

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 Chang, Director
Mining and Minerals Division



April 30, 2025

Chairwoman Jennifer M. Heminokeky
Fort Sill Apache Tribe of Oklahoma
43187 US Hwy 281
Apache, OK 73006

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

Dear Chairwoman Heminokeky,

The Mining and Minerals Division ("MMD") of the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department has received an application from Freeport-McMoRan Chino Mines Company ("FMI") to conduct a minimal impact exploration project under 19.10.3 NMAC of the New Mexico Act (NMSA 1978, §69-36-1 et seq.). The project is located on private land in Township 17 South, Range 12 West, Section 32, and will involve the drilling of 5 boreholes up to 4,000 feet deep from three drill pads. The total estimated disturbance for this project is 5 acres.

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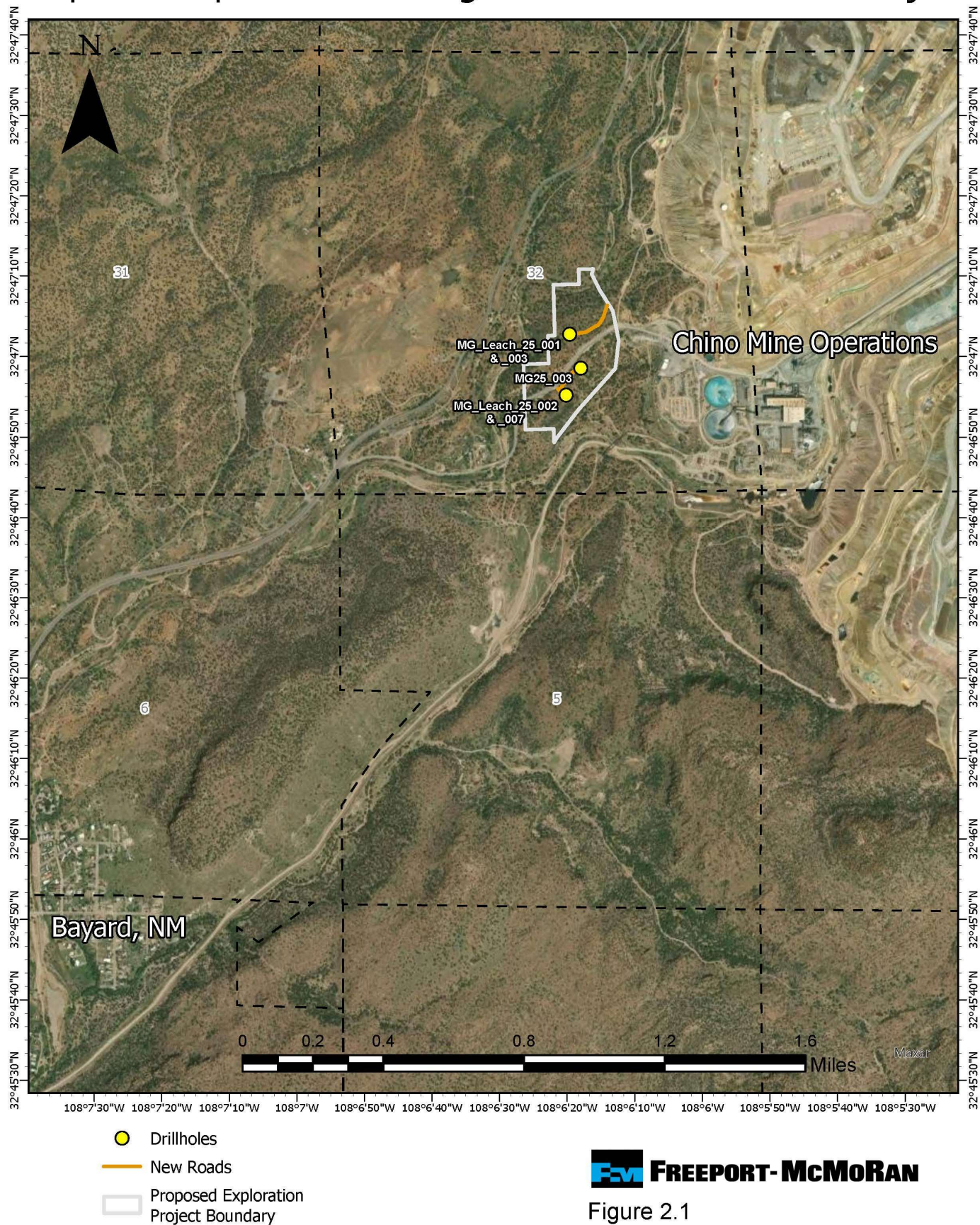
If there are known cultural resources in the vicinity of this project that your tribe is aware of, please provide any comments and concerns to MMD by May 15, 2025. Please contact me at (505) 470-5354 or kevin.barnes@emnrd.nm.gov with any questions or if you wish to meet to discuss the application.

Sincerely,

Kevin Barnes
Permit Lead
Mining and Minerals Division

Enclosures (Project Vicinity Map)
cc: Project File (GR096EM)

Proposed Exploration Drilling - Chino Main Entrance Project



State of New Mexico
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Mining and Minerals Division



April 30, 2025

President Thora Walsh-Padilla
Mescalero Apache Tribe
P.O. Box 227
Mescalero, NM 88340

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

Dear President Walsh-Padilla,

The Mining and Minerals Division (“MMD”) of the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department has received an application from Freeport-McMoRan Chino Mines Company (“FMI”) to conduct a minimal impact exploration project under 19.10.3 NMAC of the New Mexico Act (NMSA 1978, §69-36-1 et seq.). The project is located on private land in Township 17 South, Range 12 West, Section 32, and will involve the drilling of 5 boreholes up to 4,000 feet deep from three drill pads. The total estimated disturbance for this project is 5 acres.

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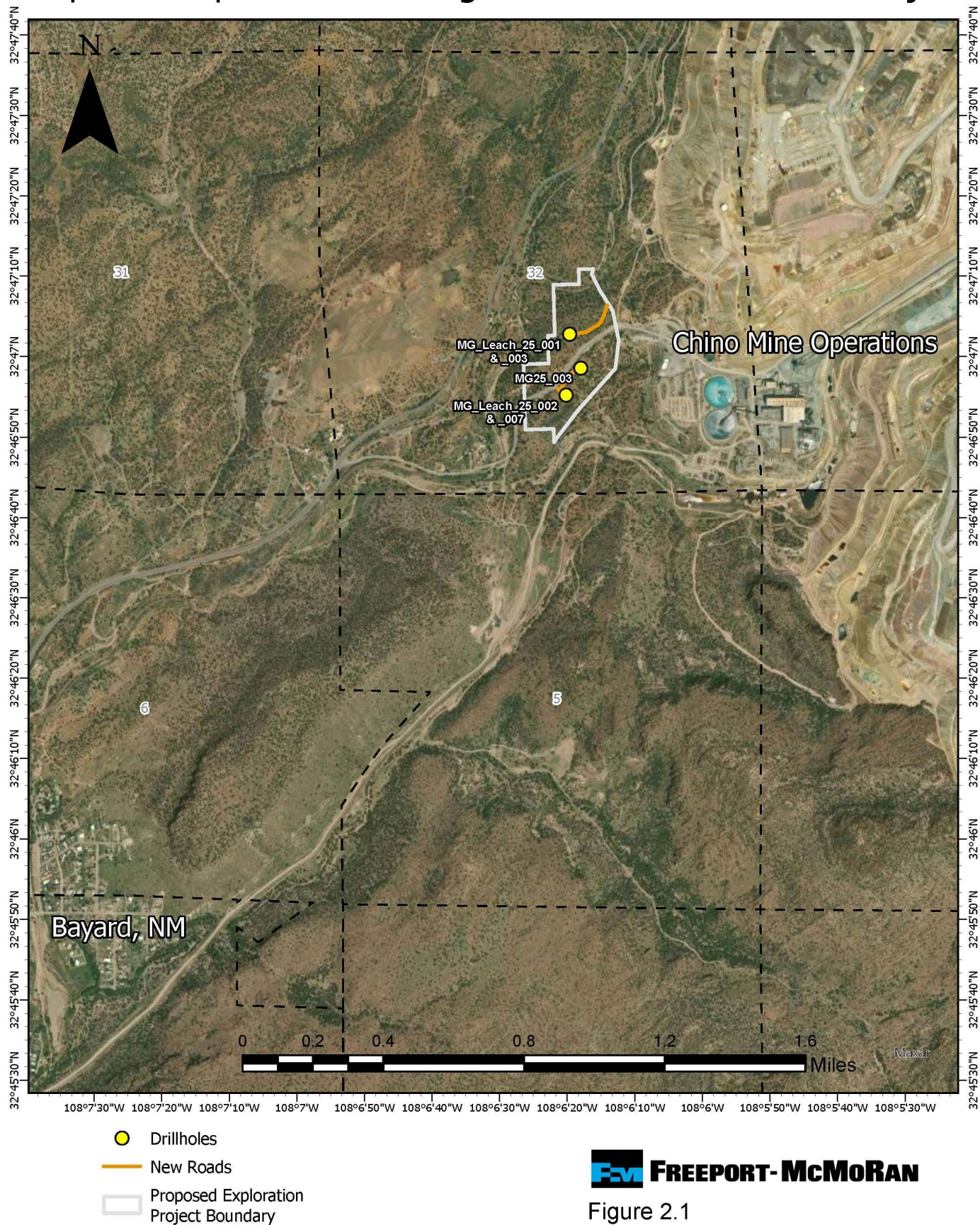
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Mining and Minerals Division



