

Gerard Schoeppner, NM Mining and Minerals Division,

38 people have signed a petition on Action Network telling you to Require New Emma Open Pit Meet Best Management Practices to Protect People, the Environment and Wildlife .

Here is the petition they signed:

According to the New Mexico Mining Act regulations NMAC 19.10.5.508, you must ensure that the new Emma Pit is designed and operated using the most appropriate technology and the best management practices to assure protection of human health and safety, the environment, wildlife and domestic animals.

Therefore, I strongly urge you to require the following most appropriate technologies and best management practices at the Emma Pit, including:

- A groundwater monitoring and mitigation plan to monitor potential impacts to residential wells and springs and commit to corrective action should impairment occur.
- A dust control plan, noise mitigation plan, and lighting plan that demonstrate the Emma operation will follow Best Management Practices to mitigate negative impacts to nearby residents. A formal grievance process should be put in place by Freeport to ensure accountability to its neighbors for nuisance mitigation.
- Backfill the pit lake at closure and use a sump pump rather than a barge pump to eliminate the pit lake that poses a risk to wildlife.
- In response to more frequent, severe storm events due to climate change, use the 200-yr 24-hr flood event as the stormwater design standard to prevent overtopping of berms, erosion, and spills.
- Require financial assurance for at least 100 years of water quality monitoring and treatment in a less risky instrument, such as cash trust, surety bond or letter of credit.

I thank you for consideration of my comments.

You can view each petition signer and the comments they left you below.

Thank you,

Gila Resources Information Project

1. Allyson Siwik (*ZIP code: 88061*)

2. Ann Bartley (*ZIP code: 88061*)

3. Rebecca Harwood (*ZIP code: 88061*)

New mining must protect water and provide the public with all relevant information regarding environmental mitigation. A trust fund for this purpose would show that the mining company is serious about protecting water, air, animals and people.

4. Rebecca Summer (*ZIP code: 88061*)

Please seriously consider the following concerns:

Water Supply

- Freeport's groundwater modeling is inadequate to evaluate impacts to nearby wells and springs. It does not incorporate sufficient groundwater monitoring data and domestic well data, consider the extensive fracturing of the underlying rock, or communicate the high degree of uncertainty in its results.

Recommendation - Require a groundwater monitoring and mitigation plan to monitor potential impacts to residential wells and springs and commit to corrective action should impairment occur.

Air Quality, Noise, Light Trespass

- Local residents, the closest living a half mile away, will likely be impacted by fugitive dust, noise, and light trespass.

Recommendation - Freeport should develop and make public its dust control plan, noise mitigation plan, and lighting plan that demonstrate the Emma operation will follow Best Management Practices to mitigate negative impacts to nearby residents. A formal grievance process should be put in place by Freeport to ensure accountability to its neighbors for nuisance mitigation.

Reclamation

- Water quality of the pit lake at closure will exceed water quality standards for selenium, cobalt, copper and cadmium posing a risk to wildlife. The Emma Pit will require "perpetual treatment," pumping and treating of pit lake water forever.

Recommendation - Freeport should backfill the pit lake and use a sump pump rather than a barge pump to eliminate the pit lake that poses a risk to wildlife.

- According to the Interstate Stream Commission's recently released 50-year water plan, climate change is predicted to result in more frequent and severe storm events.

Recommendation - Freeport should use the 200-yr 24-hr flood event as the stormwater design standard to prevent overtopping of berms, erosion, and spills.

Financial Assurance

Recommendations - Financial assurance should be posted to cover at least 100 years of water monitoring and treatment. The form of financial assurance should be in a letter of credit, cash trust, or surety bond rather than a risky Third-Party Guarantee to ensure resources are available for cleanup and reclamation should the company default.

5. Bonnie Gestring (*ZIP code: 59801*)

6. Tony Chiaviello (*ZIP code: 88061*)

With water projected to be scarcer and harder to access into the long term future, it makes no sense to open a new mining project that would put additional demands on water availability as well as risk contaminating the source of such water in the aquifer. Grant county should be husbanding its water supply and conserving its use. New mining projects that are intensive users of the water supply are not supported by the facts.

7. Marilyn Jackson (ZIP code: 88061)

I'm sure you want to be a good partner to our community and care about the water and land so dear to us. Please do the right thing and only use best practices to protect the water and land. During this time of drought we are counting on you.

