

Freeport-McMoRan Chino Mines Company P.O. Box 10 Bayard, NM 88023 RECEIVED

Chad D. Fretz
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MAR 2 0 2020

MINING & MINERALS DIVISION

March 13, 2020

Certified Mail #70182290000160737870 Return Receipt Requested

Mr. Jerry Schoeppner, Director Mining and Minerals Division Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department 1220 South St. Francis Drive Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Dear Mr. Schoeppner:

Re: Freeport-McMoRan Chino Mines Company –

Permit GR002RE (Continental Mine) Modification Application

Freeport-McMoRan Chino Mines Company ("Chino") submits this application to modify its permit GR002RE to update the financial assurance information in the permit and to change the face amount of the third-party guarantee issued by Freeport Minerals Corporation ("FMC") on February 8, 2017. This application is in accordance with the direction provided by the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department, Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) and the New Mexico Environment Department in the joint letter dated February 18, 2020.

By this application, Chino seeks to modify Section 8 of Revisions 15-2 and 16-1 of MMD Permit No. GR002RE to reflect MMD's and NMED's approval of the final net present value amount of required financial assurance of \$21,444,901 and to adjust the amounts of the financial assurance instruments. As discussed in the letter dated February 18, 2020, the Collateral and Surety Bond amounts shall remain the same as in the current Permit GR002RE. The changes are to the minimum required balance in the Cast Trust Fund (to \$5,760,000) and to the amount of the Third-Party Guarantee (\$1,143,389). The updated figures are presented in the February 18, 2020 letter, as adjusted per subsequent email correspondence. Consequently, the permit should be modified to specify that the required financial assurance shall be covered by the following financial assurance instruments in the following amounts:

 Cash Trust Fund Minimum Amount:
 \$ 5,760,000

 Real Estate Collateral:
 \$13,908,900

 Surety Bond:
 \$ 632,612

 Third Party Guarantee:
 \$ 1,143,389

 Total:
 \$21,444,901

The only financial assurance instrument that needs to be changed to reflect the modified permit is a change to the amount of the Third Party Guarantee. Three originals of an executed Certificate of Face Amount Adjustment to change the face amount of the Third Party Guarantee will be submitted under separate cover and will be effective upon approval by MMD and NMED. Please return one of the fully-executed originals to the undersigned.

Mr. Schoeppner, MMD March 13, 2020 Page 2

An application for a permit modification or revision must be accompanied by sufficient information for the Director to determine whether any of the factors listed in 19.10.5.505 NMAC are present. Based upon the factors set forth in 19.10.5.505(B) NMAC, this application for a modification should not be treated as a revision. In particular, the requested modification would not have a significant environmental impact because it does not change the "design limits" currently specified in the permit, it does not change the amount of financial assurance, and does not depart from the nature of scale of the current permit.

Also enclosed is a check in the amount of \$1,000 as the fee for the application. We appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to timely action on this request.

Sincerely,

Chad D. Fretz,

President and General Manager of Chino Acquisition LLC Freeport-McMoRan Chino Mines Company Inc., General Partners Freeport-McMoRan Chino Mines Company

CDF 20200313-002

c: William Brancard, General Counsel, NM Energy, Minerals & Natural Resources Dept Dana David, Attorney, MMD

Holland Shepherd, Manager, Mining Act Reclamation Program, MMD Rebecca Roose, Director, Water Protection Division, NMED

Kurt Vollbrecht, Manager, Mining Environmental Compliance Section, NMED

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

* EEE0007033 * Dollars Amount Work Order No.
1,000 (SN) Reserved in Book-Pink Copy
000942558 March 10, 2020 64-1278/611 VOID AFTER 180 DAYS PAY IN US DOLLARS **\$1,000.00**

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