



Public Hearing on Chino Mine Closure / Closeout Plan Update

Hearing will begin at 6:00 PM

If you wish to comment during the public comment portion of the hearing, please use the sign-in sheet.

Hearing audio will only be recorded via the microphones.

Chino Mine Permit No. GR009RE Revision 24-2: Closure / Closeout Plan Update

Kevin Barnes, Permit Lead
Mining Act Reclamation Program
Public Hearing, April 21, 2026



State of New Mexico
Energy Minerals and Natural Resources Department
Mining and Minerals Division
Drew Roybal-Chavez, Deputy Director



Public Hearing Purpose

1. **MMD** will provide an overview of relevant New Mexico mining regulations, and describe the permitting and review process for the Chino Closure / Closeout Plan (“CCP”) Update
2. **FMI** will present technical information on the CCP, including changes from the previous CCP, new mine units being added to the permit, and a summary of financial assurance to be provided for closure
3. The **Public** will have the opportunity to ask questions and provide comment on the proposed plans and permit changes

New Mexico Mining Act Rules – 19.10 NMAC

The **New Mexico Mining Act** was passed in 1993 with the mandate to establish rules and regulations designed to ensure the proper **reclamation** of mines through state-led permitting program.

The **Mining Act Rules (19.10 NMAC)** were created in 1994 and established the **Mining Act Reclamation Program (MARP)** as the state agency charged with implementation of the Mining Act and Rules.

The primary goal of permits issued by MARP is to outline a plan for **surface reclamation** to be completed upon closure of a mining operation, mining facility or exploration operations



What is Reclamation?



Reclamation is the employment of measures to:

- mitigate mining related surface disturbance
- stabilize disturbance to minimize future impacts to the environment
- protect air and water resources

The goal of reclamation is to achieve a **Self-Sustaining Ecosystem** or a beneficial **Post-Mining Land Use** after completion of mining project

A mine reclamation plan is known as a **Closeout Plan**

Part 5 Regular Existing Mines (19.10.5 NMAC)

Regular Existing Mines are permitted by MMD under Part 5 of the Rules and applies to large mines that operated for at least 2 years between 1/1/1970 and 6/18/1993

19.10.5.506 NMAC requires the creation of a **Closeout Plan** that outlines work plans, designs, and costs of reclamation of a mine that will be implemented at mine closure or abandonment of operations

Closure / Closeout Plans

Closure / Closeout Plan components:

- Topographic Maps and Cross-Sections
- Surface hydrology and environmental setting
- Soil data and revegetation plans
- Wildlife, rare plant, and cultural resource surveys
- Erosion and surface water control structures
- Reclamation cover and borrow materials
- Regrading plans
- Post Mining Land Use



Financial Assurance

Mine operators are required to provide **Financial Assurance (“FA”)** per 19.10.12 NMAC which would cover the cost of reclamation if performed by a third party in the case of a default or abandonment of the mine by the operator.

FA can come in a few different forms:

- Surety bonds, Letters of Credits, Certificates of Deposit
- Collateral (real estate or similar real property)
- Third Party Guarantee

The FA amount for a mine like Chino is determined via a **Reclamation Cost Estimate** that is based on the approved Closeout Plan

Revision 24-2: CCP Update

A sitewide closure plan for the Chino Mine and includes conceptual reclamation designs for:

North Mine Area (“NMA”) – Santa Rita Pit, waste rock stockpiles, leach stockpiles, Ivanhoe concentrator

South Mine Area (“SMA”) – Hurley tailings facilities and ponds

Pipeline Corridor – tailings pipeline running from NMA to SMA along US-180

The revision also includes proposals for new units and disturbance:

