



Via email

June 8, 2020

Clinton M. Chisler
Reclamation Soil Scientist
Mining and Minerals Division
Mining Act Reclamation Program
Wendell Chino building 3rd Floor Room 363
1220 S. St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, NM 87505
(505) 476-3413
Clinton.Chisler@state.nm.us

RE: BE001RE Modification 20-1 Application
Comment Response

Dear Mr. Chisler:

GCC Rio Grande, Inc. (GCC) is submitting this letter in response to comments received from the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) on May 6, 2020. The table below details how each questions has been addressed

Commenting Agency	Comment/Question	GCC Response
MMD	Confirm that Off-Spec Coal will be covered with 2 feet of soil material and reclaimed along with section 5.3.1 Geomorphic Grading and Backfilling in the Revision 18-1 Closeout Plan.	GCC will cover the Off-Spec coal with 2 feet of soil material and follow section 5.3.1 of the Closeout Plan.
	Please provide information required by §19.10.3.302 D. (2), (4), (5), and (6) NMAC in Section 4 of the amended Application. Location information related to (2) can be provided in a general sense.	Section 4 has been updated to include information per the referenced citations. Attachment A contains the map requested by (2).
	While conducting exploration activities within the Permit Boundary GCC shall follow 19.10.3.302 (K),(L), and (M) NMAC.	GCC will comply with 19.10.3.302 (K),(L), and (M) NMAC during all exploration activities
	Change the reference of §19.10.3.302 (G) NMAC in Section 5. Exploration Drilling to 19.10.3.302.	The reference has been updated in Section 5 of the application.
MMD	New disturbance related to exploration drilling will have to be reported in the Annual Report and reflected in the Annual Fees each year.	GCC will report all new disturbances related to exploration as required.
	Please provide a specific amount of Financial Assurance ("FA") that will give GCC the freedom to conduct exploration activities on the mine	Attachment B contains the Financial Assurance amount, calculated per MMD guidance.

	<p>site. This shall be a “rolling” amount of FA that can be applied to new exploration activities once previous exploration sites have been properly plugged and reclaimed. Below are the current FA rates per MMD Guidance on exploration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. \$14 per foot for drill hole depth b. \$8,900 for the first acre of disturbance c. \$4,900 per acre for each additional acre 	
USFS	Address the concerns in the USFS Comment Letter, dated March 5, 2020 and the email dated March 27, 2020	GCC, as a best management practice, will maintain at 50-foot buffer from forest service land. GCC will not perform any exploration or mining activities on National Forest Land without an approved plan of operation in accordance with 36 CFR 228.4 from USFS.
NMDCA	Consider the recommendations from the NMDCA Comment Letter, dated April 6, 2020.	While there are significant historic and cultural resources in the vicinity of the Tijeras Mine and Mill (Bernalillo County PDSD 2006), no known historic and cultural resource sites exist within the permit area. Likewise, no marked or unmarked human burial sites have been identified within the permit boundaries.
NMSFD	Review the email from NMSFD, dated March 31, 2020	GCC will maintain at 50-foot buffer from forest service land. No exploration or mining activities will take place on National Forest Land without an approved plan of operation in accordance with 36 CFR 228.4 from USFS.
NMDGF	Review the recommendations from the NMDGF. Specifically follow the guidelines set forth in the third and fifth paragraphs regarding protection of migratory birds under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.	GCC will use a closed loop containment system during exploration operations and no mud pits are expected. For the 2020 campaign, GCC expects drilling will occur outside of the migratory bird season. If future drilling campaigns are planned within the season, bird surveys will be completed prior to drilling activities. If migratory bird habitats are found, GCC will follow NMDGF requirements.

