

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

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Benjamin Shelton
Deputy Cabinet Secretary

Drew Roybal-Chavez
Deputy Director
Mining and Minerals Division



April 28, 2026

Mr. David Davidson and Kyle Malone
0701 N. Scottsdale Rd Ste 107-293
Scottsdale, AZ 85255

**RE: Technical Comments on Permit Modification 26-1 (Updated Closeout Plan) Application,
Permit No. OT006MN (Mod 26-1), Iron Duke Mine in Otero County, NM**

Dear Mr. Davidson and Malone,

Pursuant to 19.10.3.304 NMAC, The New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) has performed an initial technical review of the submitted Closeout Plan (Modification 26-1) by Gulf Coast LLC for the Iron Duke Mine Permit No. OT006MN.

In accordance with 19.10.6.608(D)(3) MMD provided the Closeout Plan to, and requested comments from, the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), New Mexico Office of the State Engineer (NMOSE), New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDG&F), New Mexico Historic Preservation Division (NMDCA), New Mexico Forestry Division (NMSFD), and BLM.

Please review the attached comments from MMD and Agencies and provide Gulf Coasts responses and/or updated Closeout Plan within 60 days.

If you have any questions regarding these comments or would like to schedule a meeting to discuss, please contact me at (505) 216- 8945 or at samantha.rynas@emnrd.nm.gov.

Sincerely,

Samantha Rynas, Permit Lead
Mining Act Reclamation Program ("MARP")
Mining and Minerals Division

CC: DJ Ennis, Program Manager, MARP/MMD
Clint Chisler, Reclamation Specialist Supervisor, MARP/MMD
Mine File OT006MN

Attachment A: MMD Technical Comments

Iron Duke Mine
Permit No. OT006MN
Date: April 28, 2026

OVERVIEW

Name of Operator: Gulf Coast

Permit Update: Updated Closeout plan and FA (26-1)

Agency Responses: *Attached and available for review*

New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs Submitted March 5, 2026

New Mexico Department of Wildlife Submitted March 30, 2026

New Mexico Environment Department Submitted April 17, 2026

New Mexico Office of the State Engineer No response.

EMNRD - Forestry Division Submitted March 18, 2026

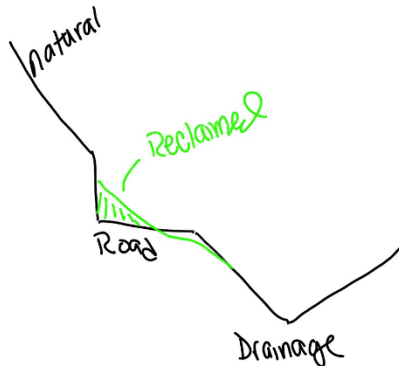
BLM No response.

MMD Comments

1. Overall, the Closeout plan addresses general activities that are occurring on site versus reclamation activities. The plan references removal of waste rock as part of the active mining, Operational work such as this, should be separate from the “reclamation” of the site at closure. There are still many details needed about the removal of equipment, and how roads will be re-graded, not just bermed. MMD recommends adding an “operation” section to ensure the separate activities are clearly discussed.
2. Throughout the Closeout plan, there appears to be additional confusion on operations versus reclamation. In the Closeout drawings there are “perimeter berms” installed throughout. While these are a SWPPP requirement during operation, these should not be left in place a closure. As seen on the Site Inspection in March, a perimeter berm blocking a natural arroyo was washed out. At closure drainages should be designed around the site to route water to appropriate exit points into natural drainages.
3. Related to the above, Plate 9a, this drawing shows closure of the road (Area 16) being adding perimeter berms and water bars on the road. This would not be suitable for closure. The road should be re-graded back to close to natural contour, re-establishing the natural drainage, and no perimeter berms as those would retain water on the road. The berms are drawn in a manner that indicated water would be directed towards the hillside versus into the natural drainage.
Below is a cross section of what the expected topography would look like.

MMD Comment Summary Report:

Iron Duke Mine
Permit #: OT006MN
Date: April 28, 2026



The rock fill dumped into the drainage would be pulled back uphill to re-establish native drainage.

Rip rap or rock channels with water bars could be installed to direct water down into the arroyo along the slope.

