

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

Melanie A. Kenderdine
Cabinet Secretary

Ben Shelton
Deputy Secretary

Erin Taylor
Deputy Secretary

Albert C. S. Chang, Director
Mining and Minerals Division



April 29, 2025

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

RE: Request for Comments on Minimal Impact Exploration Permit Application, Chino Main Entrance Project, Grant County, New Mexico, Permit No. GR096EM

Dear Dr. Zemlick,

On April 14, 2025, the Mining and Minerals Division (“MMD”) received an application from Freeport-McMoRan Chino Mines Company (“FMI”) for a minimal impact exploration project outside the current permit boundary of the Chino Mine (Permit No. GR009RE). The project is named the Chino Main Entrance Project and has been assigned provisional Permit No. GR096EM. Pursuant to 19.10.3.302.G NMAC, MMD is requesting comments from your agency regarding this application. The application from FMI can be downloaded from MMD’s website at <https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/mmd/chino-main-entrance-project-provisional-permit-no-gr096em-2/>

In accordance with 19.10.3.302.G NMAC, your agency has 20 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 (GR096EM)

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April 29, 2025

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

RE: Request for Comments on Minimal Impact Exploration Permit Application, Chino Main Entrance Project, Grant County, New Mexico, Permit No. GR096EM

Dear Dr. Seamster,

On April 14, 2025, the Mining and Minerals Division (“MMD”) received an application from Freeport-McMoRan Chino Mines Company (“FMI”) for a minimal impact exploration project outside the current permit boundary of the Chino Mine (Permit No. GR009RE). The project is named the Chino Main Entrance Project and has been assigned provisional Permit No. GR096EM. Pursuant to 19.10.3.302.G NMAC, MMD is requesting comments from your agency regarding this application. The application from FMI can be downloaded from MMD’s website at <https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/mmd/chino-main-entrance-project-provisional-permit-no-gr096em-2/>

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April 29, 2025

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

RE: Request for Comments on Minimal Impact Exploration Permit Application, Chino Main Entrance Project, Grant County, New Mexico, Permit No. GR096EM

Dear Ms. Wands,

On April 14, 2025, the Mining and Minerals Division (“MMD”) received an application from Freeport-McMoRan Chino Mines Company (“FMI”) for a minimal impact exploration project outside the current permit boundary of the Chino Mine (Permit No. GR009RE). The project is named the Chino Main Entrance Project and has been assigned provisional Permit No. GR096EM. Pursuant to 19.10.3.302.G NMAC, MMD is requesting comments from your agency regarding this application. The application from FMI can be downloaded from MMD’s website at <https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/mmd/chino-main-entrance-project-provisional-permit-no-gr096em-2/>

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April 29, 2025

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

RE: Request for Comments on Minimal Impact Exploration Permit Application, Chino Main Entrance Project, Grant County, New Mexico, Permit No. GR096EM

Dear Ms. Rowe,

On April 14, 2025, the Mining and Minerals Division (“MMD”) received an application from Freeport-McMoRan Chino Mines Company (“FMI”) for a minimal impact exploration project outside the current permit boundary of the Chino Mine (Permit No. GR009RE). The project is named the Chino Main Entrance Project and has been assigned provisional Permit No. GR096EM. Pursuant to 19.10.3.302.G NMAC, MMD is requesting comments from your agency regarding this application. The application from FMI can be downloaded from MMD’s website at <https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/mmd/chino-main-entrance-project-provisional-permit-no-gr096em-2/>

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Sincerely,

Kevin Barnes
Permit Lead
Mining Act Reclamation Program (MARP)

cc: Mine File (GR096EM)

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April 29, 2025

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

RE: Request for Comments on Minimal Impact Exploration Permit Application, Chino Main Entrance Project, Grant County, New Mexico, Permit No. GR096EM

Dear Ms. Rheubottom,

On April 14, 2025, the Mining and Minerals Division (“MMD”) received an application from Freeport-McMoRan Chino Mines Company (“FMI”) for a minimal impact exploration project outside the current permit boundary of the Chino Mine (Permit No. GR009RE). The project is named the Chino Main Entrance Project and has been assigned provisional Permit No. GR096EM. Pursuant to 19.10.3.302.G NMAC, MMD is requesting comments from your agency regarding this application. The application from FMI can be downloaded from MMD’s website at <https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/mmd/chino-main-entrance-project-provisional-permit-no-gr096em-2/>

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Kevin Barnes
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Mining Act Reclamation Program (MARP)

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