April 30, 2025

THPO Holly Houghton
Mescalero Apache Tribe
P.O. Box 227
Mescalero, NM 88340

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

Dear THPO Houghton,

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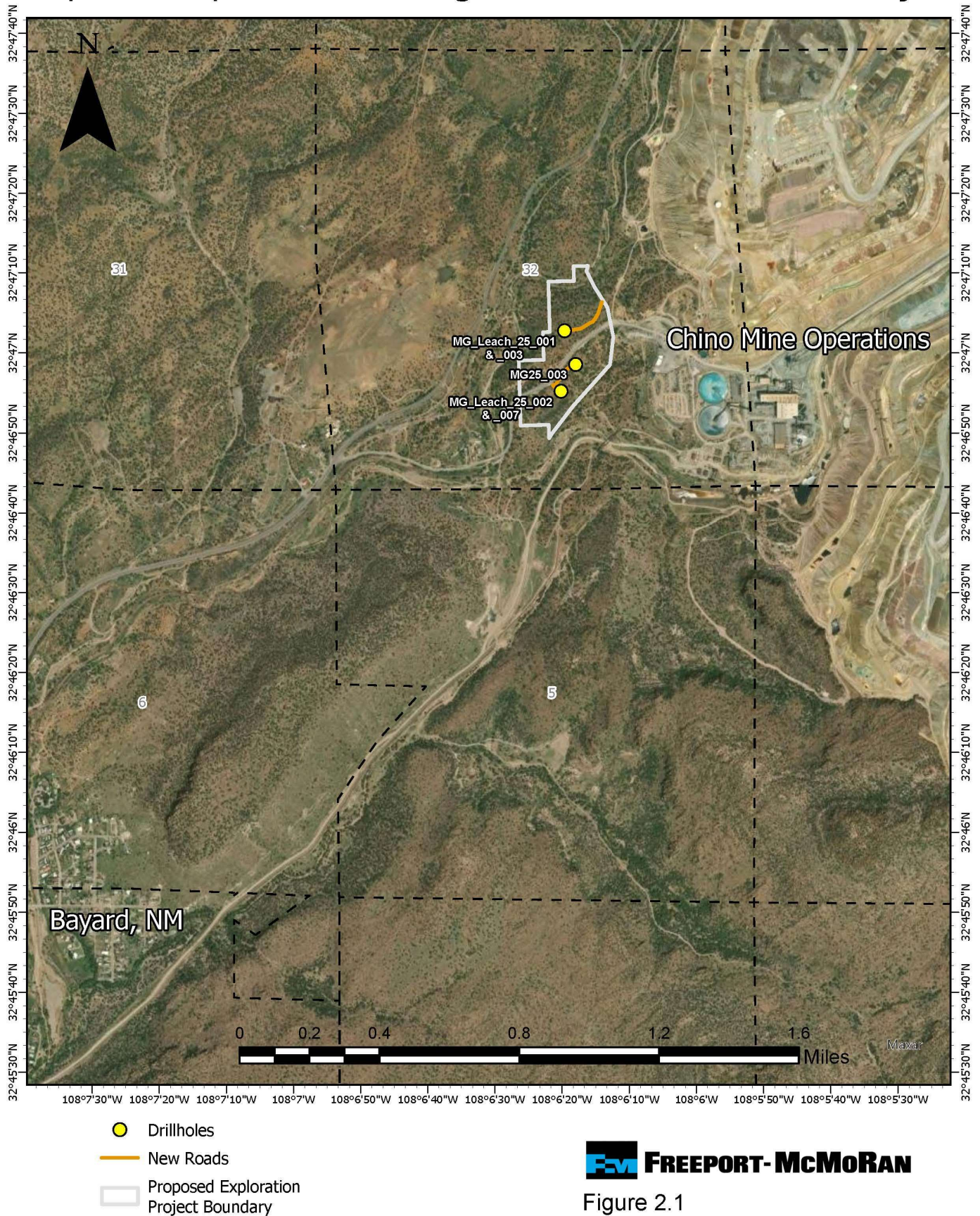
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Mining and Minerals Division



April 30, 2025

President Buu Nygren
Navajo Nation
P.O. Box 7440
Window Rock, AZ 86515

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

Dear President Nygren,

The Mining and Minerals Division ("MMD") of the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department has received an application from Freeport-McMoRan Chino Mines Company ("FMI") to conduct a minimal impact exploration project under 19.10.3 NMAC of the New Mexico Act (NMSA 1978, §69-36-1 et seq.). The project is located on private land in Township 17 South, Range 12 West, Section 32, and will involve the drilling of 5 boreholes up to 4,000 feet deep from three drill pads. The total estimated disturbance for this project is 5 acres.

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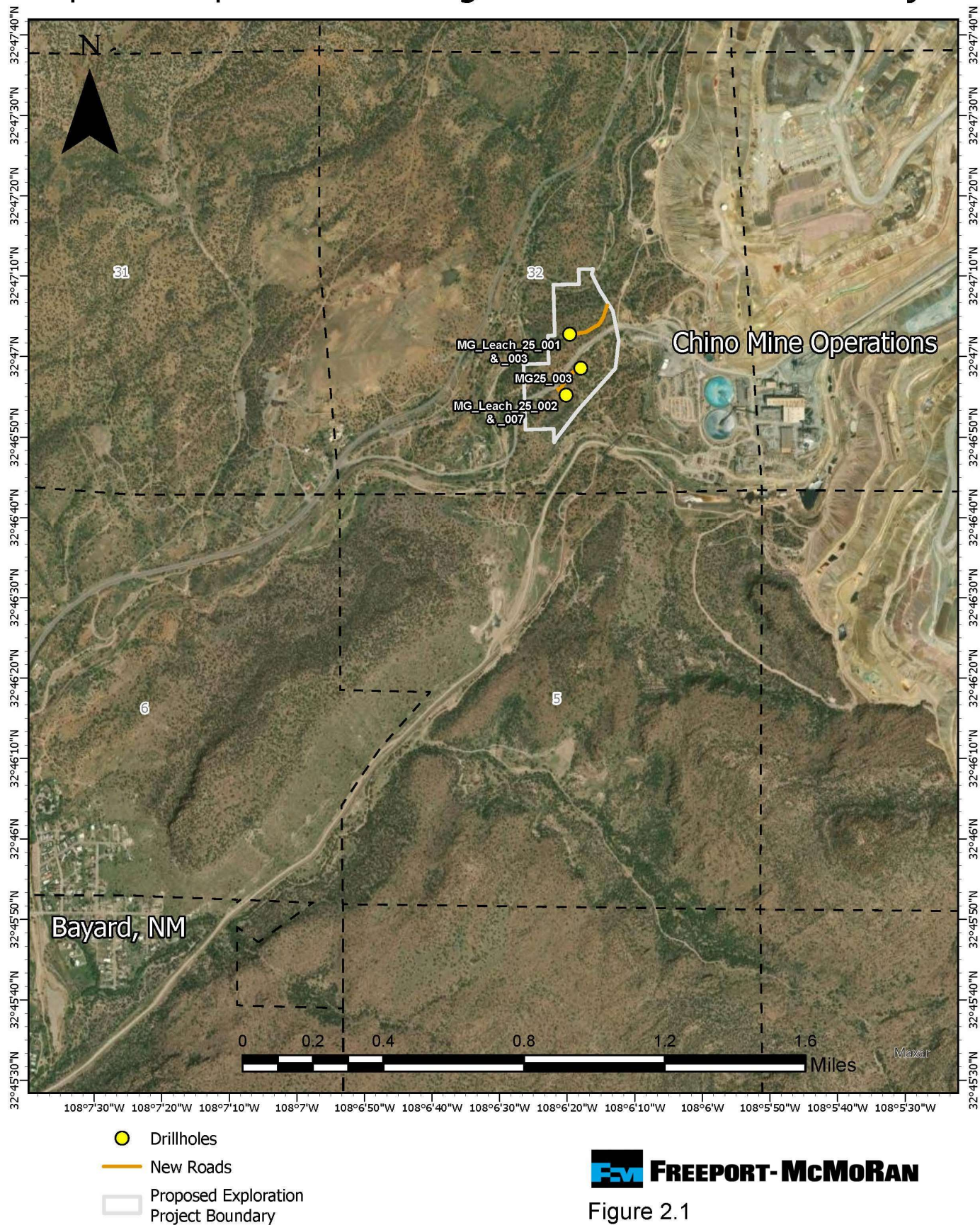
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Mining and Minerals Division

