

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

Melanie A. Kenderdine
Cabinet Secretary

Ben Shelton
Deputy Secretary

Erin Tayler
Deputy Secretary

Mike Tompson, Acting Director
Mining and Minerals Division



Electronic Transmission

August 1, 2025

Courtney Wands
Department of Cultural Affairs
Historic Preservation Division
407 Galisteo Street, Suite 236
Santa Fe, NM 87501

**RE: Request for Comment, Little Burros Minimal Impact Exploration Permit Application,
Permit No. GR097EM**

Dear Ms. Wands,

Pursuant to §19.10.3 NMAC, the New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) has determined that a Minimal Impact Exploration Permit Application (Application) submitted on July 29, 2025 is Administratively Complete. The application was submitted by Freeport-McMoRan (FMI) for its Little Burros Exploration Project and proposes to drill 1 borehole and disturb up to 2 acres of private property owned by FMI within the boundaries of the claim numbers identified in the application for exploration located approximately 10 miles south of Silver City, NM in Grant County, New Mexico.

Per §19.10.3.302 G. NMAC, MMD is requesting comments from your agency regarding this application. If your agency has any comments on this project, please respond within 20 days of this letter. The Little Burros Exploration Project Application is attached to this letter and will soon be posted on the MMD Website with all associated information at the following location under the Grant Co. Section:

<https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/mmd/mining-act-reclamation-program/part-3-minimal-impact-exploration/>

A site inspection will be scheduled for the afternoon of August 14, 2025, and all consulting agencies are invited. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the site inspection or this Application, please contact me at (505) 467-9589 or via e-mail at: clinton.chisler@emnrd.nm.gov.

Sincerely,

Clint Chisler, Permit Lead
Mining Act Reclamation Program (MARP)

cc: DJ Ennis, Program Manager, MARP

Mine File (GR097EM)

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August 1, 2025

Virginia "Ginny" Seamster, Ph.D.
Assistant Chief for Technical Guidance
Wildlife Management Division
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
1 Wildlife Way
Santa Fe, NM 87507

**RE: Request for Comment, Little Burros Minimal Impact Exploration Permit Application,
Permit No. GR097EM**

Dear Dr. Seamster,

Pursuant to §19.10.3 NMAC, the New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) has determined that a Minimal Impact Exploration Permit Application (Application) submitted on July 29, 2025 is Administratively Complete. The application was submitted by Freeport-McMoRan (FMI) for its Little Burros Exploration Project and proposes to drill 1 borehole and disturb up to 2 acres of private property owned by FMI within the boundaries of the claim numbers identified in the application for exploration located approximately 10 miles south of Silver City, NM in Grant County, New Mexico.

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Mining Act Reclamation Program (MARF)

cc: DJ Ennis, Program Manager, MARF

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August 1, 2025

Ms. Amber Rheubottom
NMED Ground Water Quality Bureau
Mining Environmental Compliance Section ("MECS")
P.O. Box 5469
Santa Fe, NM 87502-5469

**RE: Request for Comment, Little Burros Minimal Impact Exploration Permit Application,
Permit No. GR097EM**

Dear Ms. Rheubottom,

Pursuant to §19.10.3 NMAC, the New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) has determined that a Minimal Impact Exploration Permit Application (Application) submitted on July 29, 2025 is Administratively Complete. The application was submitted by Freeport-McMoRan (FMI) for its Little Burros Exploration Project and proposes to drill 1 borehole and disturb up to 2 acres of private property owned by FMI within the boundaries of the claim numbers identified in the application for exploration located approximately 10 miles south of Silver City, NM in Grant County, New Mexico.

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Clint Chisler, Permit Lead
Mining Act Reclamation Program (MARF)

cc: DJ Ennis, Program Manager, MARF

Mine File (GR097EM)

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August 1, 2025

Katie Zemlick, PHD., Hydrology Bureau Chief
New Mexico Office of the State Engineer
P.O. Box 25102
Santa Fe, NM 87504

**RE: Request for Comment, Little Burros Minimal Impact Exploration Permit Application,
Permit No. GR097EM**

Dear Dr. Zemlick,

Pursuant to §19.10.3 NMAC, the New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) has determined that a Minimal Impact Exploration Permit Application (Application) submitted on July 29, 2025 is Administratively Complete. The application was submitted by Freeport-McMoRan (FMI) for its Little Burros Exploration Project and proposes to drill 1 borehole and disturb up to 2 acres of private property owned by FMI within the boundaries of the claim numbers identified in the application for exploration located approximately 10 miles south of Silver City, NM in Grant County, New Mexico.

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cc: DJ Ennis, Program Manager, MARF

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August 1, 2025

Erika Rowe, State Botanist
EMNRD – State Forestry Division
1220 S. St. Francis Dr.
Santa Fe, NM 87505

RE: Request for Comment, Little Burros Minimal Impact Exploration Permit Application, Permit No. GR097EM

Dear Ms. Rowe,

Pursuant to §19.10.3 NMAC, the New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) has determined that a Minimal Impact Exploration Permit Application (Application) submitted on July 29, 2025 is Administratively Complete. The application was submitted by Freeport-McMoRan (FMI) for its Little Burros Exploration Project and proposes to drill 1 borehole and disturb up to 2 acres of private property owned by FMI within the boundaries of the claim numbers identified in the application for exploration located approximately 10 miles south of Silver City, NM in Grant County, New Mexico.

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Clint Chisler, Permit Lead
Mining Act Reclamation Program (MARP)

cc: DJ Ennis, Program Manager, MARP

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