

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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Deputy Secretary

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Mining and Minerals Division



August 15, 2025

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

RE: Technically Approvable Determination, Chino Main Entrance Project, Grant County, New Mexico, Permit Tracking No. GR096EM

Dear Mr. Johnson,

The New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division ("MMD") received an application from Freeport-McMoRan Chino Mines Company ("Chino") dated April 10, 2025, for a new minimal impact exploration permit outside the permit area for the Chino mine known as the Chino Main Entrance Project. The application proposes an exploration project that consists of three drill pads and five borings with a maximum disturbance of 5 acres.

Based on the application and subsequent submittals that together comprise the Permit Application Package ("PAP"), MMD has determined that the activities proposed for the Chino Main Entrance Project are technically approvable. In accordance with 19.10.12.1208 NMAC, Chino is required to provide an adequate financial assurance mechanism to allow for third party reclamation of the project. In Table 2 of the PAP, Chino proposes a total financial assurance amount of \$168,500.00 based on a total of 5 acres of disturbance and a rolling total of 4 drill holes with collective total depth up to 10,000 feet. MMD concurs that this financial assurance amount is sufficient.

Please contact me at (505) 470-5354 or kevin.barnes@emrnd.nm.gov if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Kevin Barnes, Permit Lead
Mining Act Reclamation Program ("MARP")

Cc: David "DJ" Ennis, Program Manager, MARP/MMD
Mine File (GR096EM)