		The approved native seed mixed from the 2019 Mine Closeout Plan will be for reclamation.
NMOSE	Address the 4 concerns listed at the bottom of the NMOSE Memo, dated April 28, 2020	<p>1. Groundwater depth is estimated at 1000 feet.</p> <p>2. In the 2020 campaign, 25 holes at 3" diameter with hole depth between 80-400 feet are planned. All drilling will take place within the permit boundary as shown in attachment A.</p> <p>3. In the event GCC encounters groundwater, a water pump will be on standby to pump into an onsite retaining pond. Then Bentonite will then be used to hold any infiltration and the hole will be plugged per NMSOE regulations..</p>
NMED	<p>1. Review and address the following comments and concerns contained in the following letters from NMED.</p> <p>a. Letter dated April 2, 2020, Ground Water Quality Bureau Mining Environmental Compliance Section (MECS).</p> <p>b. Surface Quality Water Bureau letter dated March 20, 2020. Disregard content in this letter related to the omitted design limit aspects of the original modification application.</p> <p>c. Amended application comment letter dated April 29, 2020.</p>	<p>A. GCC plans to submit an NOI to NMED for review of the Off-Spec Coal Management prior to placing any material in the CKD area.</p> <p>B. A TCLP Analysis was completed as requested and the results are included in Attachment C. A map of water features and exploration areas within quarries is included in Attachment A. GCC expects minimal disturbance during exploration drilling, which is not a mining activity. Surface water will be managed to avoid discharge so we do not expect sector J will apply.</p> <p>C. GCC will review and update BMPs for stormwater management as needed.</p>

Please contact me at skretz@gcc.com or 505-286-6081 if you have any questions or require any additional information.