4. On page 1, incorrect Permit number
5. On page 1, date field still "XX"
6. Page 1/Plate 2a and 2b, references the Evergreen claims: Please drop plate 2a as this map is incomplete and unclear. Plate 2b is sufficient as it shows all the claims. Naming convention should simply be plate 2.
Plate 2a is also discussed on page three and incorrectly describes it as showing the Evergreen claims. Please ensure throughout the document that plates 2a/2b are appropriately updated.
7. Page 3, Figure 1 is missing a legend.
8. Page 3 reference for a "(Figure 4)", this figure seems to be incorrectly referenced, please verify the correct figure number.
9. Page 3 – Plate 3; this map only shows patented mining claims. As previously discussed for consistency and clarity, both patented and unpatented claims need be on all maps as project area includes unpatented surface disturbance.
10. Plate 4a and 4b – These plates still need to be updated to reflect current Permit area and Disturbances.
 - Plate 4a still has a 2011 date.
 - Plate 4b should also reference the Evergreen claims in the claim description box.
 - Map should include the below marked areas.

Note: Permit area is the "big box" or general area operator plans to work. The design limit are the areas that are considered disturbance under the permit ("Active"). The Design limit for a Minimal Impact mine, is 10 acres as defined by NMAC regulations.

MMD Comment Summary Report:

**Iron Duke Mine
Permit #: OT006MN
Date: April 28, 2026**

For clarity this is your Permit Area which is at an estimated 13.03 acres as calculated below:



FIGURE 1 PERMIT AREA

MMD's calculation on Permit Area:

Unit	Acreage	Total=	13.53
Entrance	1.58		
Lower Pad	4.1		
Access road 16 and Waste Rock	3.5		
Roads	1.54		
Upper roads and Phase 2 waste rock	2.81		

After a review of historical imagery, MMD has determined all the acreage below is considered disturbance under the permit. The North Waste Rock areas (No. 5, 14, 17) have been dropped as no recent removal of material from these areas has been carried out yet. The current Acreage is calculated at 11.17. This acreage is what would be considered the "design limit" or your active acreage.

MMD Comment Summary Report:

**Iron Duke Mine
Permit #: OT006MN
Date: April 28, 2026**



FIGURE 2 DESIGN LIMIT

Unit	Acreage	Total=	11.17
Entrance	1.58		
Lower Pad	4.1		
Access road 16 and W	3.5		
Roads	1.54		
Upper road	0.35		
Small segment of upp	0.1		

Moving forward these footprints will be your Permit Area/Design limit and will be incorporated into the Permit.

11. Based on the above acreage calculation, this project is **out of compliance** as a minimal impact mine (Maximum allowed 10 acres). MMD will require Gulf Coast to propose a minimum of 1.2 acres to reclaim and provide a work plan within 30 days of completion of Mod 26-1 to bring the project under 10 acres. Gulf Coast should identify areas that have been disturbed but are not needed operationally for reclamation.

MMD Comment Summary Report:

