PART 3
MINIMAL IMPACT EXPLORATION OPERATION

PERMIT APPLICATION

Send 6 copies of the completed application to:

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
Director
Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South Saint Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505
Telephone: (505) 476-3400

CHECK OFF LIST TO DETERMINE YOUR PROJECT'S STATUS AS A MINIMAL IMPACT EXPLORATION OPERATION:

☐ Yes x No My project **will exceed 1000 cubic yards of excavation**, per permit (drill pads, mud pits, and roads will not be counted in excavated materials).

☐ Yes x No Surface disturbances for constructed roads, drill pads and mud pits **will exceed 5 acres** total for my project.

☐ Yes x No My project is located in or is expected to have a direct surface impact on wetlands, springs, perennial or intermittent streams, lakes, rivers reservoirs or riparian areas.

☐ Yes x No My project is located in designated critical habitat areas as determined in accordance with the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973 or in areas determined by the Department of Game and Fish likely to result in an adverse impact on an endangered species designated in accordance with the Wildlife Conservation Act, Sections 17-2-37 through 17-2-46 NMSA 1978 or by the State Forestry Division for the Endangered Plants Act, section 75-6-1 NMSA 1978.

☐ Yes x No My project is located in an area designated as Federal Wilderness Area, Wilderness Study Area, Area of Critical Environmental Concern, or an area within the National Wild and Scenic River System.

☐ Yes x No My project is located in a known cemetery or other burial ground.

☐ Yes x No My project is located in an area with cultural resources listed on either the National Register of Historic Places or the State Register of Cultural Properties.

☐ Yes x No My project will or is expected to have a direct impact on ground water that has a total dissolved solids concentration of less than 10,000 mg/L, except exploratory drilling intersecting ground water may be performed as a minimal impact operation.

☐ Yes x No My project is expected to use or using cyanide, mercury amalgam, heap leaching or dump leaching in its operations.

☐ Yes x No My project is expected to result in point or non-point source surface or subsurface releases of acid or other toxic substances from the permit area.

☐ Yes x No My project requires a variance from any part of the Mining Act Rules as part of the permit application.

If you answer yes to any of the above questions, your project does not qualify as a minimal impact exploration operation.

Confidential Information

X No Is any of the information submitted in this application considered by the applicant to be confidential in nature? If yes, please provide this information separately and marked as "confidential."

Timeline

- Exploration applications must be provided no less than 45 days prior to the anticipated date of operations desired by the applicant.
- Renewal applications shall be filed at least 30 days preceding expiration of the current permit. Permits are valid for one year.
- Approved permit is valid for one year from the date of approval.

SECTION 1 – OPERATOR INFORMATION (§304.D.1)

Project Name: Lordsburg Playa Lithium in Brine Exploration Drilling Project

Nearest Town to Project: Lordsburg, NM

Applicant Name and Contact Information (entity obligated under the Mining Act):

Name: Frank Bain

Address: 2425 Chof Trail, Flagstaff, AZ 86005

Office Phone: _____ Cell Phone: 307-231-1404

Fax Number: _____ Email: frankbain7@aol.com

Name of On-Site Contact, Representative, or Consultant:

Name: As above

Address: _____

Office Phone: _____ Cell Phone: 307-231-1404

Fax Number: _____ Email: _____

SECTION 2 – RIGHT TO ENTER INFORMATION (§302.D.1)

A. Describe or attach copies of documents that give the applicant the right to enter the property to conduct the exploration and reclamation, include lease agreements, access agreements, right of way agreements, surface owner agreements, and claim numbers, if applicable.

1. LBP 1 to LBP 238 are Federal Lode Mining Claims all located on BLM managed land that includes both the surface and mineral estate.
2. New Mexico State Land Office Right of Access Permit pending for Sections 12 and 13, T23S, R21W.

3. BLM Statement authorizing use of Kinder Morgan Pipeline ROW

Attachment Access map

B. List the names and addresses of surface and mineral ownership within the proposed permit area. If the mineral is federal mineral, indicate as federal mineral, but provide the name of the claim holder or lease holder.