Sincerely,

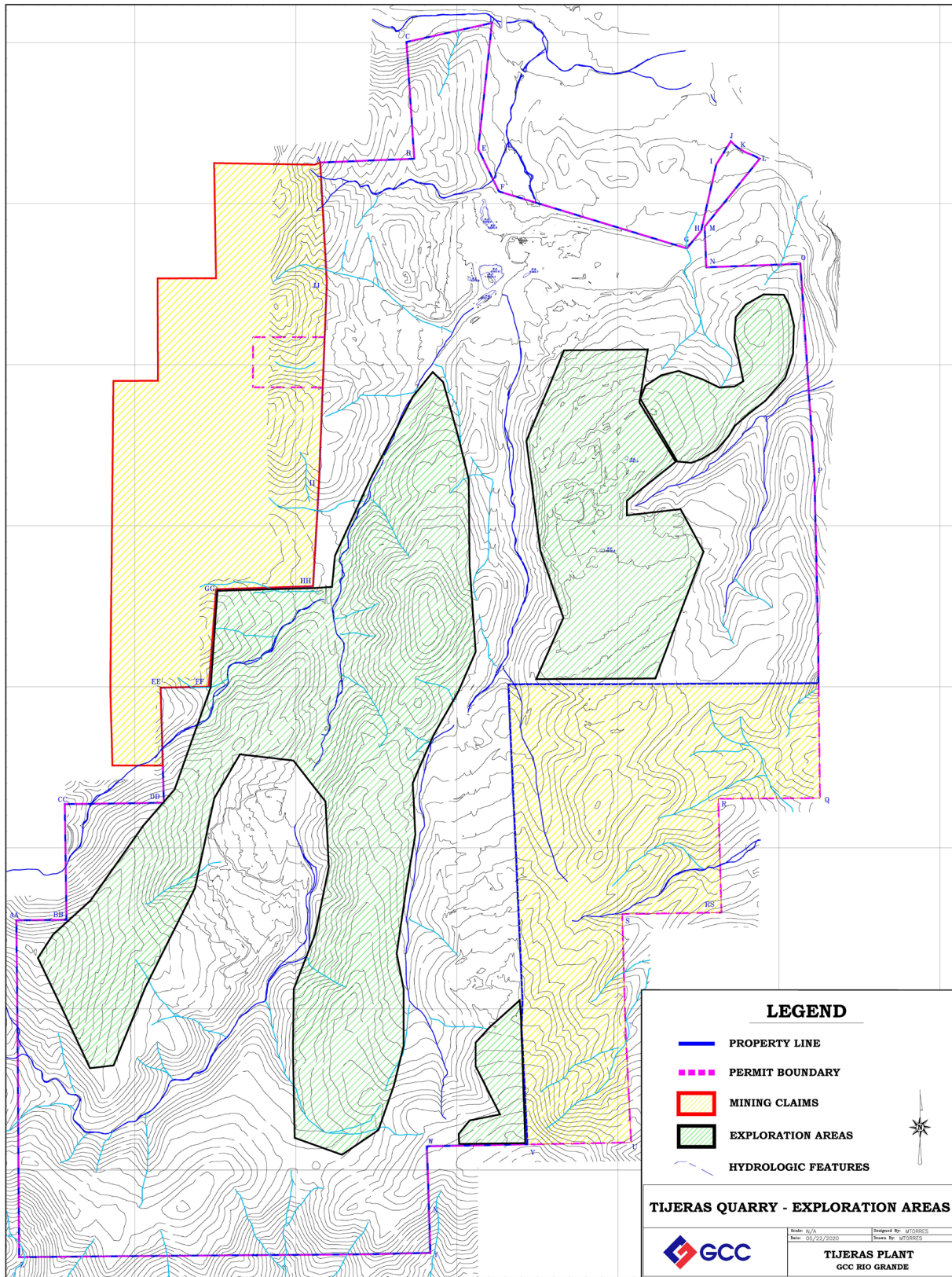


Samantha Kretz



Environmental Engineer
GCC Rio Grande, Inc.

Attachment A



Attachment B

Financial Assurance Calculation

Financial Assurance For Exploration Drilling					
GCC Drill Hole Numbers	Drill Hole Depths	Acre Disturbance Estimate	Cost per Hole Depth	MMD Exploration Cost for FA	
Q03-01	400	-	\$5,600.00	First Acre	\$8,900.00
Q04-01	230	-	\$3,220.00	Additional Acre	\$4,900.00
Q04-02	230	-	\$3,220.00	\$ per foot of depth	\$14.00
Q07-01	200	-	\$2,800.00		
Q07-02	200	-	\$2,800.00		
Q08-03	200	0.01	\$2,800.00		
Q08-04	200	0.01	\$2,800.00		
Q10-01	400	-	\$5,600.00		
Q15-01	200	0.08	\$2,800.00		
Q15-02	150	-	\$2,100.00		
Q15-04	150	0.21	\$2,100.00		
Q15-05	150	0.11	\$2,100.00	Depth Cost	\$56,560.00
Q17-01	200	0.12	\$2,800.00	Acre Disturbance Cost	\$8,900.00
Q17-02	200	0.14	\$2,800.00	Total Cost	\$65,460.00
Q18-01	80	-	\$1,120.00		
Q18-02	80	-	\$1,120.00		
Q18-03	80	-	\$1,120.00		
Q19-01	80	-	\$1,120.00		
Q19-02	80	-	\$1,120.00		
Q19-03	80	-	\$1,120.00		
Q19-04	80	-	\$1,120.00		
Q19-05	80	-	\$1,120.00		
Q19-06	80	-	\$1,120.00		
Q19-07	130	-	\$1,820.00		
Q19-08	80	-	\$1,120.00		
Totals	4,040.00	0.67	\$56,560.00		

Attachment C



Off-Spec Coal TCLP Analysis

Hall Environmental Analysis Laboratory, Inc.

Analytical Report

Lab Order **2005780**

Date Reported:

CLIENT: GCC Rio Grande, Inc.

