



BILL RICHARDSON
Governor

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION

BATAAN MEMORIAL BUILDING
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August 12, 2010

David Ohoi
Permit Lead
Mining Act Reclamation Program
Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Re: Request for Review and Comment on the Sampling and Analysis Plan, La Jara Mesa Mine, Laramide Resources, Inc., Permit No. CI008RN

Dear Mr. Ohoi:

This letter is in response to sampling and analysis plan for La Jara Mine located in Cibola County. According to 19.10.6.602 NMAC, a sampling and analysis plan shall include a list and accompanying map indicating all sites on or eligible for listing on either the National Register of Historic Places and/or the State Registers of Cultural Properties and known cemeteries and human burials within the proposed permit area. Included in this list shall be a description of effects the proposed mining operations may have on these sites and any proposed mitigation measures.

Section 11 does not indicate whether there are cultural properties listed on or eligible for listing on either the National Register of Historic Places and/or the State Registers of Cultural Properties. A review of our records shows that a portion of the permit area is located within the boundaries of the Mount Taylor Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), which was added to the State Register of Cultural Properties on June 5, 2009 and was determined to be eligible for listing to the National Register of Historic Places on March 14, 2008. In addition, our archaeological records database shows some cultural resources survey of the permit area has been conducted. Although the sampling and analysis plan does not list any known archaeological sites, the plan proposes to conduct a 100% (class III) intensive cultural resources pedestrian survey of the permit area and record any previously recorded and new archaeological sites.

The sampling and analysis plan also states that a plan of operations has been submitted to the Cibola National Forest. The Cibola National Forest will be reviewing this project under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). As such, they will determine

the level of effort for the cultural resources survey and consult with this office on the eligibility of any cultural properties for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. The Cibola National Forest will also evaluate the potential effects of La Jara Mesa Project on cultural properties, including the Mt. Taylor TCP and consult with this office on their determination.

Mining and Minerals Division also has a responsibility to consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) under Section 18-6-8.1 of the Cultural Properties Act, NMSA 1978 and implementing regulation 4.10.7 NMAC. This consultation with the SHPO under state law should run concurrently with the review by the Cibola National Forest under Section 106 of the NHPA.

If you have any questions regarding these comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at (505) 827-4064.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Michelle M. Ensey', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michelle M. Ensey
Archaeologist

Log: 89849

Cc/Email: Cynthia Benedict, Forest Archaeologist, Cibola National Forest