

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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Electronic Transmission Memorandum

September 2, 2026

To Consulting Agencies:

Corey Dimond, Senior Water Resources Professional, New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) – Mining Environmental Compliance Section
Erika Rowe, State Botanist, NM EMNRD – Forestry Division
Virginia Seamster, Assistant Chief for Technical Guidance, NM Department of Wildlife
Michelle Ensey, Director, NM Historic Preservation Division
Dr. Kamran Syed, Hydrology Bureau Chief, NM Office of the State Engineer
Joseph Jaffa-Martinez, New Mexico Zone Geologist, USFS

From: Evan Owen, Permit Lead, Mining Act Reclamation Program (MARP), Mining and Minerals Division (MMD)

CC: David “DJ” Ennis, Program Manager, MARP, MMD
Ron Kellermueller, Mining and Energy Habitat Specialist, NM Department of Wildlife
Joe Fox, Program Manager, Ground Water Quality Bureau, NMED

Subject: Request for Review and Comment on Minimal Impact Exploration Application, Poverty Creek Exploration Project No. CA031EM, Catron and Sierra Counties, New Mexico

The New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) has received an application from KC Harvey Environmental LLC on behalf of Rio Grand Resources for the Poverty Creek Exploration Project, a Part 3 Minimal Impact Exploration project, Permit No. CA030EM. MMD has deemed this application Administratively Complete. This gold and silver exploration project is located in Catron and Sierra Counties near Winston, NM and intends to drill up to 10 boreholes up to 1300 feet deep each.

MMD is requesting comments from your agency on the application. See the below details for this request:

Application link: <https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/mmd/ca031em-poverty-creek-exploration/>

Site location: Approx. 10 miles northwest of Winston, NM

Site inspection date: TBD; please contact me by September 9 if you are interested in attending a site visit.

Comments requested by: September 23, 2026

If you have any questions, please contact me by phone at (505) 490-0967 or by email at evan.owen@emnrd.nm.gov.