



Electronic Transmission

MEMORANDUM

Date: December 15, 2022

To: Holland Shepherd, Program Manager, Mining Act Reclamation Program

Through: Anne Maurer, Mining Act Team Leader, Mining Environmental Compliance Section (MECS)

From: Brad Reid, MECS
John Moeny, Surface Water Quality Bureau (SWQB)
Sufi Mustafa, Air Quality Bureau (AQB)

Subject: **New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Comments, Freeport-McMoRan Tyrone Operations, Emma-B Exploration Project, Modification 22-1, Grant County, New Mexico, New Mexico Mining Act Permit No. GR083EM**

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) received correspondence from the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) on November 4, 2022, requesting that NMED review and provide comments on the above-referenced MMD permitting action. Pursuant to the Mining Act, this is a minimal impact exploration permit. MMD requested comments on the application within 20 days of receipt of the request for comments. NMED requested an extension to submit comments by December 15, 2022. NMED has the following comments.

Background

Freeport-McMoRan Tyrone Operations (FMI-Tyrone) is requesting a modification to the minimal impact exploration permit for the Emma-B Exploration Project, Permit No. GR083EM. FMI-Tyrone is proposing to drill an additional 16 boreholes estimated to be up to 1,500 feet below ground surface (bgs) on 9 new drilling sites. The drill hole proposed locations are within the MMD-approved permit area for the Emma-B Exploration Project, located approximately ½ mile south of the Tyrone Mine.

Air Quality Bureau

The Air Quality Bureau comments are attached.

Surface Water Quality Bureau

The Surface Water Quality Bureau comments are attached.

Mining Environmental Compliance Section

MECS requests the FMI-Tyrone communicate directly with MECS regarding any exploration boreholes planned for use as temporary water quality monitoring wells and confirm whether these are accounted for in the proposed sampling and analysis plan included in the Ground Water Discharge Permit Application for DP-396.

NMED Summary Comment

NMED finds that the exploration project is likely to have a minimal impact to the environment if operated and reclaimed with the approved permits, pollution controls, and the comments above.

If you have any questions, please contact Anne Maurer at (505) 660-8878.

cc: David Otori, Permit Lead, EMNRD-MMD
Joseph Fox, Program Manager, NMED-MECS
Shelly Lemon, Bureau Chief, NMED-SWQB
Elizabeth Bisbey-Kuehn, Bureau Chief, NMED-AQB