Iron Duke Mine
Permit #: OT006MN
Date: April 28, 2026

12. Plate 4b: as previously discussed please update this table for clarity. The columns marked below are extraneous.

Area Number	Area Name	Description	Area [Acres]	Used in Mining of Iron Duke Waste Rock		Not in Use	Area Number
				Areas in Use	RS 2477 Roads		
1	Upper Staging Area	Pads and staging areas	0.26	2.65 0.42		0.26	1
2	Upper Iron Duke Access and Pad	Pads and staging areas	0.20			0.20	2
3	Processing Pad (Foot of rail Grade)	Pads and staging areas	2.65				3
4	Lowermost Pad (on Barbara Patented Claim)	Pads and staging areas	0.42				4
5	Cinco de Mayo Access and Upper Pad	Pads and staging areas	0.30	0.90 0.40	0.16 0.40	0.30	5
6	Cat Path (rail grade)	Roads and access	0.41			0.41	6
7	Access Road to Iron Duke and Cinco de Mayo	Roads and access	1.11			1.11	7
8	Upper Junction Pad	Roads and access	0.09			0.09	8
9	Upper access Road (from Junction Pad to North Side waste Rock	Roads and access	0.08			0.08	9
10	Pad Connecting Road	Roads and access	0.16				10
11	Widened Drainage Crossing	Roads and access	0.40				11
12	Iron Duke access Road (to Upper Pad from North)	Roads and access	0.20			0.20	12
13	Iron Duke Waste Rock	Mining/Reclamation areas	0.90				13
14	North Side Waste Rock	Mining/Reclamation areas	2.27			2.27	14
15	Lower Iron Duke Pad	Pads and staging areas	0.28			0.28	15
16	Access Road to Lower Iron Duke Waste Rock	Roads and access	0.38			0.38	16
17	Access to Noth Side Waste Rock	30 X 300 foot area on the eastern edge of North Side Waste Rock	0.21	0.14	0.56	0.21	17
18	Access to Iron Duke Waste Rock	30 X200 foot area on the northern edge of Iron Duke Waste Rock	0.14				18
				4.77	5.33	5.13	
Totals			10.46	10.46			
RT Hicks Consultants 901 Rio Grande Blvd. Suite F-142 Albuquerque, NM 505 266 5004		Identifiers, Areas, and Catergorization of Areas for the Iron Duke Preoject				Plate 4b	
		Guld Coast Mining Group, LLC Cinco de Mayo, Iron Duke, Virginia, and Barbara Patented Claims				December 2025	

13. Plate 2a shows a parcel “m.s. 1247” as well as “M.S. 1248” as being a separate patented claim. According to records these patented claims are owned by BOW Corp. In accordance with 19.10.3.304, Please provide the basis on which the Operator has the right to enter these properties.
14. Plate 6a and 6b/“RS 2477 roads” - MMD is unclear why these road records are included. As previously discussed, these are not the trespass/BLM roads in question; the relevant roads are in Areas 15 and 16. For project clarity, please remove the RS 2477 section from page 5 and at least Plate 6a, as they do not inform the project scope. Plate 6b may remain but needs a legend/labels and should include markings for the disturbed roads within the project area. For MMD’s purposes, only roads created or disturbed under the permit are relevant to the permitting process. Example with purple below:

MMD Comment Summary Report:

**Iron Duke Mine
Permit #: OT006MN
Date: April 28, 2026**



15. A general reminder for Gulf Coast Mining, within the closeout plan there are significant notes about “existing” or “active” areas. Under the Mining act, if an area is disturbed under a Mining Permit, it is considered disturbance the Operator is required to address at closeout. If a road existed and was bladed/widen, used as storage, or otherwise disturbed, the operator has assumed responsibility for that disturbance. See comment 10, this is how the disturbance is determined.
16. Page 4: Parking area “no. 4”, this needs to include the storage of large piles of rock. Please describe what this material is, quantity, and plans for how this area will be reclaimed.
17. Unit No. 3 needs to add a description of the mill area. This includes the equipment and the stockpiles. Required action to disassemble and remove will need to be described. Actions needed to dismantle and remove are how financial assurance is calculated.
18. Page 5: Plate Identifier needs to be added as it is currently “XX”
19. Page 5 Roads and Access: The processing pad is incorrectly marked as No. 4, should be No.3.
20. Page 6: The former rail grade should include the area number for clarity.

