

State of New Mexico  
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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**Michelle Lujan Grisham**  
Governor

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Acting Cabinet Secretary

**Benjamin Shelton**  
Deputy Cabinet Secretary

**Drew Roybal-Chavez**  
Deputy Director  
Mining and Minerals Division



*Electronic Transmmission Memorandum*

**July 13, 2026**

**To: Consulting Agencies**

Amber Rheubottom, Team Leader, 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, Archaeologist, NM Historic Preservation Division  
Kamran Syed, Hydrology Bureau Chief, NM Office of the State Engineer  
Bryan Victor, Senior Geoscientist, NM State Land Office  
Corey Durr, Geologist, BLM Field Office, Las Cruces

**From:** Maille Gray, Permit Lead, Mining Act Reclamation Program (MARF), Mining and Minerals Division (MMD)

**CC:** Clint Chisler, Reclamation Specialist Supervisor MARF/MMD  
David “DJ” Ennis, Program Manager MARF/MMD  
Ron Kellermueller, Senior Wildlife Biologist, Department of Wildlife  
Sean Madden, Water Resources Specialist, NMED  
HI026EM file

**Subject: Request for Review and Comment on Permit No. HI026EM, Steins Mineral Exploration Project in Hidalgo County, NM**

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The New Mexico MMD has received an application from Curiosity Exploration, LLC to issue the minimal impact exploration permit for the Steins Mineral Exploration Project assigned Permit No. HI026EM. This application requests drilling of nine exploration boreholes to a depth of 3,500 feet each, construction of six drill pads 100 feet by 100 feet, 18 mud pits 12 feet by 12 feet by 4 feet deep, one road 4,895 feet long and 15 feet wide (1.69 acre), and widening 6,436 feet of existing road from 11 feet to 15 feet (0.59 acre). The applicant anticipates disturbing approximately 4.35 acres associated with the exploration activities.

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/hi026em-steins-minimal-impact-exploration-project/>

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**Site location:** The site is located 20 miles west of Lordsburg on I-10 near Steins, NM, then south on Chato Road approximately 4 miles. T24S, R21W, Sections 19, 28, 29, 32, and 33

**Site inspection date:** August 4, 2026 at 8am. From Lordsburg, take I-10 West towards Arizona. 0.5 miles west of the Arizona border, take Exit 390 for N. Cavot Road. We will meet on the south side of the interstate overpass where the pavement turns to dirt. There is no access route

**Comments requested by: August 14, 2026**

If you have any questions, please contact me by phone (505) 651-7721 or email [maillie.gray@emnrd.nm.gov](mailto:maillie.gray@emnrd.nm.gov).