

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

Melanie Kenderdine
Cabinet Secretary

Ben Shelton
Acting Deputy Secretary

Albert Chang, Director
Mining and Minerals Division



January 3, 2025

Dr. Katie Zemlick
Office of the State Engineer
P.O. Box 25102
Santa Fe, NM 87504-5102

RE: Request for Comments, Site Wide Closure/Closeout Plan Update 2024, Chino Mine, Revision 24-2, Grant County, New Mexico, Permit No. GR009RE

Dear Dr. Zemlick,

On October 31, 2024, the Mining and Minerals Division ("MMD") received an application from Freeport-McMoRan Chino Mines Company ("FMI") to update their existing Closure/Closeout Plan ("CCP") for the Chino Mine ("Chino"), Permit No. GR009RE. The purpose of the 2024 CCP Update is to present a comprehensive reclamation plan for Chino that is consistent with all applicable federal and state regulatory requirements and permit conditions. The updated reclamation plan is used to calculate a financial assurance cost estimate for Chino that will meet the financial assurance requirements of 19.10.12 NMAC.

Pursuant to 19.10.5.506.E NMAC, MMD is requesting comments from your agency regarding this application. The application from the operator can be downloaded from MMD's website at: <https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/mmd/gr009re-chino-mine-modification-24-2-2024-ccp-update/>

In accordance with 19.10.5.506.E NMAC, your agency has 60 days from the date of receipt of this letter in which to provide comments. The Director will consider these comments in making the determination of eligibility for minimal impact status. If you have any questions, please contact me at (505) 470-5354 or by email at kevin.barnes@emnrd.nm.gov.

Sincerely,

Kevin Barnes
Permit Lead
Mining Act Reclamation Program (MARP)

cc: Mine File (GR009RE)

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January 3, 2025

Dr. Virginia Seamster
NM Department of Game and Fish
1 Wildlife Way
Santa Fe, NM 87507

RE: Request for Comments, Site Wide Closure/Closeout Plan Update 2024, Chino Mine, Revision 24-2, Grant County, New Mexico, Permit No. GR009RE

Dear Dr. Seamster,

On October 31, 2024, the Mining and Minerals Division ("MMD") received an application from Freeport-McMoRan Chino Mines Company ("FMI") to update their existing Closure/Closeout Plan ("CCP") for the Chino Mine ("Chino"), Permit No. GR009RE. The purpose of the 2024 CCP Update is to present a comprehensive reclamation plan for Chino that is consistent with all applicable federal and state regulatory requirements and permit conditions. The updated reclamation plan is used to calculate a financial assurance cost estimate for Chino that will meet the financial assurance requirements of 19.10.12 NMAC.

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January 3, 2025

Ms. Cortney Wands
Department of Cultural Affairs, Historic Preservation Division
407 Galisteo St., Suite 236
Santa Fe, NM 87501

RE: Request for Comments, Site Wide Closure/Closeout Plan Update 2024, Chino Mine, Revision 24-2, Grant County, New Mexico, Permit No. GR009RE

Dear Ms. Wands,

On October 31, 2024, the Mining and Minerals Division (“MMD”) received an application from Freeport-McMoRan Chino Mines Company (“FMI”) to update their existing Closure/Closeout Plan (“CCP”) for the Chino Mine (“Chino”), Permit No. GR009RE. The purpose of the 2024 CCP Update is to present a comprehensive reclamation plan for Chino that is consistent with all applicable federal and state regulatory requirements and permit conditions. The updated reclamation plan is used to calculate a financial assurance cost estimate for Chino that will meet the financial assurance requirements of 19.10.12 NMAC.

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January 3, 2025

Mr. Corey Durr
BLM Las Cruces
1800 Marquess St.
Las Cruces, NM 88005

RE: Request for Comments, Site Wide Closure/Closeout Plan Update 2024, Chino Mine, Revision 24-2, Grant County, New Mexico, Permit No. GR009RE

Dear Mr. Durr,

On October 31, 2024, the Mining and Minerals Division ("MMD") received an application from Freeport-McMoRan Chino Mines Company ("FMI") to update their existing Closure/Closeout Plan ("CCP") for the Chino Mine ("Chino"), Permit No. GR009RE. The purpose of the 2024 CCP Update is to present a comprehensive reclamation plan for Chino that is consistent with all applicable federal and state regulatory requirements and permit conditions. The updated reclamation plan is used to calculate a financial assurance cost estimate for Chino that will meet the financial assurance requirements of 19.10.12 NMAC.

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Permit Lead
Mining Act Reclamation Program (MARP)

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Albert Chang, Director
Mining and Minerals Division



January 3, 2025

Ms. Erika Rowe
EMNRD-Forestry Division
1220 S. St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, NM 87505

RE: Request for Comments, Site Wide Closure/Closeout Plan Update 2024, Chino Mine, Revision 24-2, Grant County, New Mexico, Permit No. GR009RE

Dear Ms. Rowe,

On October 31, 2024, the Mining and Minerals Division (“MMD”) received an application from Freeport-McMoRan Chino Mines Company (“FMI”) to update their existing Closure/Closeout Plan (“CCP”) for the Chino Mine (“Chino”), Permit No. GR009RE. The purpose of the 2024 CCP Update is to present a comprehensive reclamation plan for Chino that is consistent with all applicable federal and state regulatory requirements and permit conditions. The updated reclamation plan is used to calculate a financial assurance cost estimate for Chino that will meet the financial assurance requirements of 19.10.12 NMAC.

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Kevin Barnes
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Mining and Minerals Division



January 3, 2025

Ms. Amber Rheubottom
NMED Ground Water Quality Bureau
P.O. Box 5469
Santa Fe, NM 87502-5469

RE: Request for Comments, Site Wide Closure/Closeout Plan Update 2024, Chino Mine, Revision 24-2, Grant County, New Mexico, Permit No. GR009RE

Dear Ms. Rheubottom,

On October 31, 2024, the Mining and Minerals Division (“MMD”) received an application from Freeport-McMoRan Chino Mines Company (“FMI”) to update their existing Closure/Closeout Plan (“CCP”) for the Chino Mine (“Chino”), Permit No. GR009RE. The purpose of the 2024 CCP Update is to present a comprehensive reclamation plan for Chino that is consistent with all applicable federal and state regulatory requirements and permit conditions. The updated reclamation plan is used to calculate a financial assurance cost estimate for Chino that will meet the financial assurance requirements of 19.10.12 NMAC.

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