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Mining and Minerals Division



April 30, 2025

THPO Richard M. Begay
Navajo Nation Historic Preservation Division
P.O. Box 4950
Window Rock, AZ 86515

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

Dear THPO Begay,

The Mining and Minerals Division (“MMD”) of the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department has received an application from Freeport-McMoRan Chino Mines Company (“FMI”) to conduct a minimal impact exploration project under 19.10.3 NMAC of the New Mexico Act (NMSA 1978, §69-36-1 et seq.). The project is located on private land in Township 17 South, Range 12 West, Section 32, and will involve the drilling of 5 boreholes up to 4,000 feet deep from three drill pads. The total estimated disturbance for this project is 5 acres.

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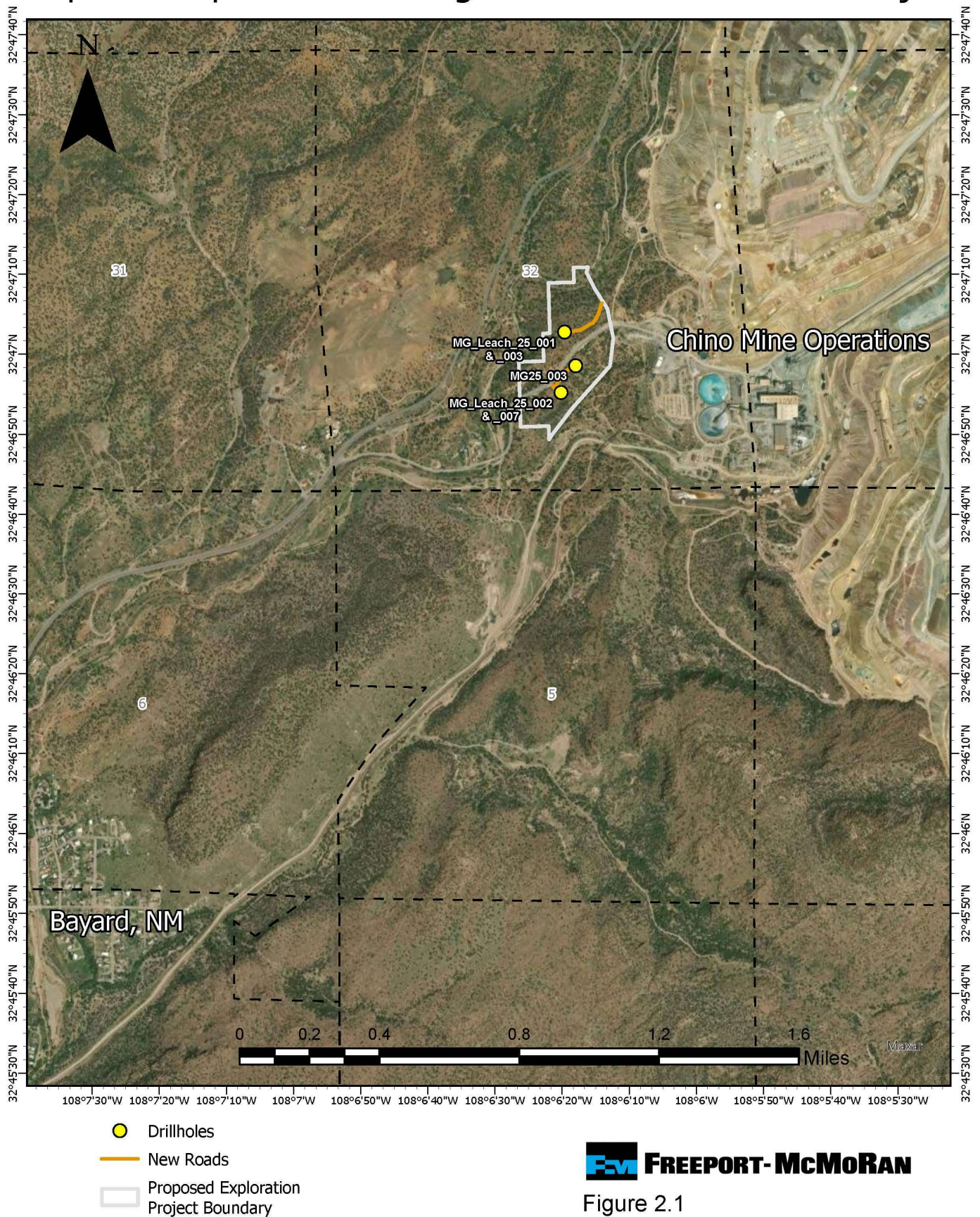
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Permit Lead
Mining and Minerals Division

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April 30, 2025

Governor Charles Riley
Pueblo of Acoma
P.O. Box 309
Acoma, NM 87034

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

Dear Governor Riley,

The Mining and Minerals Division (“MMD”) of the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department has received an application from Freeport-McMoRan Chino Mines Company (“FMI”) to conduct a minimal impact exploration project under 19.10.3 NMAC of the New Mexico Act (NMSA 1978, §69-36-1 et seq.). The project is located on private land in Township 17 South, Range 12 West, Section 32, and will involve the drilling of 5 boreholes up to 4,000 feet deep from three drill pads. The total estimated disturbance for this project is 5 acres.

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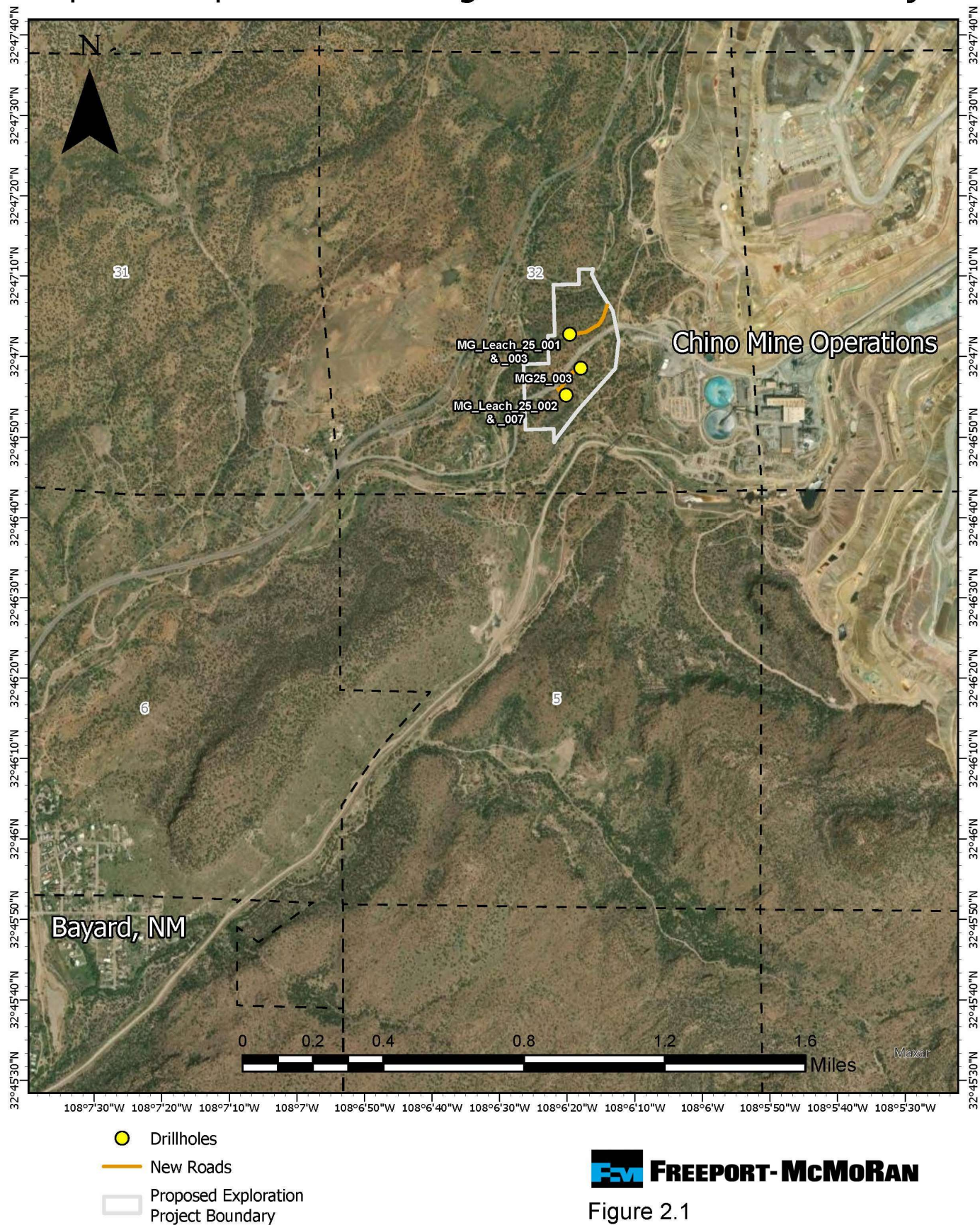
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Permit Lead
Mining and Minerals Division