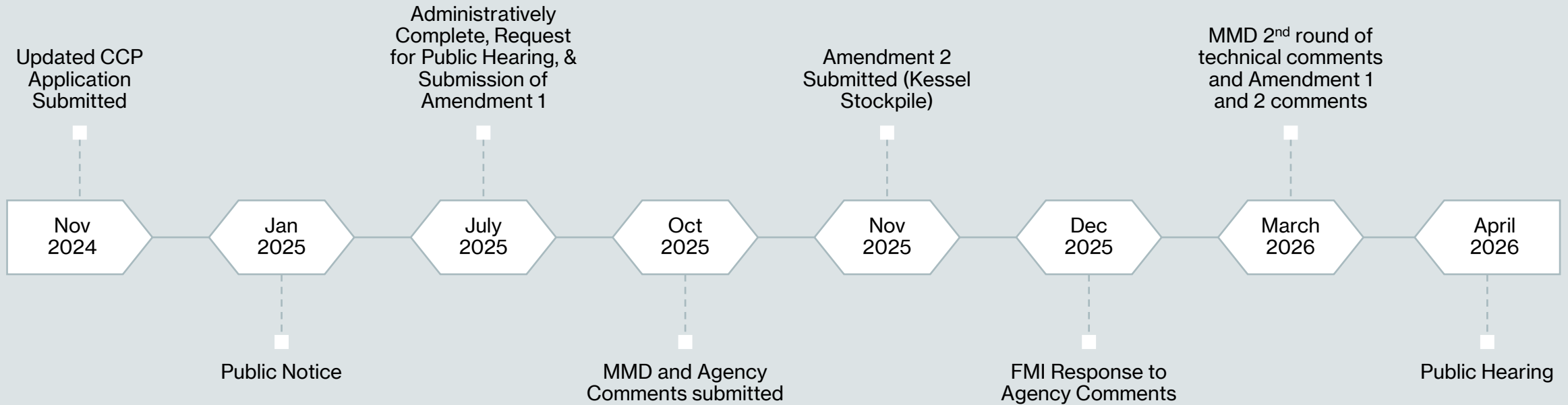
Lampbright Far East Sump Project – upgrades to the existing Main Lampbright Sump (“Amendment 1”)

Kessel Stockpile – new waste rock stockpile to the south of Main Lampbright Leach Stockpile (“Amendment 2”)

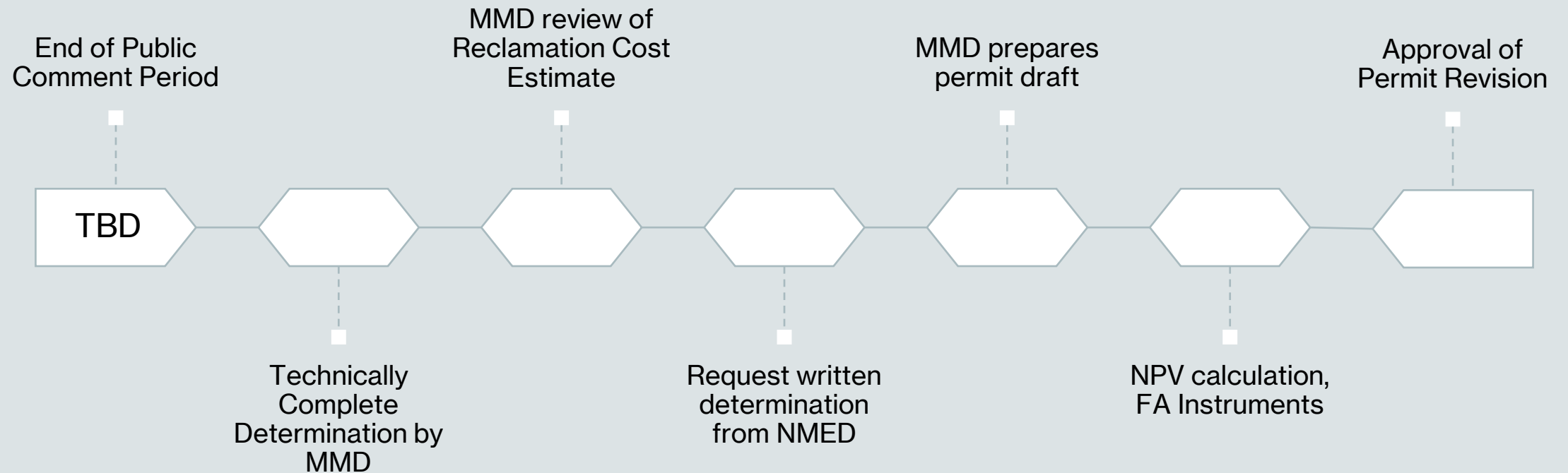


Permitting Timeline

(to date)



Next Steps





Public Participation

Public Comment may be provided
at this hearing or by email at
emnrd.mmd2@emnrd.nm.gov