

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, PG, Director
Mining and Minerals Division



July 29, 2021

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

Re: Notice of Intent to Issue a Minimal Impact Exploration Permit, Turquoise Mountain Exploration, Grant County, New Mexico, Permit No. GR087EM

Dear Chairman Nuvangyaoma,

On March 17, 2021, the Mining and Minerals Division (“MMD”) of the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department notified your tribe about an application from Southern Silver Corp (U.S.) (“Permittee”) 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 will involve 5 boreholes on Bureau of Land Management property and 1 borehole on New Mexico State Land Office property. The applicant anticipates disturbing approximately 1.35 acres associated with the exploration activities. The Turquoise Mountain Project is located in Sections 35 and 36 of Township 27 South, Range 16 West and Sections 1-3 of Township 28 South, Range 16 West in Grant County.

“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 location. The application can be viewed in its entirety by visiting the MMD website at http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/MMD/MARP/TurquoiseMountain_GR087EM.html.

An archaeological survey was conducted as required by the Bureau of Land Management and New Mexico State Land Office. We are notifying you that the applicant has satisfied all our regulatory requirements and we are prepared to issue a permit. We would like to give you a final opportunity to provide us with comments. Please provide comments to MMD by July 20, 2021. Please contact me at (505) 470-5354 or jennifere.johnson@state.nm.us with any questions or if you wish to meet to discuss the application.

Sincerely,

Jenn Johnson, Permit Lead
Mining and Minerals Division

Enclosures (Project Vicinity Map)
cc: Project File (GR087EM)

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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Mining and Minerals Division



July 29, 2021

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

Re: Notice of Intent to Issue a Minimal Impact Exploration Permit, Turquoise Mountain Exploration, Grant County, New Mexico, Permit No. GR087EM

Dear Director Kuwanwisiwma,

On March 17, 2021, the Mining and Minerals Division (“MMD”) of the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department notified your tribe about an application from Southern Silver Corp (U.S.) (“Permittee”) 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 will involve 5 boreholes on Bureau of Land Management property and 1 borehole on New Mexico State Land Office property. The applicant anticipates disturbing approximately 1.35 acres associated with the exploration activities. The Turquoise Mountain Project is located in Sections 35 and 36 of Township 27 South, Range 16 West and Sections 1-3 of Township 28 South, Range 16 West in Grant County.

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July 29, 2021

President Gabe Aguilar
Mescalero Apache Tribe
P.O. Box 227
Mescalero, NM 88340

Re: Notice of Intent to Issue a Minimal Impact Exploration Permit, Turquoise Mountain Exploration, Grant County, New Mexico, Permit No. GR087EM

Dear President Aguilar,

On March 17, 2021, the Mining and Minerals Division (“MMD”) of the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department notified your tribe about an application from Southern Silver Corp (U.S.) (“Permittee”) 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 will involve 5 boreholes on Bureau of Land Management property and 1 borehole on New Mexico State Land Office property. The applicant anticipates disturbing approximately 1.35 acres associated with the exploration activities. The Turquoise Mountain Project is located in Sections 35 and 36 of Township 27 South, Range 16 West and Sections 1-3 of Township 28 South, Range 16 West in Grant County.

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Jerry Schoeppner, PG, Director
Mining and Minerals Division



July 29, 2021

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

Re: Notice of Intent to Issue a Minimal Impact Exploration Permit, Turquoise Mountain Exploration, Grant County, New Mexico, Permit No. GR087EM

Dear Ms. Houghton,

On March 17, 2021, the Mining and Minerals Division (“MMD”) of the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department notified your tribe about an application from Southern Silver Corp (U.S.) (“Permittee”) 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 will involve 5 boreholes on Bureau of Land Management property and 1 borehole on New Mexico State Land Office property. The applicant anticipates disturbing approximately 1.35 acres associated with the exploration activities. The Turquoise Mountain Project is located in Sections 35 and 36 of Township 27 South, Range 16 West and Sections 1-3 of Township 28 South, Range 16 West in Grant County.

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Mining and Minerals Division



July 29, 2021

Governor Vernon Abeita
Pueblo of Isleta
P.O. Box 1270
Isleta Pueblo, NM 87022

Re: Notice of Intent to Issue a Minimal Impact Exploration Permit, Turquoise Mountain Exploration, Grant County, New Mexico, Permit No. GR087EM

Dear Governor Abeita,

On March 17, 2021, the Mining and Minerals Division (“MMD”) of the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department notified your tribe about an application from Southern Silver Corp (U.S.) (“Permittee”) 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 will involve 5 boreholes on Bureau of Land Management property and 1 borehole on New Mexico State Land Office property. The applicant anticipates disturbing approximately 1.35 acres associated with the exploration activities. The Turquoise Mountain Project is located in Sections 35 and 36 of Township 27 South, Range 16 West and Sections 1-3 of Township 28 South, Range 16 West in Grant County.

