proposed project to MMD by April 22, 2019. A site visit regarding this application is set for April 11, 2019. Please contact Clint Chisler at (505) 476-3413 or via email at: [clinton.chisler@state.nm.us](mailto:clinton.chisler@state.nm.us) with any questions or if you wish to meet to discuss the application.

Sincerely,



Clint Chisler, Permit Lead – Permit GR082EM  
Mining Act Reclamation Program (“MARF”)/MMD

cc: Holland Shepherd, Program Manager, MARF/MMD  
Mine File GR082EM

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Mining and Minerals Division



April 01, 2019

Daniella Roth, Botanist  
NM State Forestry Division  
New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department  
Post Office Box 1948  
Santa Fe, NM 87504-1948

**RE: Request for Review and Comment, Minimal Impact Exploration Operation Permit Application, Kennecott Steeplerock Exploration Project, Grant Co., NM Permit Tracking No. GR082EM**

Dear Ms. Roth:

Pursuant to §19.10.3.302 NMAC, the New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division has determined that a Minimal Impact Exploration Permit Application ("application") submitted on February 28, 2019 is administratively complete. The application was submitted by Kennecott Exploration Company ("Kennecott"), for its Kennecott Steeplerock Exploration Project and proposes to disturb a total of up to 3.63 acres of combined Bureau of Land Management (1 hole), and Private Property (10 holes) within the boundaries of claim numbers identified in the application for exploration located approx. 14 miles NE of Duncan, AZ in Grant County New Mexico. Because Kennecott has agreed not to exceed 5 acres of total disturbance at all times, MMD is processing this application as a minimal impact exploration permit pursuant to §19.10.3.302 (A) NMAC.

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Sincerely,



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Mining Act Reclamation Program (“MARF”)/MMD

cc: Holland Shepherd, Program Manager, MARF/MMD  
Mine File GR082EM

State of New Mexico  
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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Deputy Cabinet Secretary

Fernando Martinez, Director  
Mining and Minerals Division



April 01, 2019

Ghassan Musharrafieh, Chief  
Office of the State Engineer/ Hydrology Bureau  
P.O. Box 25102  
Santa Fe, NM 87504-5102

**RE: Request for Review and Comment, Minimal Impact Exploration Operation Permit Application, Kennecott Steeplerock Exploration Project, Grant Co., NM Permit Tracking No. GR082EM**

Dear Mr. Musharrafieh:

Pursuant to §19.10.3.302 NMAC, the New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division has determined that a Minimal Impact Exploration Permit Application ("application") submitted on February 28, 2019 is administratively complete. The application was submitted by Kennecott Exploration Company ("Kennecott"), for its Kennecott Steeplerock Exploration Project and proposes to disturb a total of up to 3.63 acres of combined Bureau of Land Management (1 hole), and Private Property (10 holes) within the boundaries of claim numbers identified in the application for exploration located approx. 14 miles NE of Duncan, AZ in Grant County New Mexico. Because Kennecott has agreed not to exceed 5 acres of total disturbance at all times, MMD is processing this application as a minimal impact exploration permit pursuant to §19.10.3.302 (A) NMAC.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Clint Chisler". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

Clint Chisler, Permit Lead – Permit GR082EM  
Mining Act Reclamation Program (“MARF”)/MMD

cc: Holland Shepherd, Program Manager, MARP/MMD  
Mine File GR082EM

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Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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Todd E. Leahy, JD, PhD  
Deputy Cabinet Secretary

Fernando Martinez, Director  
Mining and Minerals Division



April 01, 2019

Jeff Lewellin, Mining Act Team Leader  
Mining Environmental Compliance Section/NMED - Groundwater Quality Bureau  
P.O. Box 5469  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-5469

**RE: Request for Review and Comment, Minimal Impact Exploration Operation Permit Application, Kennecott Steeplerock Exploration Project, Grant Co., NM Permit Tracking No. GR082EM**

Dear Mr. Lewellin:

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Mining Act Reclamation Program (“MARF”)/MMD

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Mining and Minerals Division



April 01, 2019

Dr. Matthew Wunder, Chief  
Conservation Services Division/New Mexico Department of Game and Fish  
PO Box 25112  
Santa Fe, NM 87504

**RE: Request for Review and Comment, Minimal Impact Exploration Operation Permit Application, Kennecott Steeplerock Exploration Project, Grant Co., NM Permit Tracking No. GR082EM**

Dear Dr. Wunder:

Pursuant to §19.10.3.302 NMAC, the New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division has determined that a Minimal Impact Exploration Permit Application ("application") submitted on February 28, 2019 is administratively complete. The application was submitted by Kennecott Exploration Company ("Kennecott"), for its Kennecott Steeplerock Exploration Project and proposes to disturb a total of up to 3.63 acres of combined Bureau of Land Management (1 hole), and Private Property (10 holes) within the boundaries of claim numbers identified in the application for exploration located approx. 14 miles NE of Duncan, AZ in Grant County New Mexico. Because Kennecott has agreed not to exceed 5 acres of total disturbance at all times, MMD is processing this application as a minimal impact exploration permit pursuant to §19.10.3.302 (A) NMAC.

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Mining and Minerals Division



April 01, 2019

Richard Reycraft, Ph.D., Archaeologist  
Historic Preservation Division  
NM Department of Cultural Affairs  
407 Galisteo Street, Suite 236  
Santa Fe, NM 87503

**RE: Request for Review and Comment, Minimal Impact Exploration Operation Permit Application, Kennecott Steeplerock Exploration Project, Grant Co., NM Permit Tracking No. GR082EM**

Dear Dr. Estes:

Pursuant to §19.10.3.302 NMAC, the New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division has determined that a Minimal Impact Exploration Permit Application ("application") submitted on February 28, 2019 is administratively complete. The application was submitted by Kennecott Exploration Company ("Kennecott"), for its Kennecott Steeplerock Exploration Project and proposes to disturb a total of up to 3.63 acres of combined Bureau of Land Management (1 hole), and Private Property (10 holes) within the boundaries of claim numbers identified in the application for exploration located approx. 14 miles NE of Duncan, AZ in Grant County New Mexico. Because Kennecott has agreed not to exceed 5 acres of total disturbance at all times, MMD is processing this application as a minimal impact exploration permit pursuant to §19.10.3.302 (A) NMAC.

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Please provide any comments or information regarding any potential cultural resources that may be affected by the proposed project to MMD by April 22, 2019. A site visit regarding this application is set for April 11, 2019. Please contact Clint Chisler at (505) 476-3413 or via email at: [clinton.chisler@state.nm.us](mailto:clinton.chisler@state.nm.us) with any questions or if you wish to meet to discuss the application.

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