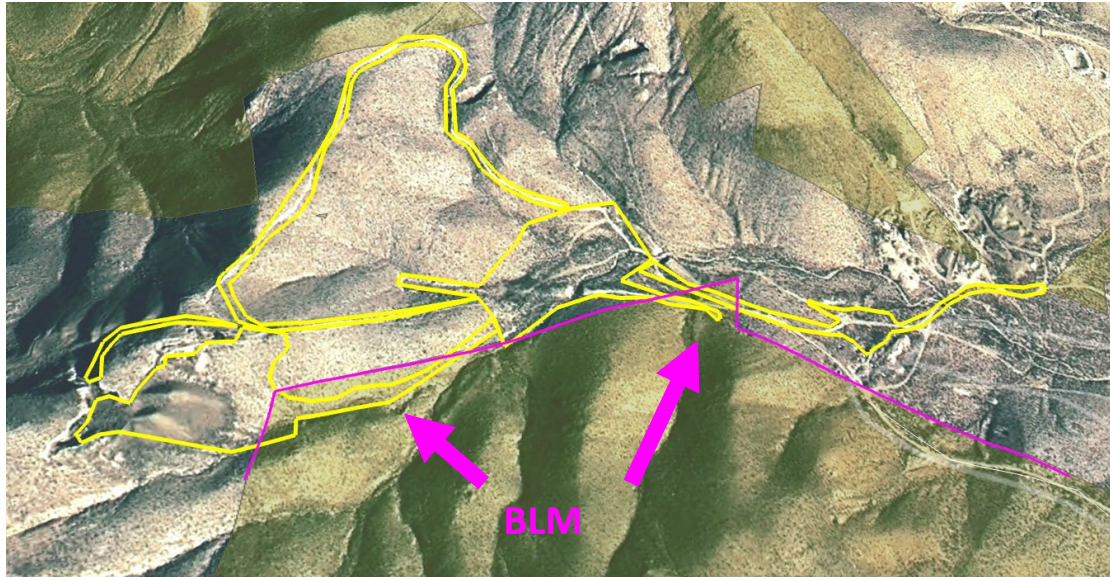
MMD Comment Summary Report:

Iron Duke Mine

Permit #: OT006MN

Date: April 28, 2026

21. Page 6 Topsoil: In accordance to 19.10.3.304(D)(8) in order to be reclaimed to a self-sustaining ecosystem Gulf Coast should be aware that if vegetation does not meet the vegetation requirements the site not be eligible for release.
22. In accordance with 19.10.3.304(G) The Permit area includes federally owned lands. MMD cannot issue a permit unless Gulf Coast Mining submits a NOI or Plan of Operations, as required, to BLM.



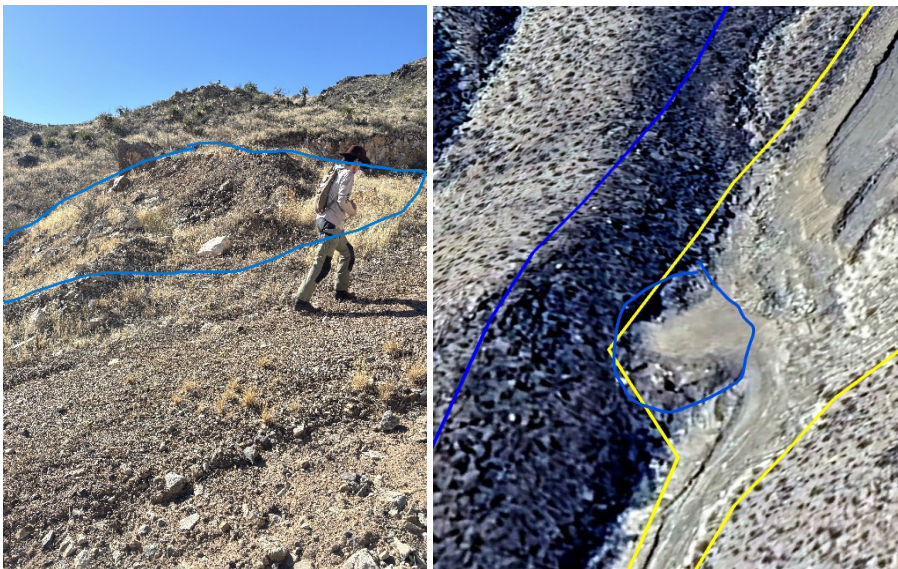
23. Description of Closeout Activities: MMD will require unpatented disturbances to also be reclaimed. This section needs to have those details added.
24. Description of closeout Activities: this section needs additional details on re-grading surfaces like No. 16 road. The road cut will need to be re-graded, as previously described.
25. Description of closeout activities: Waste rock area stabilization - waste rock removal should be in an operational section, not the closure.
26. MMD disagrees with the use of staked waddles as a long-term design feature of stabilizing the slope. Please provide additional details on how the slope will be stabilized in a long-term manner.
27. Description of Closeout Activities: reseedling – Appendix A is referenced but not provided. Please provide. Additionally, MMD will require mulch to be applied.