Client Sample ID: GCC Tijeras Coal

Project: TCLP

Collection Date: 5/15/2020

Lab ID: 2005780-001

Matrix: SOIL

Received Date: 5/18/2020 3:00:00 PM

Analyses	Result	RL	Qual	Units	DF	Date Analyzed	Batch
MERCURY, TCLP							
						Analyst: ags	
Mercury	ND	0.020		mg/L	1	6/2/2020 1:47:15 PM	52720
EPA METHOD 6010B: TCLP METALS							
						Analyst: ELS	
Arsenic	ND	5.0		mg/L	1	5/29/2020 12:08:55 PM	52720
Barium	ND	100		mg/L	1	5/29/2020 12:08:55 PM	52720
Cadmium	ND	1.0		mg/L	1	5/29/2020 12:08:55 PM	52720
Chromium	ND	5.0		mg/L	1	5/29/2020 12:08:55 PM	52720
Lead	ND	5.0		mg/L	1	5/29/2020 12:08:55 PM	52720
Selenium	ND	1.0		mg/L	1	5/29/2020 12:08:55 PM	52720
Silver	ND	5.0		mg/L	1	5/29/2020 12:08:55 PM	52720
EPA METHOD 8081: PESTICIDES TCLP							
						Analyst: CFC	
Chlordane	ND	0.030		mg/L	1	5/28/2020 3:40:17 PM	52709
Endrin	ND	0.020		mg/L	1	5/28/2020 3:40:17 PM	52709
gamma-BHC (Lindane)	ND	0.40		mg/L	1	5/28/2020 3:40:17 PM	52709
Heptachlor	ND	0.0080		mg/L	1	5/28/2020 3:40:17 PM	52709
Heptachlor epoxide	ND	0.0080		mg/L	1	5/28/2020 3:40:17 PM	52709
Methoxychlor	ND	10		mg/L	1	5/28/2020 3:40:17 PM	52709
Toxaphene	ND	0.50		mg/L	1	5/28/2020 3:40:17 PM	52709
Surr: Decachlorobiphenyl	91.0	37.6-104		%Rec	1	5/28/2020 3:40:17 PM	52709
Surr: Tetrachloro-m-xylene	78.8	38.5-88.1		%Rec	1	5/28/2020 3:40:17 PM	52709
EPA METHOD 8151: HERBICIDES TCLP							
						Analyst: JME	
2,4,5-TP (Silvex)	ND	1.0		mg/L	1	5/28/2020 8:04:36 PM	52697
2,4-D	ND	10		mg/L	1	5/28/2020 8:04:36 PM	52697
Surr: 2,4-Dichlorophenylacetic acid	107	70-130		%Rec	1	5/28/2020 8:04:36 PM	52697
EPA METHOD 8270C TCLP							
						Analyst: DAM	
2-Methylphenol	ND	2000		mg/L	1	6/3/2020 6:48:11 PM	52756
3+4-Methylphenol	ND	2000		mg/L	1	6/3/2020 6:48:11 PM	52756
2,4-Dinitrotoluene	ND	1.3		mg/L	1	6/3/2020 6:48:11 PM	52756
Hexachlorobenzene	ND	1.3		mg/L	1	6/3/2020 6:48:11 PM	52756
Hexachlorobutadiene	ND	5.0		mg/L	1	6/3/2020 6:48:11 PM	52756
Hexachloroethane	ND	30		mg/L	1	6/3/2020 6:48:11 PM	52756
Nitrobenzene	ND	20		mg/L	1	6/3/2020 6:48:11 PM	52756
Pentachlorophenol	ND	1000		mg/L	1	6/3/2020 6:48:11 PM	52756
Pyridine	ND	50		mg/L	1	6/3/2020 6:48:11 PM	52756
2,4,5-Trichlorophenol	ND	4000		mg/L	1	6/3/2020 6:48:11 PM	52756
2,4,6-Trichlorophenol	ND	20		mg/L	1	6/3/2020 6:48:11 PM	52756
Cresols, Total	ND	2000		mg/L	1	6/3/2020 6:48:11 PM	52756
Surr: 2-Fluorophenol	54.4	18.2-76.5		%Rec	1	6/3/2020 6:48:11 PM	52756

Refer to the QC Summary report and sample login checklist for flagged QC data and preservation information.