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Proposed Exploration Drilling - Chino Main Entrance Project



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April 30, 2025

THPO Steven Concho
Pueblo of Acoma
P.O. Box 309
Acoma, NM 87034

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

Dear THPO Concho,

The Mining and Minerals Division (“MMD”) of the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department has received an application from Freeport-McMoRan Chino Mines Company (“FMI”) to conduct a minimal impact exploration project under 19.10.3 NMAC of the New Mexico Act (NMSA 1978, §69-36-1 et seq.). The project is located on private land in Township 17 South, Range 12 West, Section 32, and will involve the drilling of 5 boreholes up to 4,000 feet deep from three drill pads. The total estimated disturbance for this project is 5 acres.

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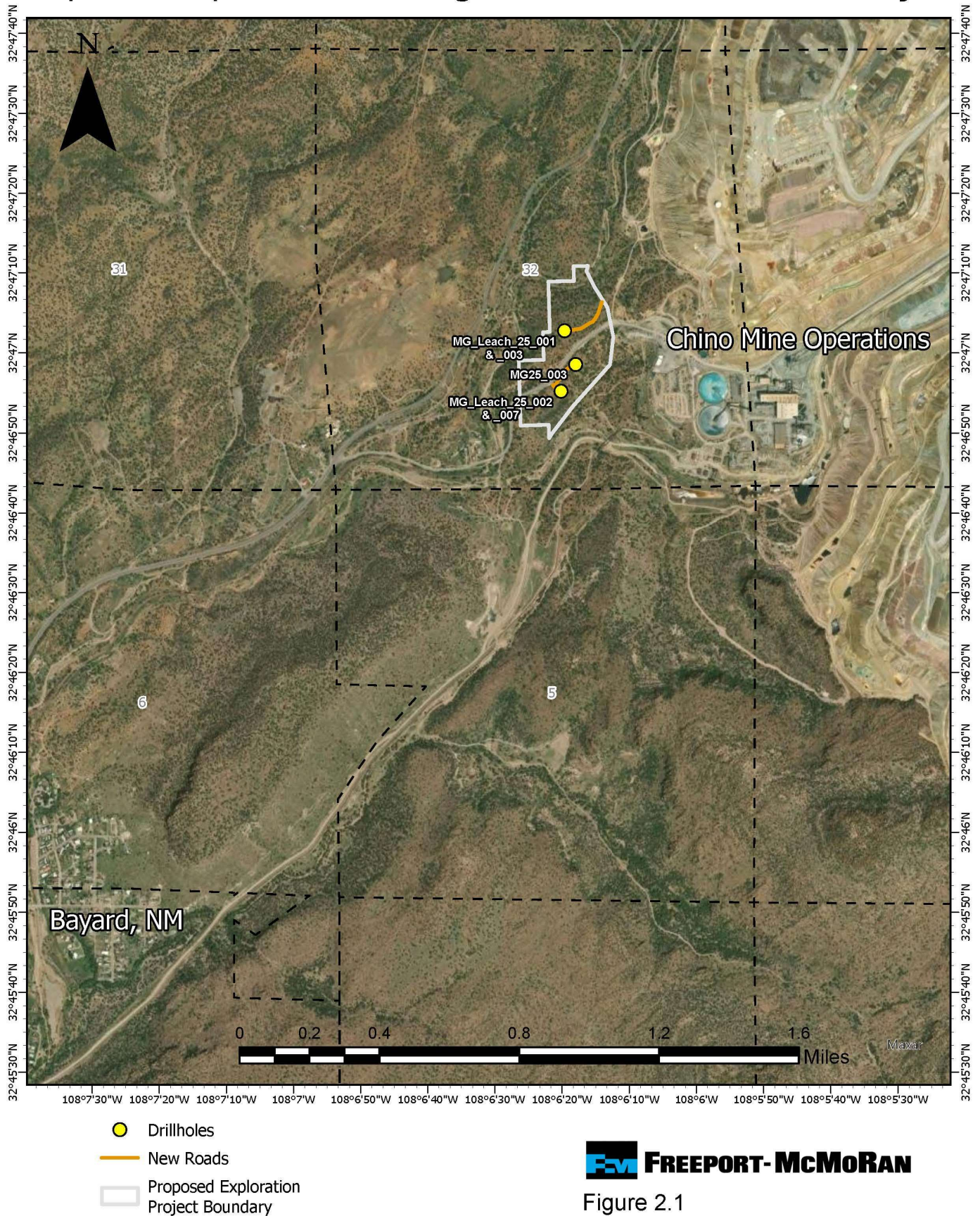
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Proposed Exploration Drilling - Chino Main Entrance Project



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Mining and Minerals Division