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Mining and Minerals Division

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Deputy Cabinet Secretary

Jerry Schoeppner, PG, Director
Mining and Minerals Division



July 29, 2021

Dr. Henry Walt
Pueblo of Isleta, THPO
P.O. Box 1270
Isleta Pueblo, NM 87022

Re: Notice of Intent to Issue a Minimal Impact Exploration Permit, Turquoise Mountain Exploration, Grant County, New Mexico, Permit No. GR087EM

Dear Dr. Walt,

On March 17, 2021, the Mining and Minerals Division (“MMD”) of the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department notified your tribe about an application from Southern Silver Corp (U.S.) (“Permittee”) 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 will involve 5 boreholes on Bureau of Land Management property and 1 borehole on New Mexico State Land Office property. The applicant anticipates disturbing approximately 1.35 acres associated with the exploration activities. The Turquoise Mountain Project is located in Sections 35 and 36 of Township 27 South, Range 16 West and Sections 1-3 of Township 28 South, Range 16 West in Grant County.

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Mining and Minerals Division

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Deputy Cabinet Secretary

Jerry Schoeppner, PG, Director
Mining and Minerals Division



July 29, 2021

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

Re: Notice of Intent to Issue a Minimal Impact Exploration Permit, Turquoise Mountain Exploration, Grant County, New Mexico, Permit No. GR087EM

Dear President Nez,

On March 17, 2021, the Mining and Minerals Division (“MMD”) of the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department notified your tribe about an application from Southern Silver Corp (U.S.) (“Permittee”) 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 will involve 5 boreholes on Bureau of Land Management property and 1 borehole on New Mexico State Land Office property. The applicant anticipates disturbing approximately 1.35 acres associated with the exploration activities. The Turquoise Mountain Project is located in Sections 35 and 36 of Township 27 South, Range 16 West and Sections 1-3 of Township 28 South, Range 16 West in Grant County.

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Deputy Cabinet Secretary

Jerry Schoeppner, PG, Director
Mining and Minerals Division



July 29, 2021

Dr. Richard Begay
Navajo Nation, THPO
P.O. Box 4950
Window Rock, AZ 86515

Re: Notice of Intent to Issue a Minimal Impact Exploration Permit, Turquoise Mountain Exploration, Grant County, New Mexico, Permit No. GR087EM

Dear Dr. Begay ,

On March 17, 2021, the Mining and Minerals Division (“MMD”) of the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department notified your tribe about an application from Southern Silver Corp (U.S.) (“Permittee”) 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 will involve 5 boreholes on Bureau of Land Management property and 1 borehole on New Mexico State Land Office property. The applicant anticipates disturbing approximately 1.35 acres associated with the exploration activities. The Turquoise Mountain Project is located in Sections 35 and 36 of Township 27 South, Range 16 West and Sections 1-3 of Township 28 South, Range 16 West in Grant County.

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Mining and Minerals Division

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Deputy Cabinet Secretary

Jerry Schoeppner, PG, Director
Mining and Minerals Division



July 29, 2021

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

Re: Notice of Intent to Issue a Minimal Impact Exploration Permit, Turquoise Mountain Exploration, Grant County, New Mexico, Permit No. GR087EM

Dear Governor Vallo,

On March 17, 2021, the Mining and Minerals Division (“MMD”) of the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department notified your tribe about an application from Southern Silver Corp (U.S.) (“Permittee”) 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 will involve 5 boreholes on Bureau of Land Management property and 1 borehole on New Mexico State Land Office property. The applicant anticipates disturbing approximately 1.35 acres associated with the exploration activities. The Turquoise Mountain Project is located in Sections 35 and 36 of Township 27 South, Range 16 West and Sections 1-3 of Township 28 South, Range 16 West in Grant County.

