

Notice of Public Hearing: Copper Flat Mine – 2025 Amended Application

Per 19.10.9.904 NMAC, The New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department, Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) hereby gives notice of a public hearing on the Amended Application in consideration of issuing a New Mining Operation permit for the Copper Flat Mine, Sierra County, New Mexico (permit no. SI027RN). The applicant for the permit is New Mexico Copper Corporation (NMCC), a wholly owned subsidiary of THEMAC Resources Group Limited. The Copper Flat Mine is located in Sierra County, approximately 30 miles southwest of Truth or Consequences and 5 miles northeast of Hillsboro.

MMD previously held a public hearing on the Permit Application Package and Draft Environmental Evaluation in consideration of issuing a New Mining Operation permit for the Copper Flat Mine on October 23 and 24, 2018. NMCC has amended its Application to propose the use of a dry stack tailing facility on the same footprint as the originally proposed wet tailing facility, which will operate in accordance with the Office of the State Engineer's adjudication of 1046 ac. ft./yr of water rights. These changes to the Application warrant an additional opportunity for public hearing pursuant to 19.10.9.904(E) NMAC. The scope of this public hearing is thus limited to the changes proposed in the Amended Application. A copy of the application and supplemental information for this application is available for viewing at the MMD Office in Santa Fe, NM, and may also be viewed on the MMD website at:

<https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/mmd/mining-act-reclamation-program/pending-and-approved-mine-applications/mining-applications-regular-new/si027rn-copper-flat-mine/>

The purpose of the hearing is to give the public an opportunity to learn about and comment on the Amended Application for a New Mining Operation permit for the Copper Flat Mine. A hearing officer will conduct the hearing on behalf of MMD and, pursuant to 19.10.9.905 NMAC, will have authority to take all measures necessary for the maintenance of order and decorum, and for the efficient, fair, and impartial presentation of the Amended Application for a New Mining Operation permit for the Copper Flat Mine and the receiving of public comments. The public hearing is not adjudicatory and no final decisions regarding the application will be made at the public hearing, nor will the hearing officer provide any recommendations to MMD at the conclusion of the hearing. Rather, the hearing officer will provide MMD with a summary report that will summarize both technical and non-technical comments taken at the hearing so that the MMD Director may consider social, economic, technical, and other issues that are raised at the public hearing. Any interested persons may provide verbal or written comments at the public hearing.

Representatives of MMD and NMCC will be presenting information on the permitting process and mining and reclamation plan, respectively. Afterwards, public comments will be heard. Any interested person may testify at the hearing by indicating this desire on the sign-in sheet before the hearing begins and is subject to cross-examination on the subject matter of his direct testimony. Any person attending the hearing is entitled to conduct such cross-examination as may be required for full disclosure of matters at issue in the hearing. The hearing officer may limit cross-examination to avoid harassment, intimidation, needless expenditure of time or undue repetition. All testimony will be taken under oath or affirmation. In accordance with 19.10.9.906 NMAC, MMD will make an audio record of this public hearing which will be available afterwards.

The public hearing is scheduled for **Thursday, September 17, 2026, at 5:30 pm**. The location of the public hearing will be at the **Hillsboro Community Center, 316 Elenore Street, Hillsboro, NM 88042**. MMD and NMCC will host an open house starting at 2:00 pm for those who are interested.

Written comments regarding NMCC's Amended Application may be submitted to the Director of the Mining and Minerals Division at MMD.MARP@emnrd.nm.gov or:

Director
Mining and Minerals Division
NM Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, NM 87505