April 30, 2025

Governor Eugene Jiron
Pueblo of Isleta
P.O. Box 1270
Isleta Pueblo, NM 87022

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

Dear Governor Jiron,

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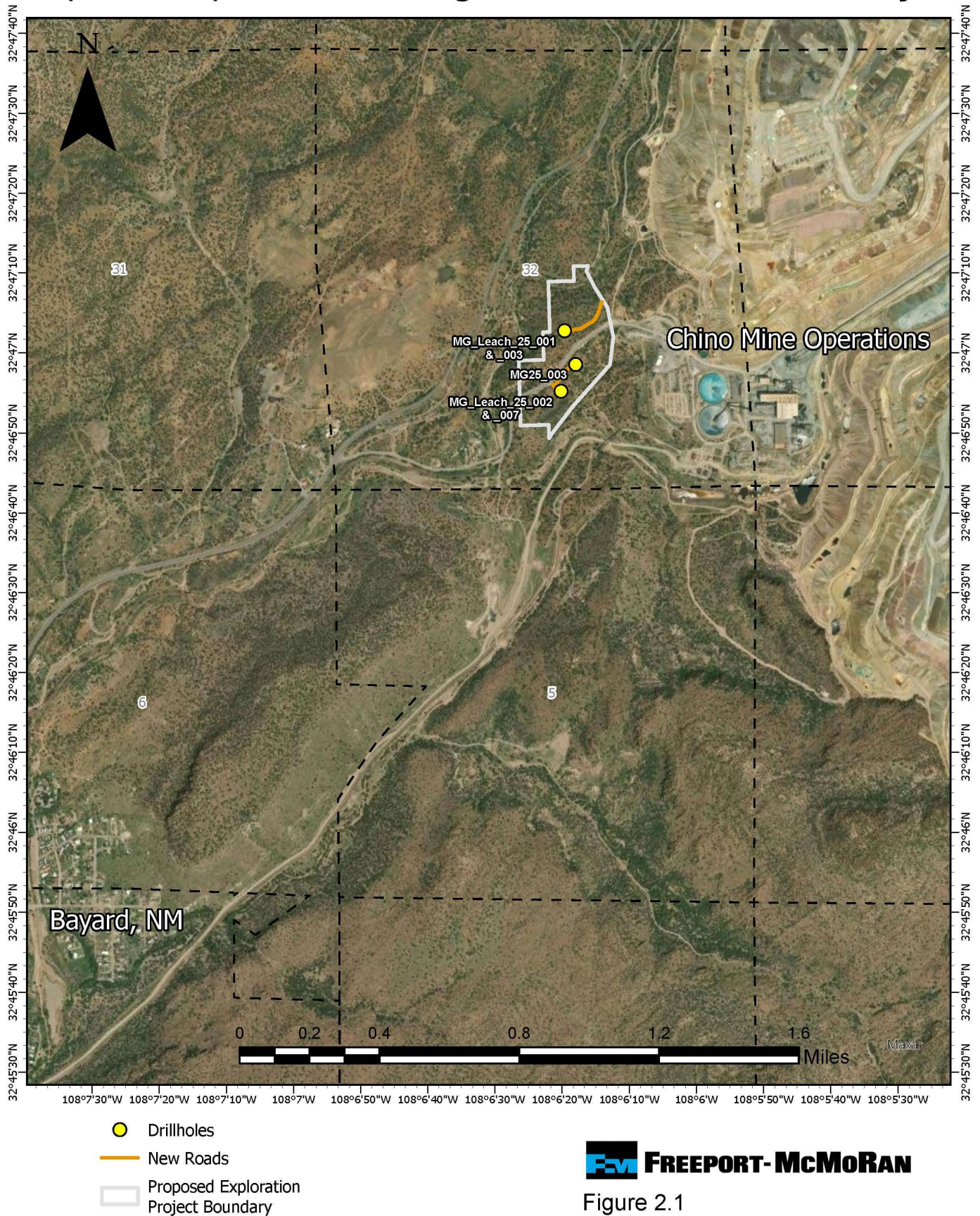
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Proposed Exploration Drilling - Chino Main Entrance Project



Freeport-McMORAN

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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April 30, 2025

THPO Henry Walt
Pueblo of Isleta
P.O. Box 1270
Isleta Pueblo, NM 87022

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

Dear THPO Walt,

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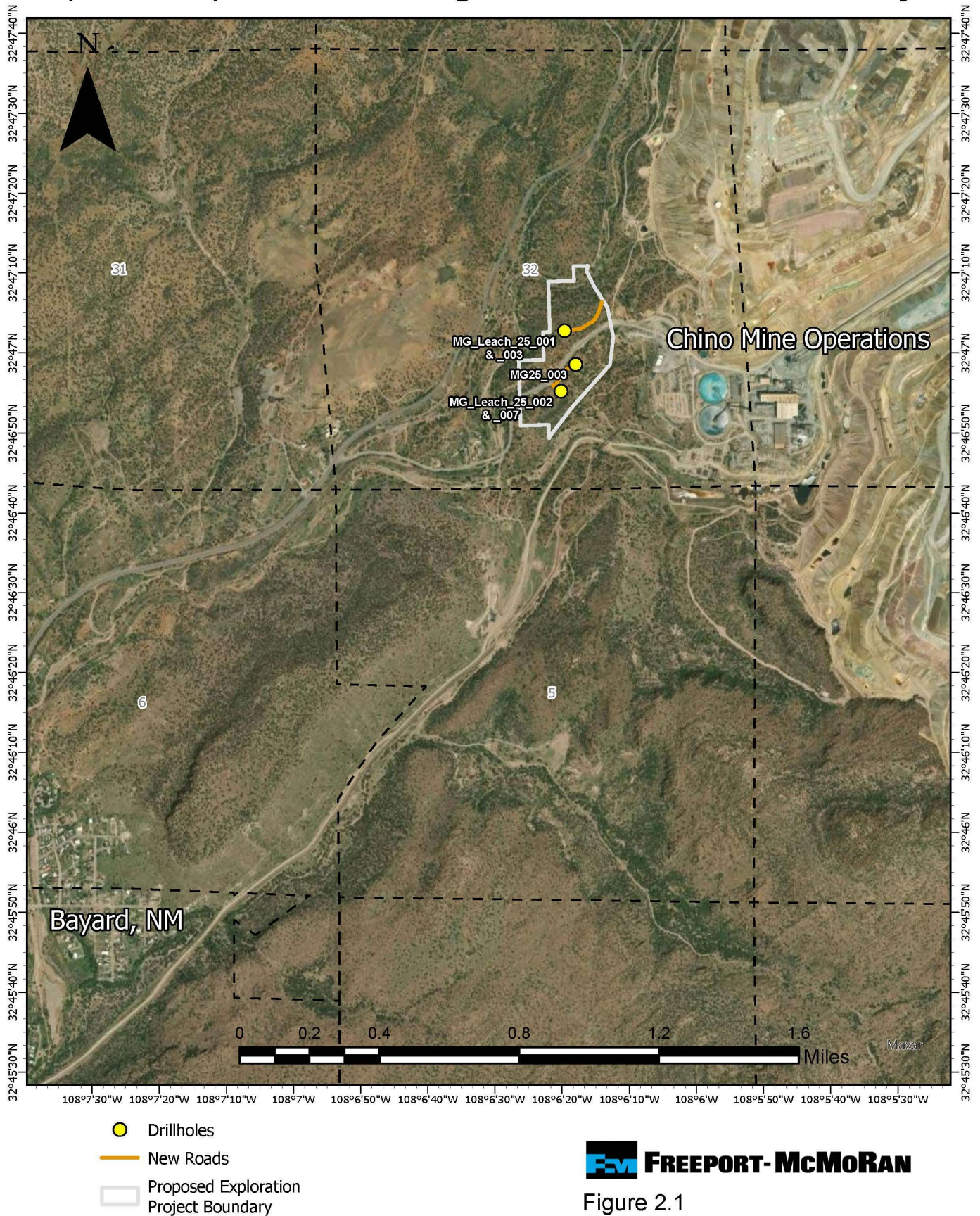
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April 30, 2025

THPO Kurt Dongoske
Pueblo of Zuni
P.O. Box 1149
Zuni, NM 87327

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

Dear THPO Dongoske,

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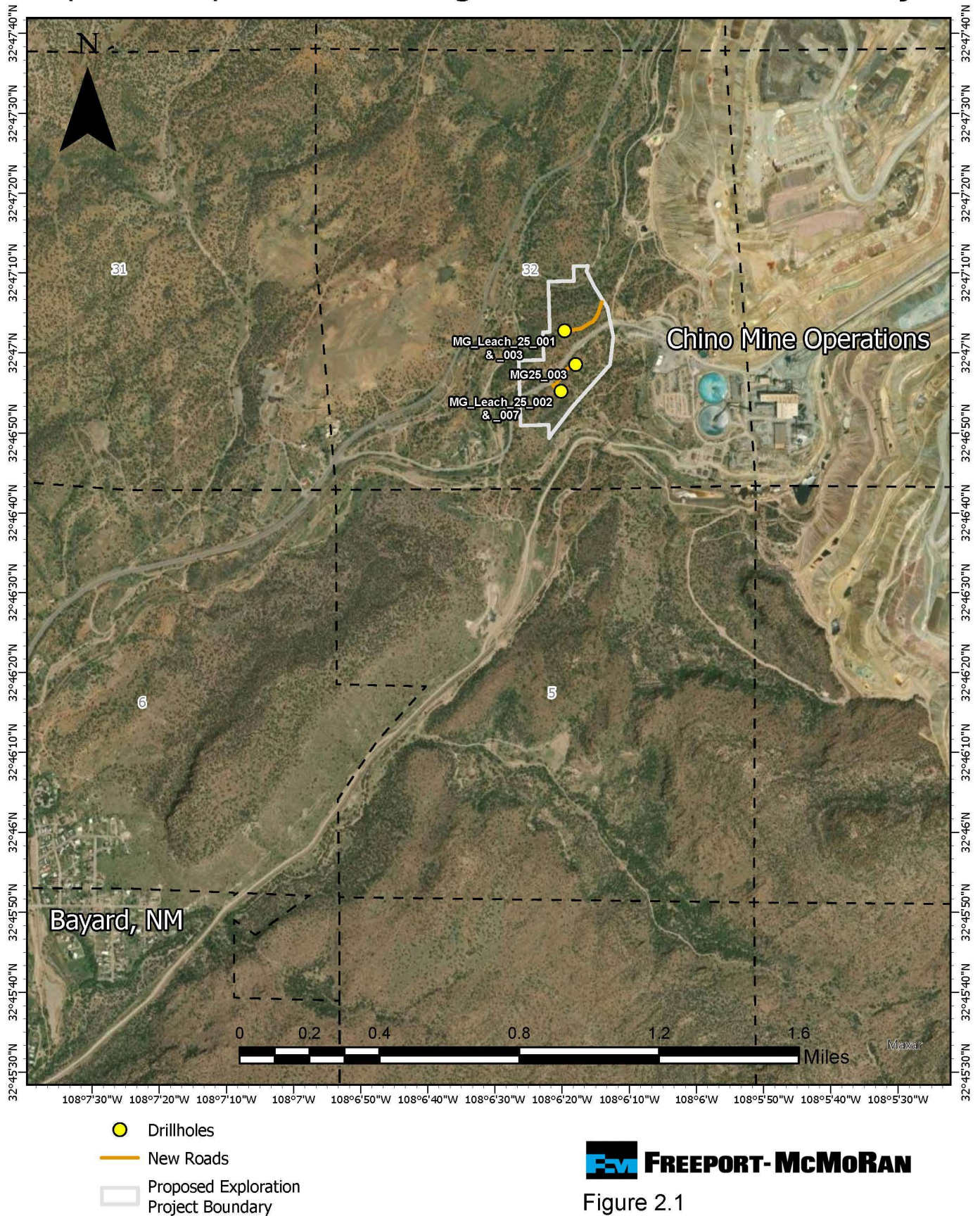
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April 30, 2025

