Electronic Transmission

MEMORANDUM

Date: June 26, 2023

To: David Ennis, Program Manager, Mining Act Reclamation Program

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

From: Amber Rheubottom, MECS
Alan Klatt, Surface Water Quality Bureau (SWQB)
Sufi Mustafa, Air Quality Bureau (AQB)

Subject: **New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Comments, Cebolleta Exploration Project, Amended New Minimal Impact Exploration Permit Application, Response to Comments, Cibola Resources, LLC, Cibola County, New Mexico, New Mexico Mining Act Permit No. CI018EM**

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) received correspondence from the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) on May 22, 2023 requesting that NMED review and provide comments on the above-referenced MMD permitting action. Pursuant to the Mining Act, the Cebolleta Exploration Project is is a new 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 June 27, 2023. NMED has the following comments.

Background

Cibola Resources, LLC (applicant) proposes to disturb up to 3.24 acres of Cebolleta Land Grant. The applicant proposes to drill up to 22 boreholes on 22 drill pads, each up to 340 feet below ground surface (bgs). This site is located approximately 4.7 miles southeast of Seboyetta, NM.

The depth to groundwater as stated in the application ranges from 150 to ≥250 feet; therefore groundwater will be intercepted during drilling operations. The Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) concentrations in groundwater based on the application ranges from 500 to 1,500 mg/L.

Air Quality Bureau

The Air Quality Bureau has no comments.

Surface Water Quality Bureau

The Surface Water Quality Bureau comments are attached.

Mining Environmental Compliance Section (MECS)

The MECS has no comments.

NMED Summary Comment

NMED has determined that the activities proposed in the application will be protective of the environment.

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

cc: Joseph Fox, Program Manager, NMED-MECS
Shelly Lemon, Bureau Chief, NMED-SWQB
Elizabeth Bisbey-Kuehn, Bureau Chief, NMED-AQB