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STATE OF NEW MEXICO
DEPARTMENT OF GAME & FISH

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20 November 2017

Clint Chisler, Permit Lead
Mining Act Reclamation Program
New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, NM, 87505

RE: Minimal Impact Exploration Operation Permit Application, Lordsburg Playa Lithium Exploration Project, Permit No. HI018EM; NMDGF No. 18073

Dear Mr. Chisler:

In response to your letter dated 3 October 2017 regarding the above referenced minimal impact exploration project, the Department of Game and Fish (Department) does not anticipate significant impacts to wildlife or sensitive habitats, with implementation of the applicable mitigation or avoidance measures included within the project description.

The playa lakes within the Lordsburg Playa contain limited riparian/wetland vegetation primarily along their borders, and during periods of high run-off the playa lakes contain water that provides an important stopover and wintering site for migratory shorebirds and waterfowl. While the Department does not anticipate significant impacts to wildlife or sensitive habitats for the minimal impact exploratory phase of the project, we feel that the uniqueness and value of these large playa lakes to migratory birds could subject them to adverse impacts from large resource extraction operations, and that the Lordsburg Playa should be managed as important wildlife habitat.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on your project. If you have any questions, please contact Ron Kellermueller, Mining and Energy Habitat Specialist at (505) 476-8159 or ronald.kellermueller@state.nm.us.

Sincerely,

Chuck L. Hayes, Assistant Chief
Ecological and Environmental Planning Division

cc: USFWS NMES Field Office



Susana Martinez
Governor

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION

BATAAN MEMORIAL BUILDING
407 GALISTEO STREET, SUITE 236
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87501
PHONE (505) 827-6320 FAX (505) 827-6338

November 2, 2017

Clint Chisler
Permit Lead
Mining Act Reclamation Program
Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Re: Application for Minimal Impact Exploration Permit, Lordsburg Playa Lithium project, Hidalgo County, New Mexico, HI018EM

Dear Mr. Chisler:

This letter is in response to the above referenced new minimal impact exploration permit application received at the Historic Preservation Division (HPD) on October 10, 2017 (HPD log 106574). According to the application, the proposed project is within Township 23 South, Range 20 West, in portions of Sections 8, 9, 10, 15, 17, 20, 21, and 22. .

In accordance with rule 19.10.3 NMAC, *Minimal Impact Operations*, I reviewed our records to determine if cemeteries, burial grounds or cultural resources listed on the State Register of Cultural Properties or the National Register of Historic Places exist within or near the permit area. Our records show that there are no cultural resources listed on the National Register or State Register within or near the proposed permit area and no known cemeteries or burial grounds.

Although there are no cultural resources listed on the State or National Register, our records show that the area has not been surveyed for cultural resources. There is not enough information to assess the potential for cultural resources in the project area or the access routes.

The application states that the surface and mineral estate is owned by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and is probably subject to review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. To the best of my knowledge, the BLM has not consulted with the SHPO. The BLM may require a cultural resources survey, and will review the results of the survey report and consider project effects on any archaeological sites that may be eligible

for listing on the National Register pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The BLM may require avoidance of any eligible archaeological sites and an archaeological monitor to ensure that eligible sites are not affected.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding these comments. I can be reached by telephone at (505) 827-4225 or by email at bob.estes@state.nm.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bob Estes".

Bob Estes PH.D.
Archaeologist

Log: 106574