

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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Mike Tompson, Acting Director
Mining and Minerals Division



July 1, 2025

Mr. Tyler R. Johnson, Chief Engineer
Freeport-McMoRan Chino Mines Company
Environmental Services
P.O. Box 10
Bayard, NM 88023

RE: LFES Upgrade Project Conditional Approval and Request for Additional Information, Revision 24-2 Amendment 1, 2024 CCP Update, Chino Mine, Grant County, New Mexico, Permit No. GR009RE

Dear Mr. Johnson:

On March 20, 2025, the New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division (“MMD”) received and reviewed an application for an amendment (“Application”) to the 2024 Closure/Closeout Plan Update (“CCP”) for the Chino Mine, Permit No. GR009RE, from Freeport McMoRan Chino Mines Company (“FMI”). The Application requests the inclusion of the Lampbriht Far East Sump (“LFES”) Upgrade Project in the CCP Update as shown in the submitted engineering plans and specifications, as well as conditional approval to allow for an accelerated construction timeline ahead of final approval of the CCP Update. MMD has also reviewed a set of updated plans received June 2, 2025, as part of FMI’s response to an April 16, 2025, Request for Additional Information from the New Mexico Environment Department (“NMED”).

The LFES Upgrade Project is designed to improve the capture and management of pregnant leach solutions (“PLS”), stormwater produced sediments, and stormwater runoff from the east side of the Main Lampbriht Leach Stockpile with the construction of a new PLS containment tank, stormwater pond, and parallel pipelines to convey PLS and stormwater to the existing Reservoir 8 and a nearby existing storage tank. The Project is estimated to disturb up to 25 additional acres within the GR009RE permit area.

The LFES Upgrade Project will be considered as Amendment 1 to Revision 24-2 to Permit No. GR009RE. MMD grants approval for the construction of the LFES on FMI’s proposed schedule with the following conditions:

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- The total reclamation cost estimate for the 2024 CCP Update should include any additional reclamation costs related to the LFES Upgrade Project.
- Any updates to documents presented in Application, such as those included in the aforementioned NMED Request for Additional Information, should be submitted to MMD as part of Amendment 1.
- Please provide MMD with updates of construction project progress and notice of completion with final as-built documents noting any major variances in final construction from the original submitted plans. A final calculation of disturbed acreage should be included as well.

MMD will continue reviewing the Application along with the CCP Update and may provide additional comments at a later date. Additionally, per NMAC 19.10.5.506.E, copies of Amendment 1 will be provided to consulting state agencies as appropriate for review. Any comments received by MMD will be sent to FMI for response.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (505) 470-5354 or kevin.barnes@emnrd.nm.gov
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kevin T. Barnes", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kevin T. Barnes
Permit Lead
Mining Act Reclamation Program (MARP)

cc: David "DJ" Ennis, MARP Program Manager
Mariana Lafon, FMI
Mine File (GR009RE)