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Deputy Cabinet Secretary

Jerry Schoeppner, PG, Director
Mining and Minerals Division



July 29, 2021

Mr. Damian Garcia
Pueblo of Acoma, THPO
P.O. Box 309
Acoma, NM 87034

Re: Notice of Intent to Issue a Minimal Impact Exploration Permit, Turquoise Mountain Exploration, Grant County, New Mexico, Permit No. GR087EM

Dear Mr. Garcia,

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Jerry Schoeppner, PG, Director
Mining and Minerals Division



July 29, 2021

Governor Val R. Panteah, Sr.
Pueblo of Zuni
P.O. Box 339
Zuni, NM 87327

Re: Notice of Intent to Issue a Minimal Impact Exploration Permit, Turquoise Mountain Exploration, Grant County, New Mexico, Permit No. GR087EM

Dear Governor Panteah, Sr.,

On March 17, 2021, the Mining and Minerals Division (“MMD”) of the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department notified your tribe about an application from Southern Silver Corp (U.S.) (“Permittee”) 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 will involve 5 boreholes on Bureau of Land Management property and 1 borehole on New Mexico State Land Office property. The applicant anticipates disturbing approximately 1.35 acres associated with the exploration activities. The Turquoise Mountain Project is located in Sections 35 and 36 of Township 27 South, Range 16 West and Sections 1-3 of Township 28 South, Range 16 West in Grant County.

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Jerry Schoeppner, PG, Director
Mining and Minerals Division



July 29, 2021

Mr. Kurt Dongoske
Pueblo of Zuni, THPO
P.O. Box 1149
Zuni, NM 87327

Re: Notice of Intent to Issue a Minimal Impact Exploration Permit, Turquoise Mountain Exploration, Grant County, New Mexico, Permit No. GR087EM

Dear Mr. Dongoske,

On March 17, 2021, the Mining and Minerals Division (“MMD”) of the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department notified your tribe about an application from Southern Silver Corp (U.S.) (“Permittee”) 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 will involve 5 boreholes on Bureau of Land Management property and 1 borehole on New Mexico State Land Office property. The applicant anticipates disturbing approximately 1.35 acres associated with the exploration activities. The Turquoise Mountain Project is located in Sections 35 and 36 of Township 27 South, Range 16 West and Sections 1-3 of Township 28 South, Range 16 West in Grant County.

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Jerry Schoeppner, PG, Director
Mining and Minerals Division



July 29, 2021

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

Re: Notice of Intent to Issue a Minimal Impact Exploration Permit, Turquoise Mountain Exploration, Grant County, New Mexico, Permit No. GR087EM

Dear Chairwoman Lee-Gatewood,

On March 17, 2021, the Mining and Minerals Division (“MMD”) of the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department notified your tribe about an application from Southern Silver Corp (U.S.) (“Permittee”) 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 will involve 5 boreholes on Bureau of Land Management property and 1 borehole on New Mexico State Land Office property. The applicant anticipates disturbing approximately 1.35 acres associated with the exploration activities. The Turquoise Mountain Project is located in Sections 35 and 36 of Township 27 South, Range 16 West and Sections 1-3 of Township 28 South, Range 16 West in Grant County.

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Jerry Schoeppner, PG, Director
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July 29, 2021

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

Re: Notice of Intent to Issue a Minimal Impact Exploration Permit, Turquoise Mountain Exploration, Grant County, New Mexico, Permit No. GR087EM

Dear Mr. Altaha,

On March 17, 2021, the Mining and Minerals Division (“MMD”) of the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department notified your tribe about an application from Southern Silver Corp (U.S.) (“Permittee”) 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 will involve 5 boreholes on Bureau of Land Management property and 1 borehole on New Mexico State Land Office property. The applicant anticipates disturbing approximately 1.35 acres associated with the exploration activities. The Turquoise Mountain Project is located in Sections 35 and 36 of Township 27 South, Range 16 West and Sections 1-3 of Township 28 South, Range 16 West in Grant County.

“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 location. The application can be viewed in its entirety by visiting the MMD website at http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/MMD/MARP/TurquoiseMountain_GR087EM.html.

An archaeological survey was conducted as required by the Bureau of Land Management and New Mexico State Land Office. We are notifying you that the applicant has satisfied all our regulatory requirements and we are prepared to issue a permit. We would like to give you a final opportunity to provide us with comments. Please provide comments to MMD by July 20, 2021. Please contact me at (505) 470-5354 or jennifere.johnson@state.nm.us with any questions or if you wish to meet to discuss the application.

Sincerely,

Jenn Johnson, Permit Lead
Mining and Minerals Division

Enclosures (Project Vicinity Map)
cc: Project File (GR087EM)

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, PG, Director
Mining and Minerals Division



July 29, 2021

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

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