MMD Comment Summary Report:

**Iron Duke Mine
Permit #: OT006MN
Date: April 28, 2026**

28. Page 9: Plate “XX” needs to be updated
29. Description of Closeout Activities: Equipment Removal: Pad 3 also contains a significant amount of equipment including the Mill. Additional details concerning the removal of equipment need to be provided, such as time to dismantle, how it will be removed etc. Please update this section accordingly.
30. Description of Closeout Activities: Access Roads: As previously mentioned this needs to have the details on re-grading the road. Equipment required should be listed as this would be needed for a cost estimate.
31. Schedule of Closeout Activities: Waste rock removal is “operational” in nature, this does not affect the closeout activities.
32. Part of Closeout Activities needs to include details on re-establishing drainage. Pad 15, will not only need to be re-graded but the backfilled natural drainage that created the “pad” needs to be excavated, reinforced and re-established.

The current proposal has a pond feature in this location, based on MMD’s site inspections, leaving this backfill as a pond feature would not be a long-term solution, the natural drainage should be re-established to keep water from flowing into the road cut. Blue material in image below creates a dam feature and needs to be excavated.



MMD Comment Summary Report:

Iron Duke Mine

Permit #: OT006MN

Date: April 28, 2026

Below (marked in pink) are two drainages that have caused erosion on site and will need additional details on how surface water will be managed prevent erosion at closure.



During the Agency Inspection MMD observed that a 3-foot berm located at the northern marked drainage had been washed out from a storm event. This example shows the scale of features that should be incorporated to manage water appropriately on site. Specifically, at closure using perimeter berms especially blocking natural drainages, will not be functional to manage surface water.

33. Part of Closeout Activities: This section is missing details on the following:
- a. Addressing the disturbances around the waste rock such as area No. 1 & 18. These areas will need to be stabilized and seeded.
 - b. Reclaiming the piles and pad area for No 4. Down to pre-mining road size.
 - c. Reclaiming the trench area – regrading and seeding.
 - d. Reclaiming the road along No. 10 currently being used as storage. This includes removal of equipment that is currently stored there.
 - e. Reclaiming the peripheral areas around Pad 3 - this will require earth moving, regrading and erosion control features to manage water.
 - f. Reclaiming road 6, (re-cut in 2012, so falls under new disturbance)
34. Plate 9: Please update the imagery to a current disturbance. Imagery used is outdated.
35. Storm Water Calculations - Catchment depressions to control runoff: When MMD discussed the need for storm water calculations for a 100/24hr storm event, the purpose was for planning the required erosion controls for the site, specifically for area 3, to be able to handle and withstand erosive events.

MMD Comment Summary Report:

Iron Duke Mine

Permit #: OT006MN

Date: April 28, 2026

While the calculations provided are detailed, they do not appropriately address MMD's concerns. The units seem to be assessed independently of each other, not as a whole water shed, and they do not connect how Area 3 will appropriately handle the concentration of water from the whole water shed. All water from not only areas 13, 15, 16, 3 will all compound and concentrate at area 3 but all the water from the blue area marked below as well. The ability of area 3 and the arroyo to manage a significant storm event is what MMD is concerned about. As seen on multiple inspections the current design and use of berms are insufficient to handle storm events in the area.



MMD reminds Gulf Coast that a critical part of a site qualifying for eventual release from the Mining act and meeting a self-sustaining ecosystem relies on the site's ability to withstand these erosion events.

36. Plate 5: This map needs a legend. Additionally, it is unclear why only a portion of the Mine disturbance is marked, for consistency maps should show the same footprints.

Permit Lead: Samantha Rynas **DATE:** 4/28/2026



Electronic Transmission

MEMORANDUM

Date: April 17, 2026

To: David Ennis, Program Manager, Mining Act Reclamation Program

CC: Samantha Rynas, Site Lead, Mining Act Reclamation Program

Through: Amber Rheubottom, Mining Act Team Leader, Mining Environmental Compliance Section (MECS)

From: Davena Crosley, Surface Water Quality Bureau (SWQB)
Sufi Mustafa, Air Quality Bureau (AQB)
Sean Madden, MECS

Subject: **New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Comments, Iron Duke Mine, Otero County, New Mexico, Modification, Mining Act Permit No. OT006MN**

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) received correspondence from the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) on March 6, 2026, requesting that NMED review and provide comments on the above-referenced MMD permitting action. Pursuant to the Mining Act, the operation is a minimal impact new mine. MMD requested comments on the application within 20 days of receipt of the request for comments, an extension was requested and granted.

