

April 9, 2025

Albert Chang, Director Mining and Minerals Division, EMNRD 1220 South St. Francis Drive Santa Fe, NM 87505

RE: Public Hearing Request - GR009RE Chino Mine, Revision 24-2 2024 CCP Update

Dear Director Chang:

On behalf of Gila Resources Information Project, I would like to request that the Mining and Minerals Division hold a public hearing on Revision 24-2 2024 of the Chino Mine Permit GR009RE for the update to the Chino Closure Closeout Plan (CCP).

This permit revision is significant and warrants a public hearing given the potential for significant surface and groundwater contamination, impacts to wildlife, air quality, the environment and public health at mine closure.

In addition to these issues, GRIP remains very concerned about the estimation of reclamation costs and the inadequacy of financial assurance to fully cover reclamation costs should the operator default. Given the current economic situation and global tariff war, we also have questions related to the operator's financial soundness and use of a third party guarantee for this permit revision.

Thank you for your consideration of our request for a public hearing.

Sincerely,

Allyson Siwik
Executive Director

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