

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

Sarah Cottrell Propst
Cabinet Secretary

Todd Leahy, JD, Ph.D.
Deputy Cabinet Secretary

Jerry Schoeppner, Director
Mining and Minerals Division



September 17, 2020

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

Re: Request for Comments on Minimal Impact Exploration Application, Modification 20-1 to Excavate 999 yd³ of Material from Existing Tailings Piles Within the Current Permit Boundary, Peru Mill Tailings Exploration, Luna County, New Mexico, Permit No. LU038EM

Dear Chairman Nuvangyaoma,

The Mining and Minerals Division (“MMD”) of the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department has received an application from Gila Mining, LLC (“Permittee”) to excavate no more than 999 yd³ of material from the existing tailings piles within the current permit boundary for the Peru Mill Tailings Exploration project in accordance with 19.10.3.302.J NMAC of the New Mexico Mining Act (NMSA 1978, §69-36-1 et seq.). The Peru Mill Tailings Exploration project is located in Section 18 of Township 23 South, Range 9 West in Luna County.

Please see the attached map of the exploration location. The application for Modification 20-1 received by MMD can be viewed in its entirety by visiting the MMD website at <http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/MMD/MARP/LU038EM.html>.

As part of the application process, MMD is also requesting comments from the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs, Historic Preservation Division (“HPD”) on this permit revision request from the Permittee. The New Mexico Mining Act does not grant MMD statutory authority to require the Permittee to conduct an archaeology survey on private land. However, the permit will contain conditions that mandate the Permittee, or any person working on the Permittee’s behalf, to immediately suspend all operations and notify MMD and HPD if and when a cultural resource is discovered. It then rests with HPD to evaluate the discovery to determine an appropriate course of action.

If there are known cultural resources in the vicinity of this project that your tribe is aware of, please provide any comments and concerns to MMD by October 9, 2020. Please contact me at (505) 476-3435, or Jenn Johnson of my staff at (505) 470-5354 or jennifere.johnson@state.nm.us with any questions or if you wish to meet to discuss the application.

Sincerely,

Jerry Schoeppner, Director
Mining and Minerals Division

Enclosures (Project Vicinity Map)

cc: Project File (LU038EM, Modification 20-1)

Peru Mill Tailings Exploration

Peru Mill Tailings Exploration
4 Miles NW of Deming



Google Earth

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September 17, 2020

Director Leigh Kuwanwisiwma
Hopi Cultural Preservation Office
P.O. Box 123
Kykotsmovi, AZ 86039

Re: Request for Comments on Minimal Impact Exploration Application, Modification 20-1 to Excavate 999 yd³ of Material from Existing Tailings Piles Within the Current Permit Boundary, Peru Mill Tailings Exploration, Luna County, New Mexico, Permit No. LU038EM

Dear Director Kuwanwisiwma,

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Jerry Schoepner, Director
Mining and Minerals Division

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Peru Mill Tailings Exploration

Peru Mill Tailings Exploration
4 Miles NW of Deming

Google Earth

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Deming

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Jerry Schoepner, Director
Mining and Minerals Division



September 17, 2020

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

Re: Request for Comments on Minimal Impact Exploration Application, Modification 20-1 to Excavate 999 yd³ of Material from Existing Tailings Piles Within the Current Permit Boundary, Peru Mill Tailings Exploration, Luna County, New Mexico, Permit No. LU038EM

Dear President Blazer,

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Peru Mill Tailings Exploration
4 Miles NW of Deming

Google Earth

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State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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Jerry Schoepner, Director
Mining and Minerals Division



September 17, 2020

Ms. Holly Houghton
Mescalero Apache Tribe, THPO
P.O. Box 227
Mescalero, NM 88340

Re: Request for Comments on Minimal Impact Exploration Application, Modification 20-1 to Excavate 999 yd³ of Material from Existing Tailings Piles Within the Current Permit Boundary, Peru Mill Tailings Exploration, Luna County, New Mexico, Permit No. LU038EM

Dear Ms. Houghton,

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Jerry Schoepner, Director
Mining and Minerals Division



September 17, 2020

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

Re: Request for Comments on Minimal Impact Exploration Application, Modification 20-1 to Excavate 999 yd³ of Material from Existing Tailings Piles Within the Current Permit Boundary, Peru Mill Tailings Exploration, Luna County, New Mexico, Permit No. LU038EM

Dear Chairwoman Lee-Gatewood,


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Todd Leahy, JD, Ph.D.
Deputy Cabinet Secretary

Jerry Schoepner, Director
Mining and Minerals Division



September 17, 2020

Mr. Mark Altaha
White Mountain Apache Tribe, THPO
P.O. Box 700
Whiteriver, AZ 85941

Re: Request for Comments on Minimal Impact Exploration Application, Modification 20-1 to Excavate 999 yd³ of Material from Existing Tailings Piles Within the Current Permit Boundary, Peru Mill Tailings Exploration, Luna County, New Mexico, Permit No. LU038EM

Dear Mr. Altaha,

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Jerry Schoepner, Director
Mining and Minerals Division



September 17, 2020

Governor E. Michael Silvas
Ysleta del Sur Pueblo
P119 S. Old Pueblo Road
Ysleta del Sur Pueblo, TX 79917

Re: Request for Comments on Minimal Impact Exploration Application, Modification 20-1 to Excavate 999 yd³ of Material from Existing Tailings Piles Within the Current Permit Boundary, Peru Mill Tailings Exploration, Luna County, New Mexico, Permit No. LU038EM

Dear Governor Silvas,

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September 17, 2020

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

Re: Request for Comments on Minimal Impact Exploration Application, Modification 20-1 to Excavate 999 yd³ of Material from Existing Tailings Piles Within the Current Permit Boundary, Peru Mill Tailings Exploration, Luna County, New Mexico, Permit No. LU038EM

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