Background

Gulf Coast Mining LLC is requesting to modify their existing permit to update the Closeout Plan and Financial Assurance.

Air Quality Bureau

The AQB did not provide comments.

Surface Water Quality Bureau

The SWQB comments are attached.

Mr. David Ennis
Iron Duke
April 17, 2026
Page 2 of 2

Mining Environmental Compliance Section

No comments.

NMED Summary Comment

NMED has determined the proposed activities to be protective of the environment as described in these actions.

If you have any questions, please contact Amber Rheubottom at (505) 660-2379.

cc: Joseph Fox, Program Manager, NMED-MECS
Brad Reid, Team Leader, NMED-MECS
Shelly Lemon, Bureau Chief, NMED-SWQB
Cindy Hollenberg, Bureau Chief, NMED-AQB



MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 10, 2026

TO: Amber Rheubottom, Mining Environmental Compliance Section, Groundwater Quality Bureau

FROM: Davena Crosley, Watershed Protection Section, Surface Water Quality Bureau

SUBJECT: **Request for Review and Comment, Iron Duke Mine - Updated Closeout Plan Modification 26-1, Otero County, New Mexico Mining Act Permit No. OT006MN**

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED)-Surface Water Quality Bureau (SWQB) received the subject request for comments on March 6, 2026, regarding an update to the Closeout Plan and Financial Assurance for the Iron Duke Mine submitted by Gulf Coast Mining LLC (Applicant). The Closeout Plan document submitted for review does not provide adequate detail to evaluate potential impacts to Surface Waters of the State. NMED-SWQB requests additional information particularly regarding:

- Specific Best Management Practices (BMPs) to protect Surface Waters of the State during mining operations
- Specific BMPs to protect Surface Waters of the State after closure/closeout of the mine.
- Road reclamation designs and BMPs to ensure sediment transport is minimized. For example:
 - Erosion from the steep, straight roads accessing the southwest waste rock dump may contribute sediment without adequate BMPs.
 - Roads adjacent to ephemeral drainages may transport sediment without adequate BMPs.
- The SWPPP for this mine site was drafted in 2017 and should be updated.

This project disturbs one or more acres and storm water discharges may be covered under both/either the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Construction General Permit (CGP) or under the Multi-Sector General Permit (MSGP) under Sector G Metal Mining. The Applicant must contact the EPA to determine whether this project is subject to NPDES permitting. For the MSGP, contact Nasim Jahan (jahan.nasim@epa.gov), (214) 665-7522. For the CGP, contact Suzanna Perea (perea.suzanna@epa.gov), (214) 665-7217. Additional information about the NPDES program for EPA Region 6 is available online: <https://www.epa.gov/npdes-permits/npdes-stormwater-program-region-6>.

This project area contains ephemeral arroyos, but no intermittent or perennial water bodies or streams are within the planned disturbance area. New Mexico surface water quality standards apply to all Surface Waters of the State including ephemeral streams at 20.6.4.13 NMAC and 20.6.4.97 NMAC and have designated uses for livestock watering, wildlife habitat, limited aquatic life, and secondary contact. Surface waters of the state shall be free of any water contaminant in such quantity and of such duration as may with reasonable probability injure human health, animal or plant life or property, or unreasonably interfere with the public welfare or the use of property (20.6.4.13 NMAC). Mine exploration activities that have the potential to contribute pollutants to waters of the state must be implemented with appropriate and reasonable Best Management Practices (BMPs) in order to prevent impacts to water quality. Any

discharge of a water contaminant, in such quantity as may with reasonable probability injure or be detrimental to human health, animal or plant life, or property, or unreasonably interfere with the public welfare or the use of property, must be reported to the Environment Department within twenty-four hours (20.6.2.1203 NMAC).