Governor Arden Kucate
Pueblo of Zuni
P.O. Box 339
Zuni, NM 87327

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

Dear Governor Kucate,

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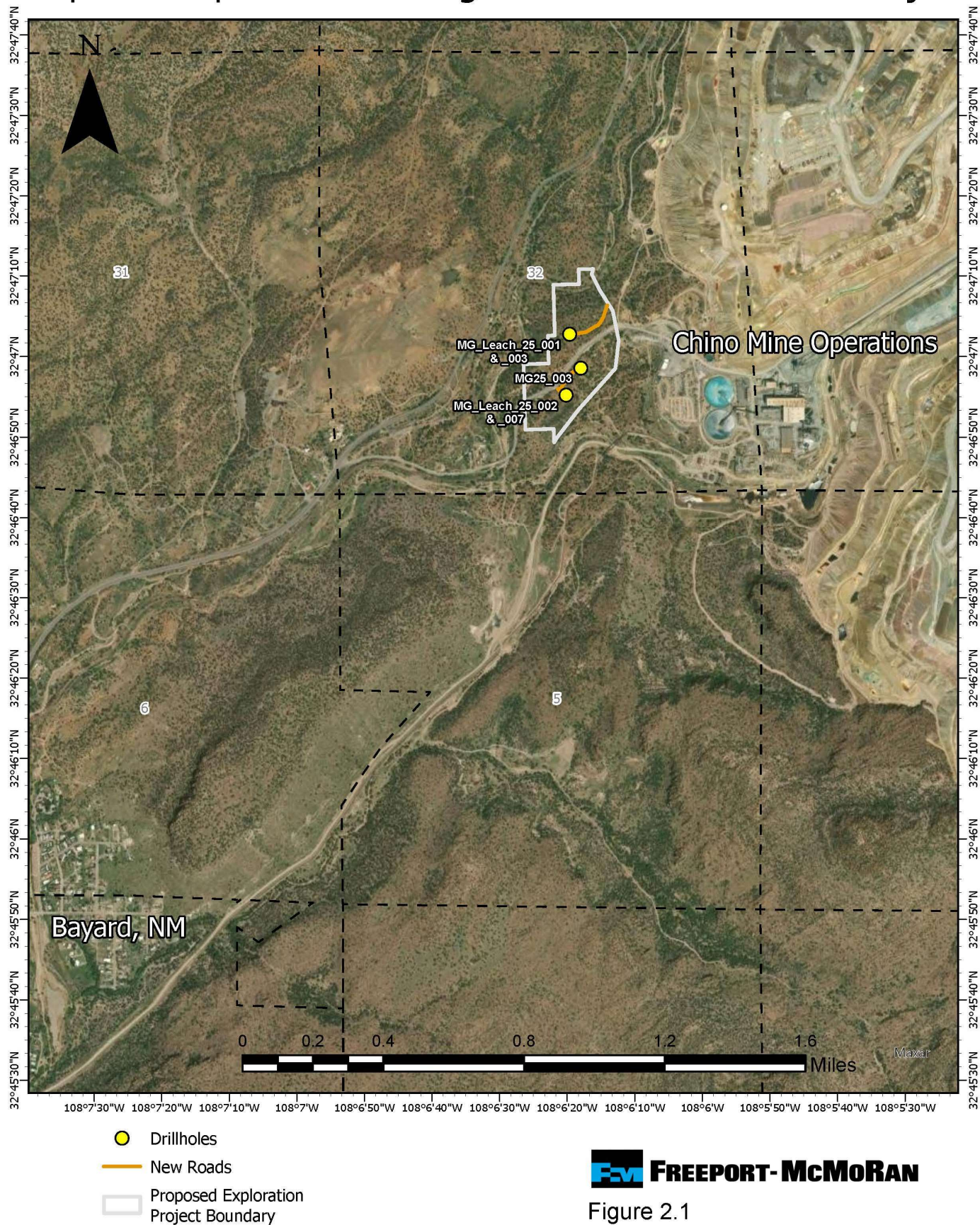
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April 30, 2025

Chairman Timothy L. Nuvangyaoma
The Hopi Tribe
P.O. Box 123
Kykotsmovi, AZ 86039

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

Dear Chairman Nuvangyaoma,

The Mining and Minerals Division (“MMD”) of the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department has received an application from Freeport-McMoRan Chino Mines Company (“FMI”) to conduct a minimal impact exploration project under 19.10.3 NMAC of the New Mexico Act (NMSA 1978, §69-36-1 et seq.). The project is located on private land in Township 17 South, Range 12 West, Section 32, and will involve the drilling of 5 boreholes up to 4,000 feet deep from three drill pads. The total estimated disturbance for this project is 5 acres.

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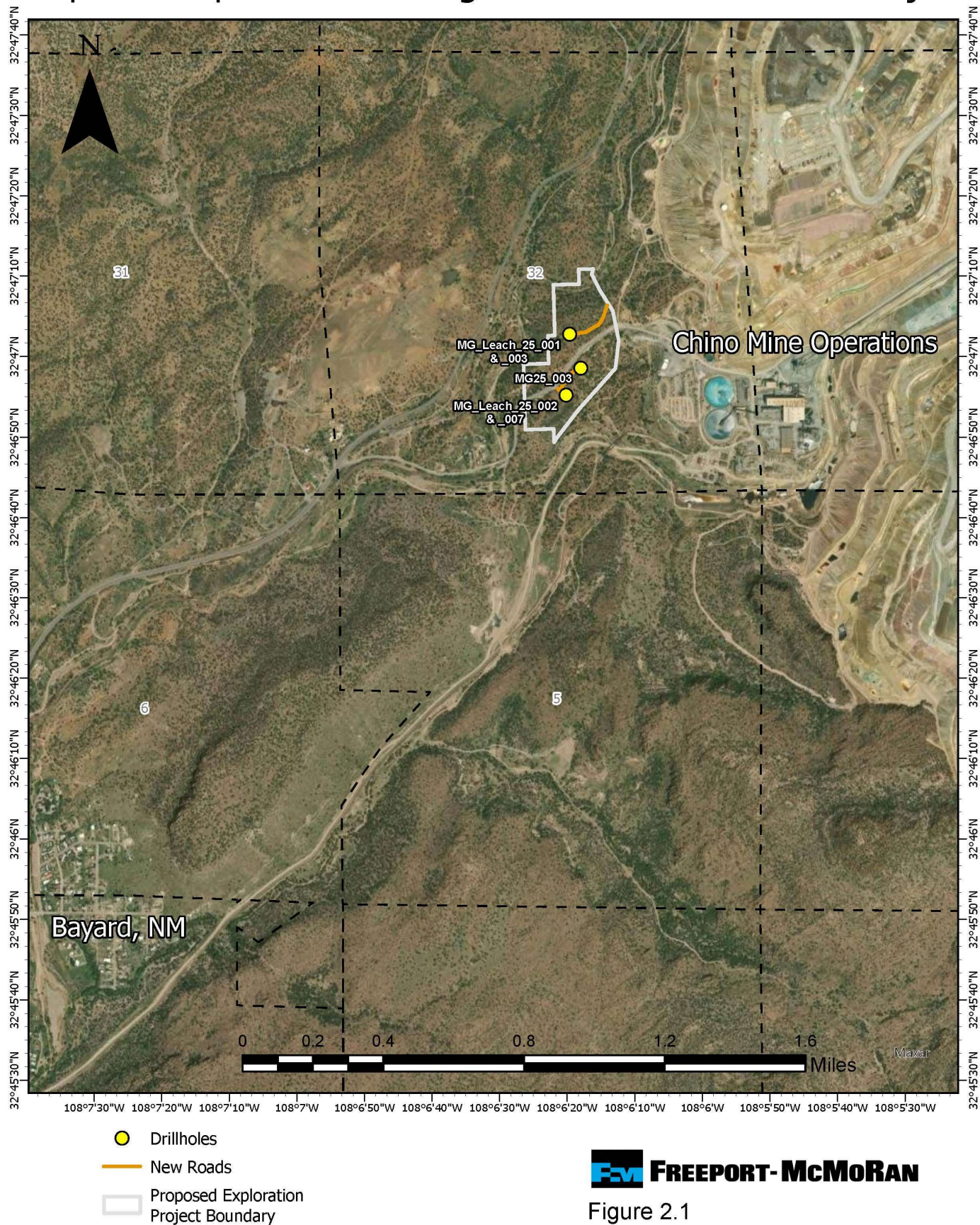
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Mining and Minerals Division