Surface Estate Owner(s): Federal Minerals

Name	Address	Phone #
X Bureau of Land Management	Frank Bain - Claim Owner	307-231-1404
☐ U.S. Forest Service		
☐ State of NM		
☐ Private/Corporate		
Name:		

Lease Holder(s) of Surface Estate (if applicable):

Name	Address	Phone #

Mineral Estate Owner(s): Federal Minerals

Name	Address	Phone #

X Bureau of Land Management Frank Bain, Claim Owner_____ 307-231-1404

☐ US Forest Service _____ _____

_____

☐ State of NM _____ _____

_____

☐ Claim/Lease Holder _____ _____

Name: Frank Bain_____ _____

Claim Numbers: LBP 1 to LBP 238 – Recordation with BLM in progress _____

C. Has a Cultural Resource Survey been performed on the site?
D. X Yes. If yes, please provide the author, title, date and report number, and include a copy of the survey with this application, if possible: Bob Estes PhD, Archaeologist, Department of Cultural Affairs, State of New Mexico Historic Preservation Division, November 2, 2017

_____

Attachment 1

E. Has a wildlife survey or vegetation survey been performed for the permit area?
F. X Yes. If yes, please provide the author, title, date and report number, and include a copy of the survey with this application, if possible: Chuck Hayes, Assistant Chief, Ecological and Environmental Planning Division, State of New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, November 20, 2017

SECTION 3 – MAPS AND PROJECT LOCATION (§302.D.2)

A. Project Location:

Township 23 S_____ Range 20W _____ Sections: 7, 8, 9, 10, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22

Township_____ Range_____ Section_____

Township_____ Range_____ Section_____

List the drill hole/exploration name and the GPS coordinates for each site.

I.D. Number	Northing / Latitude	Easting / Longitude
1	3577735	694567
2	3576449	693387
3	3577755	695568
4	3576277	695606
5	3576633	695640
6	3578125	696946

I.D. Number	Northing / Latitude	Easting / Longitude

Coordinate system used to collect GPS data points:

☐ NAD83 Geographic
☐ NAD83 UTM Zone 13 (or 12)
☐ WGS 1984
☐ NAD27 Geographic
X NAD27 UTM Zone 13 (or 12)
☐ Other:_____

Attachment None____ (for listing additional boreholes)

B. Maps (see application form instructions for examples of maps to be included):

Are topographic maps included with the application that show the following items:

x☐ Yes – The boundary of the proposed exploration project Permit Area

x☐ Yes – The proposed exploration locations (i.e., borehole locations)

x☐ Yes – Existing roads, new roads and overland travel routes

x☐ Yes ☐ N/A – Areas of proposed road improvement

Attachments Shown on access and project location maps

Are maps or figures included with the application showing the approximate dimensions and locations of drill pads and other disturbances:

X Yes – Drill hole locations are shown on the project map; pad dimensions are described in the application.

Attachments Project map

Provide detailed driving directions to access the site: Begin at the West Motel Drive Interchange in Lordsburg, NM, proceed west for 17 miles to the Steins Exit, mile marker 2, cross the railroad tracks and proceed for 6.5 miles on Summit County Road A012 to the Kinder Morgan Pipeline ROW Road, then turn east. Follow the two-track road for 1.6 miles to the BLM "Restricted Access" gate and entrance to the project area. and proceed for .27 miles to the junction of a northeast-southwest trending two track road. Drill Hole 1 is located approximately .85 mile to the north of the junction and is accessed by an existing but faint 1000 foot long two track road trending to the southeast as shown on the historic Mondel topographic map. Drill Hole 2 is located approximately .5 mile to the south of the junction and can be accessed by an existing, well-worn two track road. Drill hole locations will be marked with orange flagging. No road construction will be necessary. Four other drill hole locations are also shown on the map and will only be drilled if favorable assays are obtained from the first two drill holes.

Frank Bain currently has verbal permission from the BLM to use pickup trucks on the pipeline ROW road. The BLM told Mr. Bain that permission to use the pipeline road ROW is the responsibility of the BLM and that permission from Kinder Morgan is not required.