Appropriate and reasonable BMPs include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Implement Best Management Practices to prevent direct impacts to watercourses, including ephemeral streams and arroyos. For temporary surface disturbances during exploration and reclamation activities, the operator should implement erosion control measures that are designed, constructed and maintained using professionally recognized standards (e.g., Natural Resource Conservation Service standards, the Bureau of Land Management “Gold Book”, or the National Best Management Practices for Water Quality on National Forest System Lands).
- Roads should be designed to prevent runoff from directly draining into Surface Waters of the State and BMPs to prevent transport of sediment from roads into Surface Waters of the State should be implemented.
- Roads, pads, and other facility structures should be set back a minimum of 100 feet from any watercourses, including springs, wetlands, and arroyos.
- Ensure that stormwater entering the project area (“run-on”) is diverted from soil storage piles and should place piles uphill of excavations when possible.
- Appropriate spill clean-up materials such as absorbent pads must be available on-site at all times during road construction, site preparations, and drilling activities to address potential spills. Report all spills immediately to the NMED as required by the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission Regulations (20.6.2.1203 NMAC). For non-emergencies during normal business hours, call 505-428-2500. For non-emergencies after hours, call 866-428-6535. For emergencies only, call 505-827-9329 twenty-four hours a day (New Mexico Department of Public Safety). For spills that reach a surface water of the state, including ephemeral streams, also report via email at SWQ.reporting@env.nm.gov.
- Fuel, oil, hydraulic fluid, lubricants, and other petrochemicals must have a secondary containment system to prevent spills. Store these materials outside of the flood-prone zone.



DIRECTOR AND SECRETARY
TO THE COMMISSION
Michael B. Sloane

STATE OF NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

One Wildlife Way, Santa Fe, NM 87507

Tel: (505) 476-8000 | Fax: (505) 476-8180

For information call: (888) 248-6866

<https://wildlife.dgf.nm.gov>

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DR. CHRISTOPHER C. WITT
Albuquerque

30 March 2026
Samantha Rynas, Permit Lead
Mining Act Reclamation Program
Mining and Minerals Division (MMD)
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, NM 87505

**RE: Modification 26-1 Iron Duke Mine Updated Closeout Plan, Otero County, New Mexico,
Permit No. OT006MN; NMDGF No. NMERT-5688.**

Dear Ms. Rynas,

The New Mexico Department of Wildlife (Department) has reviewed the updated closeout plan referenced above. Gulf Coast Mining LLC (Gulf Coast) is proposing to modify their minimal impact mining permit as part of the requirements associated with updating the mine closeout plan and associated financial assurance. Staff from the Department, MMD, and the Operator conducted a site inspection on 11 March 2026.

The Department's primary concern at the Iron Duke Mine is the golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos canadensis*) nest site that is located within the mine permit area. This nest site was occupied in 2023. On 17 May 2023, staff from MMD documented a dead golden eagle nestling at the base of the highwall directly below the nest. The cause of the nestling's death could not be determined. During the 2026 site inspection, Department staff visited the nest site and found it to be unoccupied with no evidence of recent nesting activity. The Department recommends that a qualified biologist verify the status of the nest if mining or reclamation activities occur during the breeding season for golden eagles (1 January - 15 July). If the nest is determined to be occupied, a buffer zone of 0.5 miles should be established until the young have fledged.

The Department also recommends that post mine closure reclamation earthwork includes restoring all altered drainages to their original pre-mining condition.

The closeout plan states that plant species used for reclamation will be those recommended by the Bureau of Land Management. However, a table listing the proposed reclamation seed mix is not provided. The Department requests that Gulf Coast provide a proposed reclamation seed mix table that includes both common and scientific plant names for review. The Department also recommends that only certified weed-free seeds be used to avoid inadvertently introducing non-native species to the reclamation site and that sterile seed sources not be used. Any alternative plant species, used to substitute for primary plant species that are unavailable at the time of reclamation, should also be native. When possible, the Department recommends using seeds

that are sourced from the same region and habitat type as the reclamation site and suggests including seeds from a region that represents potential future climatic conditions at the site.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on Gulf Coast's updated closeout plan. If you have any questions, please contact Ron Kellermueller, Mining and Energy Habitat Specialist, at (505) 270-6612 or ronald.kellermueller@dgf.nm.gov.