8. CAROL SASSAMAN (ZIP code: 88041)

9. David Kent (ZIP code: 88065)

10. Doug Abbott (ZIP code: 88005)

11. Kim McCreery (ZIP code: 88061)

12. Carolbeth Elliott (ZIP code: 88061)

13. glen and Sharon Cornelius (ZIP code: 88061)

14. Sandra Griffin (ZIP code: 88061-7475)

15. Russell Kinter (ZIP code: 88062)

Our ground water levels are already at a critical state now due to drought and mining. To allow Freeport to dewater another pit is unconscionable. Remember the "Murray Subdivision" debacle in the Grants/Milan area....All the hydrology reports were wrong!

16. Jeffrey Smith (ZIP code: 88062)

17. John Conway (ZIP code: 88061)

I am a resident of Loma Blanca subdivision. Naturally I have two concerns that anyone would have. !.) Potential contamination of groundwater (since no one can guarantee water table connectivity or lack of). 2.) Potential lowering of water table across wide enough area to compromise wells. At a minimum, Freeport-McMoRan should be paying for routine water quality sampling and well depth assessments for property owners within a 5+ mile radius of Emma Mine.

18. JAMES SIMS (ZIP code: 88061)

19. Kathleen O'Keefe (ZIP code: 87144)

Freeport-McMoRan must use the most appropriate technology and follow best management practices at the Emma Project to assure protection of human health and safety, the environment, and wildlife.

20. Lisa Fields (ZIP code: 88061)

My permanent and sole residence is within 3 miles by road travel, of the proposed Emma Open Pit Mine. My home and over 45 others are subject to prevailing Estimates and NW winds, directly in the path of dust from the mine. My greatest concern is the impact to respiratory health as well as exposure to carcinogens in the home of heavy metals. It is crucial to have constant dust mitigation during construction, excavation and throughout the operation of the Emma Open Pit Mine. This is a critical matter of health and well being for humans, livestock and pets as well as plants and it has an impact throughout the ecosystems affected by dust from mine operations. Please ensure a rigorous dust control standard be but in place and monitored.

21. Lyn Wandell (ZIP code: 96778)

Very opposed to this environmental degradation!

22. Melissa Amarello (ZIP code: 88061)

23. maryam Weidner (ZIP code: 88062)

24. Michael Nicolai (ZIP code: 88061)

25. nancy sullivan (ZIP code: 88061-9133)

I am extremely concerned regarding the effect on groundwater and am presently making arrangements to have my well inspected so that i have current data in the event of a subsequent problem.

26. Nancy Langsner (ZIP code: 88061)

27. Dennis O'Keefe (ZIP code: 88065)

I'm very concerned about a new, large and deep pit constructed South of the existing mine and pits. It's going to destroy a large area of Oak forest and all the wild life that can't relocate. I live just further South on Armijo road and am concerned about a possible drop in my well level, as well as more noise, dust and light pollution. I'm also concerned that the closer blasting will cause cracking in the walls of my house. I think a new pit coming closer to many homes is not acceptable and shouldn't be allowed by the State.

28. Catherine Swain (ZIP code: 88062)

At the bare minimum, the Emma project should adhere to Best Management Practices. It's high time mining companies should adhere to strict environmental laws. No, I'm not against mining, but I'm strongly against mining companies making huge profits and not cleaning up their mess. Honestly, I'm in favor of not expanding the mine at all.

29. Peter Lipa (ZIP code: 86336)

Please ensure best practices on the Emma project for it to go forward. We can't afford more pollution, contamination, soil degradation, animal extinction.

30. Patricia A Wolph (ZIP code: 88061)

Many of us know we need minerals for our everyday lives, please mine responsibly. We want clean water, wildlife, minimal disturbances.

Thanks

31. Jene Moseley (*ZIP code: 88061*)

I continue to be concerned about the Emma Project caring about profits over environmental and neighboring impacts. It would seem that they really don't care at all.

32. Arthur Ratcliffe (*ZIP code: 88061-9152*)

The Emma pit will intersect our groundwater, and cause drawdown to local resident's wells. We are facing more drought and unsure climatology already. Emma will make it worse.

33. Rebecca Scott (*ZIP code: 88061*)

Water is such an issue in NM. To risk contamination, toxic air and more destruction to the earth is criminal both to humans and wildlife.

34. Robert Fischhoff (*ZIP code: 88062*)

35. Robert Robbins (*ZIP code: 88061*)

36. Sharon Mijares (*ZIP code: 88061-4847*)

Protecting our environment needs to be primary concern.

37. Shelby Hallmark (*ZIP code: 88061*)

38. Victoria MacDonald (*ZIP code: 88061*)