Access to the project area from the east may be necessary, depending on if the New Mexico State Land Office will allow access across Sections 12 and 13 in T23S, R21W. To get to the project area using the east route, proceed west on Interstate 10 from the Motel Drive onramp in Lordsburd, NM for 7.2 miles to the Gary exit, mile post 15, turn north and proceed for .5 miles to the railroad tracks, then turn east and proceed for 1.3 miles to the railroad crossing, turn left, cross the tracks, proceed for .2 miles to the Kinder Morgan Pipeline ROW, turn left and follow the pipeline ROW for 8.4 miles to the northeast-southwest trending 2 track road described above that provides access to drill sites 1 and 2.

The preferred access route is the western route going through Steins, NM

SECTION 4 – EXPLORATION DESCRIPTION (§302.D.3 & 4)

A. Anticipated exploration: Start Date: Spring or summer 2026, End Date Fall, 2026__

B. List the mineral(s)/element(s) to be explored for: Lithium

C. Proposed method(s) of exploration:

x☐ **Air drilling (air rotary, coring, etc.): Hole will be started with air and may be completed with foam or mud**

6 # of holes 500 Depth (ft.) 6 Diameter (in.)

6 # of drill pads 75 Length (ft.) 50 Width (ft.)

Will drill pads be graded/bladed or overland: ☐ Graded/bladed x☐ Overland

Will drill pads need some mechanical leveling (grading/blading): ☐ Yes x☐ No

Approx. Weight of Drill Rig (lbs.) 75,000 Number of Axles: 3

Total length of drill stem that can be carried on the rig: 300 feet

Is a support pipe truck anticipated? X Yes ☐ No _____Weight (lbs.)

Weight of support compressor (lbs.): 5,000 Trailer mounted? Yes_____
Anticipated Drilling Contractor: Godby Drilling, License No._____

☐ **Mud/fluid drilling:**

6 # of holes 500 Depth (ft.) 6 inch Diameter (in.)

6 # of drill pads 75 Length (ft.) 50 Width (ft.)

Will drill pads be graded/bladed or overland? Overland

Will drill pads need some mechanical leveling (grading/blading)? No

Will a closed loop system be used or will mud/fluid pits be used? Mud pits

If mud/fluid pits are proposed:

2 # of pits 10 Length (ft.) 6 Width (ft.) 8 Depth (ft.)

Anticipated excavating equipment: Backhoe

How will excavating equipment be transported to the site (i.e., driven, low-boy, etc.):

Flatbed trailer or truck to where the Summit County Road A012 intersects the Kinder Morgan Pipeline ROW, then driven to the drill site

Will mud pits be lined? No

If yes, proposed material to line the mud pits: Plastic sheeting

Approx. Weight of Drill Rig (lbs.)75,000 Number of Axles: 3

Anticipated Drilling Contractor: Godby Drilling License No.

☐ **Test pits / exploratory trenches: None**

0 # of pits _____ Length (ft.) _____ Width (ft.) _____ Depth (ft.)

Anticipated excavating equipment:

How will excavating equipment be transported to the site (i.e., driven, low-boy, etc.):

☐ **Other methods of exploration** (i.e., cuts, shafts, tunnels, adits, declines, blasting, etc.). Indicate method and details: None

TOTAL ACREAGE TO BE DISTURBED DUE TO DRILL PADS = .17 acres
(to convert to acres, multiply total square footage of drill pads by 0.0000229)

D. Disposal of drill cuttings

If this exploration project is for uranium or other radioactive elements/minerals, applicant agrees to perform a gamma radiation survey at each drill site prior to, and after, exploration activities. Applicant/Owner/Operator agrees to restore gamma radiation levels at each drill site to pre-exploration levels. ☐ Yes ☐ No X N/A

Will excess drill cuttings be buried at each drill site location or within a single disposal pit?
X At each drill pad location Within a single disposal pit

If a single disposal pit is proposed, please provide the following:

Description or GPS coordinates of the proposed cuttings disposal pit location:

Dimensions of the single proposed cuttings disposal pit (length, width, and depth):

10 Length (ft.) 6 Width (ft.) 8 Depth (ft.)

TOTAL ACREAGE TO BE DISTURBED DUE TO DISPOSAL PIT = .02 acres
(to convert to acres, multiply total square footage of disposal pit by 0.0000229)