Sincerely,

Virginia Seamster, Ph.D.
Assistant Chief for Technical Guidance
Wildlife Management Division, Ecological and Environmental Planning Section

cc: USFWS NMES Field Office

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

Michelle Lujan Grisham
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Acting Cabinet Secretary

Benjamin Shelton
Deputy Cabinet Secretary

Laura McCarthy, State Forester
Forestry Division



March 18, 2026

Samantha Rynas, Permit Lead
Mining and Minerals Division
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD)
1220 S. St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, NM 87505

RE: Request for Review and Comment on Permit No. OT006MN Modification 26-1 Updated Closeout Plan, Iron Duke Mine in Otero County, NM

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above referenced project.

There are known records of the State Endangered plant *Peniocereus greggii* var. *greggii* (Night-blooming cereus) documented in the vicinity of the project area. It is recommended that a botanical survey be conducted prior to any ground disturbance, if necessary. This survey should be performed by a qualified botanist with expertise in identifying State Endangered plants, preferably during periods when the plants are flowering or fruiting.

If any State Endangered plants are found within the project site, an incidental take permit will be required if plants are likely to be destroyed or harmed. Alternatively, mitigation measures should be developed to minimize disturbance. Additional information on permits and state-endangered plant species can be accessed at: <https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/sfd/rare-plants/request-a-collection-permit/>

Please let me know if I can be of further help.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Erika Rowe", is written over a horizontal line.

Erika Rowe
State Botanist; Endangered Plant Program Coordinator
EMNRD-Forestry Division
1220 S. St. Francis Dr.
Santa Fe, NM 87505
erika.rowe@emnrd.nm.gov (505)699-6371

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Ficke, Cash, DCA
Sent: Thursday, March 5, 2026 10:51 AM
To: Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD
Subject: FW: Request for Agency Comment on Iron Duke Modification 26-1 OT006MN
Attachments: 2026 0302 Mod 26-1 Iron Duke OT006MN Agency Comment request DCA.pdf

Hi Samantha,

I reviewed the updated closeout plan and have no additional comments. It appears that the plan does not propose any additional disturbances outside of existing roads and previously disturbed surfaces, so I have no concerns regarding the cultural resources in the area. This email will act as SHPO's official correspondence regarding this activity. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to reach out.

Thanks,
Cash



Cash M. Ficke, RPA
Archaeologist
Historic Preservation Specialist &
Archaeological Review
Historic Preservation Division
Office: (505) 827-6162
Cell: (575) 937-0750
Email: cash.ficke@dca.nm.gov
www.nmhistoricpreservation.org

From: SHPO, NM, DCA <NM.SHPO@dca.nm.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 3, 2026 8:56 AM
To: Ficke, Cash, DCA <cash.ficke@dca.nm.gov>
Subject: FW: Request for Agency Comment on Iron Duke Modification 26-1 OT006MN

Log# 127548

From: Ficke, Cash, DCA <cash.ficke@dca.nm.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 2, 2026 3:13 PM
To: SHPO, NM, DCA <NM.SHPO@dca.nm.gov>
Subject: FW: Request for Agency Comment on Iron Duke Modification 26-1 OT006MN

Hi Irene,

Could you log this one to me please?

Thanks



Cash M. Ficke, RPA

Archaeologist
Historic Preservation Specialist &
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Historic Preservation Division
Office: (505) 827-6162
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From: Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD <Samantha.Rynas@emnrd.nm.gov>

Sent: Monday, March 2, 2026 2:49 PM

To: Ficke, Cash, DCA <cash.ficke@dca.nm.gov>

Subject: Request for Agency Comment on Iron Duke Modification 26-1 OT006MN

Good Afternoon,

MMD received the application for the Iron Duke updated Closeout plan today. Please see the attached comment request letter. We already have an inspection date of March 11. Please let me know if you plan to join so I can send additional details.

Link for application: <https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/mmd/mining-act-reclamation-program/pending-and-approved-mine-applications/minimal-impact-new/ot006mn-iron-duke-mine/>

Inspection: March 11

Due date for comment: April 6

Location: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/PtXWTAvtJnAnojBL9>

Samantha Rynas

Reclamation Specialist
Mining and Minerals Division
Mining Act Reclamation Program
1220 S. St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, NM 87505
(505) 216-8945
Schedule: Mon – Fri 7:30am - 4pm