Qualifiers:	* Value exceeds Maximum Contaminant Level	B Analyte detected in the associated Method Blank
D	Sample Diluted Due to Matrix	E Value above quantitation range
H	Holding times for preparation or analysis exceeded	J Analyte detected below quantitation limits
ND	Not Detected at the Reporting Limit	P Sample pH Not In Range
PQL	Practical Quantitative Limit	RL Reporting Limit
S	% Recovery outside of range due to dilution or matrix	

Hall Environmental Analysis Laboratory, Inc.

Analytical Report

Lab Order **2005780**

Date Reported:

CLIENT: GCC Rio Grande, Inc.

Client Sample ID: GCC Tijeras Coal

Project: TCLP

Collection Date: 5/15/2020

Lab ID: 2005780-001

Matrix: SOIL

Received Date: 5/18/2020 3:00:00 PM

Analyses	Result	RL	Qual	Units	DF	Date Analyzed	Batch
EPA METHOD 8270C TCLP							Analyst: DAM
Surr: Phenol-d5	42.8	15.2-59.4	%Rec	1	6/3/2020 6:48:11 PM	52756	
Surr: 2,4,6-Tribromophenol	67.9	27.4-95.5	%Rec	1	6/3/2020 6:48:11 PM	52756	
Surr: Nitrobenzene-d5	63.1	37.6-106	%Rec	1	6/3/2020 6:48:11 PM	52756	
Surr: 2-Fluorobiphenyl	59.4	29-96.1	%Rec	1	6/3/2020 6:48:11 PM	52756	
Surr: 4-Terphenyl-d14	87.1	32.2-104	%Rec	1	6/3/2020 6:48:11 PM	52756	
EPA METHOD 8260B: TCLP COMPOUNDS							Analyst: DJF
Benzene	ND	0.50		ppm	10	5/21/2020 2:50:23 PM	52577
1,2-Dichloroethane (EDC)	ND	0.50		ppm	10	5/21/2020 2:50:23 PM	52577
2-Butanone	ND	200		ppm	10	5/21/2020 2:50:23 PM	52577
Carbon tetrachloride	ND	0.50		ppm	10	5/21/2020 2:50:23 PM	52577
Chlorobenzene	ND	100		ppm	10	5/21/2020 2:50:23 PM	52577
Chloroform	ND	6.0		ppm	10	5/21/2020 2:50:23 PM	52577
1,4-Dichlorobenzene	ND	7.5		ppm	10	5/21/2020 2:50:23 PM	52577
1,1-Dichloroethene	ND	0.70		ppm	10	5/21/2020 2:50:23 PM	52577
Tetrachloroethene (PCE)	ND	0.70		ppm	10	5/21/2020 2:50:23 PM	52577
Trichloroethene (TCE)	ND	0.50		ppm	10	5/21/2020 2:50:23 PM	52577
Vinyl chloride	ND	0.20		ppm	10	5/21/2020 2:50:23 PM	52577
Surr: 1,2-Dichloroethane-d4	97.4	70-130	%Rec	10	5/21/2020 2:50:23 PM	52577	
Surr: 4-Bromofluorobenzene	99.9	70-130	%Rec	10	5/21/2020 2:50:23 PM	52577	
Surr: Dibromofluoromethane	98.4	70-130	%Rec	10	5/21/2020 2:50:23 PM	52577	
Surr: Toluene-d8	102	70-130	%Rec	10	5/21/2020 2:50:23 PM	52577	

Refer to the QC Summary report and sample login checklist for flagged QC data and preservation information.

Qualifiers:	*	Value exceeds Maximum Contaminant Level	E	Analyte detected in the associated Method Blank
	D	Sample Diluted Due to Matrix	E	Value above quantitation range
	H	Holding times for preparation or analysis exceeded	J	Analyte detected below quantitation limits
	ND	Not Detected at the Reporting Limit	P	Sample pH Not In Range
	PQL	Practical Quantitative Limit	RL	Reporting Limit
	S	% Recovery outside of range due to dilution or matrix		