E. Other Supporting Equipment (check all that apply):

x	4x4 Trucks/Vehicles	Quantity:	3
x	Water Truck	Weight (lbs.):	40,000
x	Geophysical Truck	Weight (lbs.):	12,000?
x	Pipe Truck (rig support)	Weight (lbs.):	16,000?
☐	Bulldozer	Type:	
x	Backhoe	Type:	Case / 2 cubic yard bucket
☐	Track hoe	Type:	
	Scraper/Grader	Type:	1
☐	Trailers	Quantity/Type:	
X	Portable Toilet?	Quantity:	1 if required
☐	Other	List:	

F. Roads and Overland Travel:

List of new roads to be constructed for this exploration project:

Description of *NEW* Roads	Length (ft.)	Width (ft.)	Total Acres (length x width x 0.0000229)
None			
TOTAL ACRES DISTURBED BY NEW ROAD CONSTRUCTION :			

Describe how new roads will be constructed: Roads will be on existing 2 track routes, no

construction is anticipated.

List for extension or widening of existing roads:

Description of Modification to *EXISTING* Roads	Length (ft.)	Width (ft.)	Total Acres (length x width x 0.0000229)
None			0
TOTAL ACRES DISTURBED BY ROAD IMPROVEMENTS :			**0**

Describe how existing roads will be extended or widened: N/A

List for routes of overland travel:

Description of *OVERLAND TRAVEL* Routes	Length (ft.)	Width (ft.)	Total Acres (length x width x 0.0000229)
Cross country travel to the drill site 1 from the nearest point off of the existing 2 track road.	1,000	10	.23
If all 6 holes are drilled	10,000	10	2.29
TOTAL ACRES DISTURBED BY OVERLAND TRAVEL:			2.52

G. Support Facilities

Describe (location and size) any support facility disturbances (equipment staging, equipment and material storage and/or lay down areas, vehicle parking, temporary housing and/or trailers) to be created or situated on the site during exploration operations.

None

H. **TOTAL ACREAGE TO BE DISTURBED BY PROJECT = 2.71 acres**
(include all disturbed acreage from drill pads, cuttings disposal pit, new roads, improved roads and overland travel routes)

SECTION 5 – CHEMICAL USE (§302.D.4)

A. Check any and all chemicals that will be used for this project.

X	Drilling Mud (i.e., EZ Mud)	Type/Quantity:	100 bags?
X	Diesel Fuel	Quantity:	2500 gallons?
☐	Down-hole Lubricants	Type/Quantity:	
X	Lost Circulation Materials	Type/Quantity:	Shredded paper
X	Oils/Grease	Quantity:	10 gallons
X	Gasoline	Quantity:	1000 gallons?
X	Hydraulic Fluid	Quantity:	10 gallons
☐	Ethylene Glycol	Quantity:	
X	Cement	Type/Quantity:	100 bags for hole plugging
X	Water	Source:	City of Lordsburg or local ranch
X	Bentonite	Quantity:	100 bags?
☐	Fertilizer	Type/Quantity:	
☐	Other	Type/Quantity:	

B. Describe, in detail, a plan for the containment, use and disposal of all chemicals listed above:

Chemicals will only be present in small amounts and will be stored in a safe area in leak proof containers. Chemicals will be used as per the manufacturers' instructions. No

used oil or other fluids will be disposed of onsite.

C. Describe where equipment fueling/refueling will occur:
Refueling will occur onsite for the drill rig, water truck, and backhoe over spill mats

D. Describe how hazardous material spills/leaks will be handled:
Spill mats will be present on site, In the event of a spill contaminated soil will be removed and taken to an appropriate landfill or disposal facility.

