

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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Governor

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Mining and Minerals Division



Electronic Transmission

April 21, 2023

Mr. Thomas L. Shelley, Reclamation Manager
Freeport-McMoRan Tyrone Inc.
P.O. Box 571
Tyrone, NM 88065

RE: Comments on the Sampling and Analysis Plan for Modification 22-1 to Little Rock Mine, Permit No. GR007RE; and Modification 22-1 to Tyrone Mine, Permit No. GR010RE; Freeport-McMoRan Tyrone Inc.

Dear Mr. Shelley:

The New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) received a Sampling and Analysis Plan for the 9A/9AX Waste Rock Stockpiles and USNR Test Plots (SAP) from Freeport-McMoRan Tyrone Inc. (Tyrone), dated March 31, 2023, responding to comments that MMD had regarding the applications for Modification 22-1 to the Little Rock Mine, Permit No. GR007RE and the Tyrone Mine, Permit No. GR010RE.

MMD has reviewed the SAP and is requesting additional information. Please respond to the following comments within 30 days of receipt of this letter:

1. Section 2.1 states, *WSP will use a field protocol to compare the total volumetric rock ocular estimates with dry sieved samples to determine if estimates were within ± 5 percent on average.* Please elaborate on how the ocular total rock fragment estimates will be verified to ensure accuracy of rock fragment content.
2. Section 2.1 describes reporting the physical soil characteristics based on USDA National Soil Survey Standard methods. When reporting, describe the USDA classification of the sampled material as a whole, rather than the fine earth fraction alone. For instance, “very cobbly sandy loam” for a sandy loam with 50% volume dominated by cobbles.
3. Section 2.1 describes how mass will be converted to volume to determine total rock content. Please explain why the conversion uses particle density (2.63g/mL) for gravels and a bulk density of 1.54g/mL for the fine earth fraction.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (505) 216-8399 or at carmen.rose@emnrd.nm.gov.

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Sincerely,



Carmen Rose

Mining Act Reclamation Program ("MARP")

Mining and Minerals Division

CC: Raechel Roberts, Environmental Scientist II, Tyrone Mine
David Ennis, MARP Program Manager
Brad Reid, Mining Environmental Compliance Section (MECS), NMED GWQB
Anne Maurer, MECS, NMED GWQB
Joseph Navarro, U.S. BLM, Las Cruces District Office
Allyson Siwik, Executive Director, Gila Resources Information Project
Mine Files (GR007RE and GR010RE)