April 30, 2025

Director Stewart Koyiyumtewa
The Hopi Tribe Cultural Preservation Office
P.O. Box 123
Kykotsmovi, AZ 86039

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

Dear Director Koyiyumtewa,

The Mining and Minerals Division ("MMD") of the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department has received an application from Freeport-McMoRan Chino Mines Company ("FMI") to conduct a minimal impact exploration project under 19.10.3 NMAC of the New Mexico Act (NMSA 1978, §69-36-1 et seq.). The project is located on private land in Township 17 South, Range 12 West, Section 32, and will involve the drilling of 5 boreholes up to 4,000 feet deep from three drill pads. The total estimated disturbance for this project is 5 acres.

"Minimal impact exploration" means disturbance will not exceed a total of 5 acres and limits impact to the environment. Operations must be completed in one year and reclaimed within two years, unless the permit is renewed. A new application for renewal would be required to extend exploration or reclamation beyond one year or to initiate further mining activities. Please see the attached map of the project vicinity. The application can also be viewed in its entirety by visiting the MMD web site at <https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/mmd/chino-main-entrance-project-provisional-permit-no-gr096em-2/>

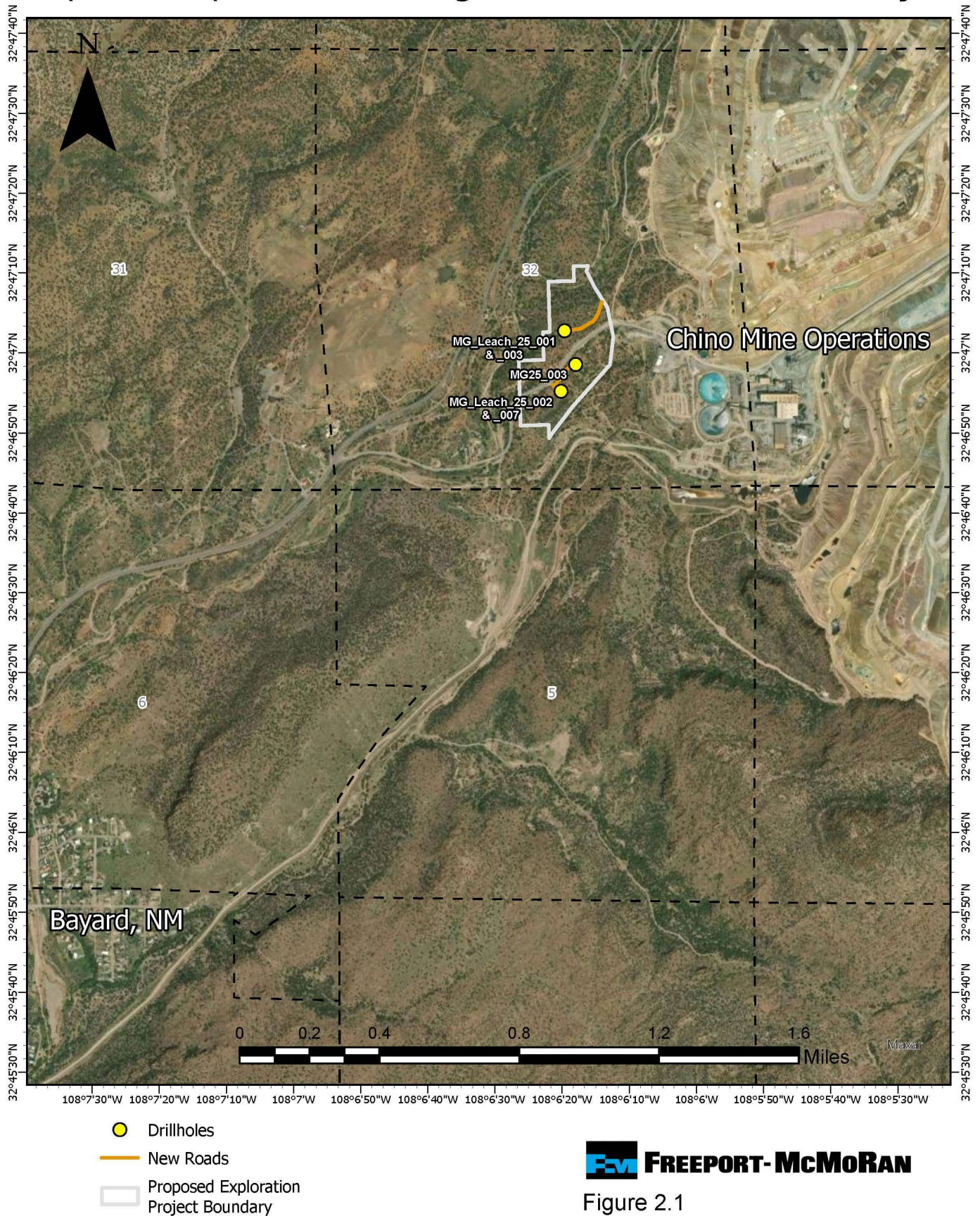
If there are known cultural resources in the vicinity of this project that your tribe is aware of, please provide any comments and concerns to MMD by May 15, 2025. Please contact me at (505) 470-5354 or kevin.barnes@emnrd.nm.gov with any questions or if you wish to meet to discuss the application.

Sincerely,

Kevin Barnes
Permit Lead
Mining and Minerals Division

Enclosures (Project Vicinity Map)
cc: Project File (GR096EM)

Proposed Exploration Drilling - Chino Main Entrance Project



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 Chang, Director
Mining and Minerals Division



April 30, 2025

Chairman Kasey Velasquez
White Mountain Apache Tribe
P.O. Box 700
Whiteriver, AZ 85941

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

Dear Chairman Velasquez,

The Mining and Minerals Division (“MMD”) of the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department has received an application from Freeport-McMoRan Chino Mines Company (“FMI”) to conduct a minimal impact exploration project under 19.10.3 NMAC of the New Mexico Act (NMSA 1978, §69-36-1 et seq.). The project is located on private land in Township 17 South, Range 12 West, Section 32, and will involve the drilling of 5 boreholes up to 4,000 feet deep from three drill pads. The total estimated disturbance for this project is 5 acres.

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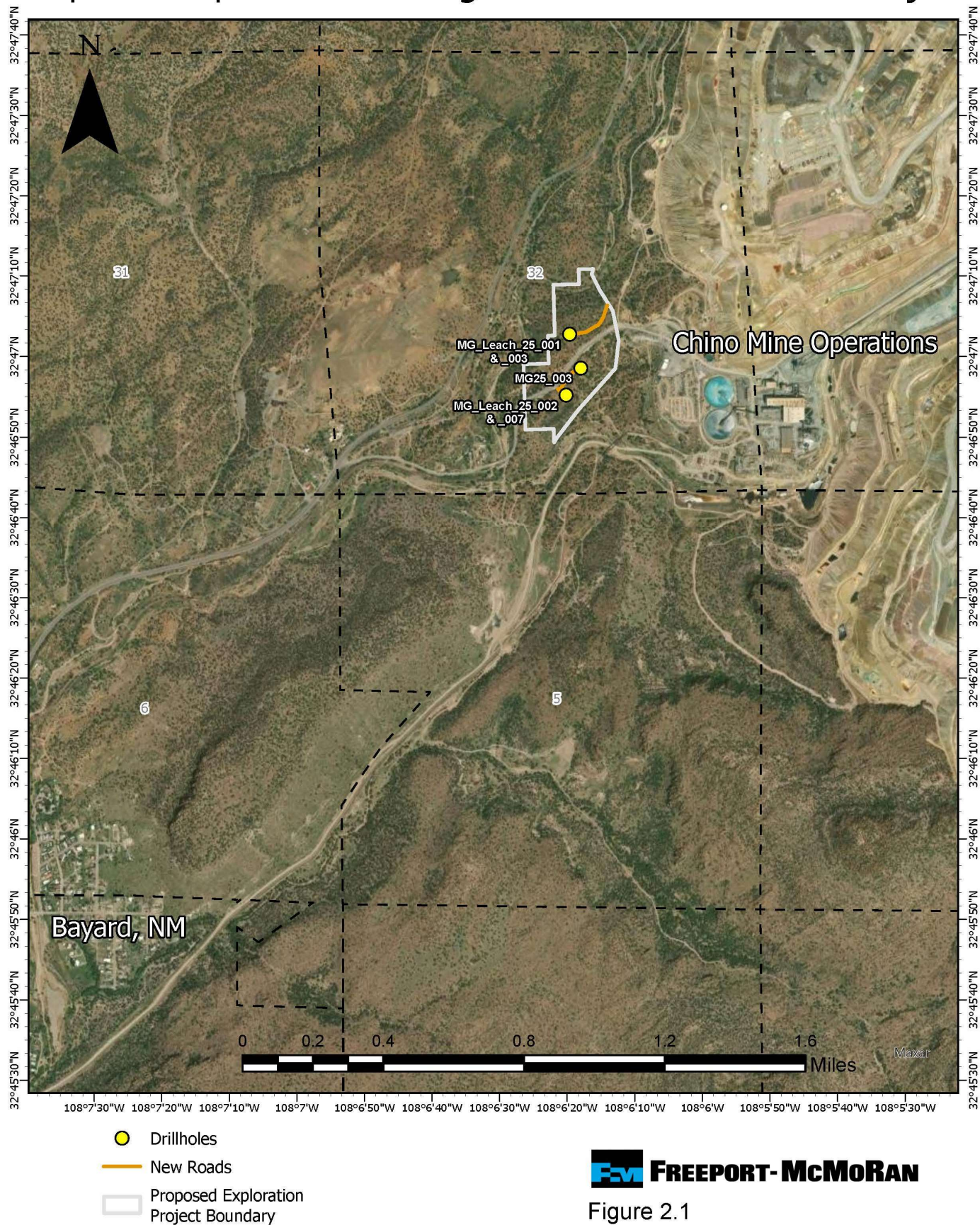
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Kevin Barnes
Permit Lead
Mining and Minerals Division

Enclosures (Project Vicinity Map)
cc: Project File (GR096EM)

Proposed Exploration Drilling - Chino Main Entrance Project



Freeport-McMoRan

Figure 2.1

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 Chang, Director
Mining and Minerals Division



April 30, 2025

THPO Mark Altaha
White Mountain Apache Tribe
P.O. Box 1032
Fort Apache, AZ 85926

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

Dear THPO Altaha,

The Mining and Minerals Division (“MMD”) of the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department has received an application from Freeport-McMoRan Chino Mines Company (“FMI”) to conduct a minimal impact exploration project under 19.10.3 NMAC of the New Mexico Act (NMSA 1978, §69-36-1 et seq.). The project is located on private land in Township 17 South, Range 12 West, Section 32, and will involve the drilling of 5 boreholes up to 4,000 feet deep from three drill pads. The total estimated disturbance for this project is 5 acres.

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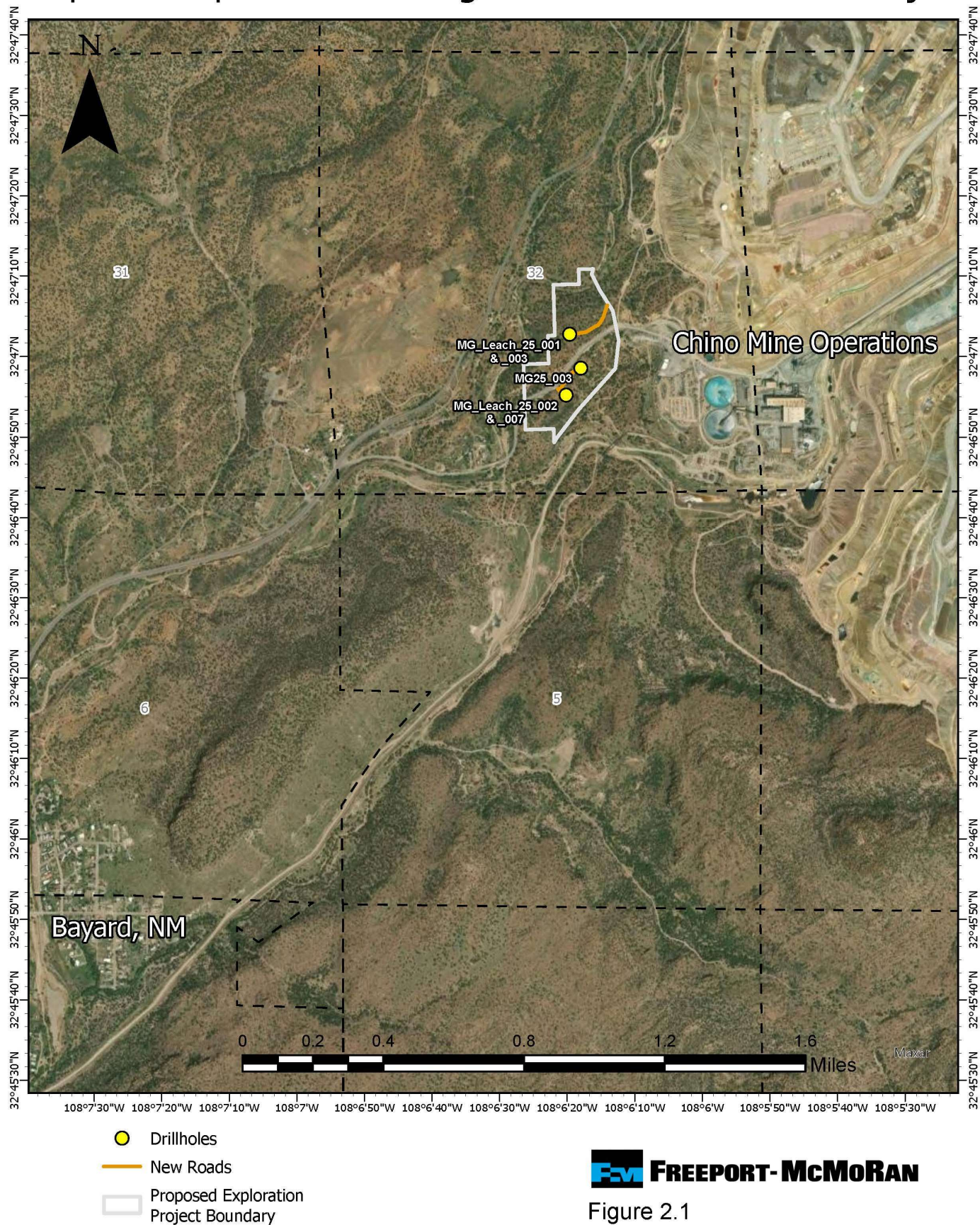
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Sincerely,

Kevin Barnes
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Proposed Exploration Drilling - Chino Main Entrance Project



Freeport-McMoRan

Figure 2.1