E. Identify spill cleanup materials that will be kept on-site (check all that apply):

- X Bentonite clay or cat litter
- X Adsorbent pads, rolls, mats, socks, pillows, dikes, etc.
- X Drum or barrel for containing contaminated soil/adsorbent materials
- ☐ Other/list: _____
- ☐ Other/list: _____

F. Applicant/owner/representative agrees to immediately notify the State of New Mexico immediately of any spills of hazardous materials (see page 1 of this application for phone numbers to notify): X Yes ☐ No

SECTION 6 – GROUNDWATER/SURFACE WATER INFORMATION (§302.D.5)

A. Provide an estimate of depth to ground water and the total dissolved solids (TDS) concentration.

Depth to groundwater (ft.): 150' _____ TDS concentration (mg/L): Very high > 10,000

Describe the source of this information: Well head sign that says "150 FEET DEEP, TOO SALTY FOR HUMAN OR LIVESTOCK USE" and a State Engineers Office Report

B. Will dewatering activities be conducted: ☐ Yes X No

If yes, please describe:_____

_____

_____

C. Is groundwater anticipated to be encountered during exploration: X Yes ☐ No

If YES: Non potable

Have you completed Form WR-07 (Application for permit to drill a well with no consumptive use of water) and mailed it to the District Office of the State Engineer? X Yes

Have you completed Form WD-08 (Well plugging plan of operations) and mailed it to the District Office of the State Engineer? X No, State Engineer requests the form to be completed within 30 days of spudding the drill hole

Attachment 2 and 3 (copies of the completed WR-07 and WD-08 forms)

D. Exploration Borehole Abandonment

Dry Boreholes

☐ Dry hole abandonment (option 1): 100% bentonite pellets/chips (i.e. HOLEPLUG® manufactured by Baroid Industrial Products), dropped from surface then hydrated in place according to the manufacturer's recommendations, emplaced from total depth to within 12 feet of the original ground surface, followed by 10 feet of neat cement, followed by 2 feet of topsoil/topdressing.

☐ Dry hole abandonment (option 2): Neat cement slurry, mixed according to the manufacturer's recommendations, emplaced with a tremie pipe from total depth to within 2 feet of the original ground surface, followed by 2 feet of topsoil/topdressing.

☐ Dry hole abandonment (option 3): Cement + 6% bentonite slurry, mixed according to the manufacturer's recommendations, emplaced with a tremie pipe from total depth to within 2 feet of the original ground surface, followed by 2 feet of topsoil/topdressing.

☐ Dry hole abandonment (option 4): High-density bentonite clay (≥ 20% active solids; i.e. QUIK-GROUT® manufactured by Baroid Industrial Products), mixed according to the manufacturer's recommendations, emplaced with a tremie pipe from total depth to within 12 feet of the original ground surface, followed by 10 feet of neat cement, followed by 2 feet of topsoil/topdressing.

☐ Dry hole abandonment (option 5): Other materials / describe and justify use:

_____

_____

Wet Boreholes

X Wet hole abandonment (option 1): Cement slurry, mixed according to the manufacturer's recommendations, emplaced with a tremie pipe from total depth to within 2 feet of the original ground surface, followed by 2 feet of topsoil/topdressing.

Wet hole abandonment (option 2): High-density bentonite clay (≥ 20% active solids; i.e. QUIK-GROUT® manufactured by Baroid Industrial Products), mixed according to the manufacturer's recommendations, emplaced with a tremie pipe from total depth to within 12 feet of the original ground surface, followed by 10 feet of neat cement, followed by 2 feet of topsoil/topdressing.

☐ Wet hole abandonment (option 3): Other sealing material approved by the Office of the State Engineer. Describe and include well plugging plan approval by the State Engineer:

Applicant agrees to contain any water produced from the exploration borehole at the drill site and acknowledges that discharge of this water to a watercourse may be a violation of the Federal Clean Water Act: X Yes ☐ No

D. Is any drilling proposed to occur within the channel of any perennial, intermittent, or ephemeral streams? X No

E. Is any drilling anticipated to occur within 100 feet of any perennial, intermittent, or ephemeral streams? X No

SECTION 7 – RECLAMATION & OPERATION PLAN (§302.D.6 AND 302.I.K)

A. Salvage/Preservation of Topsoil

Before any grading/blading or similar activities occur in relation to this project, operator agrees to salvage and preserve all topsoil and topdressing for use in future reclamation of this project ☐ Yes X No

Describe how topsoil will be salvaged prior to initiation of exploration activities (check all that apply):

X N/A – no construction work will occur; therefore, no soil salvage is needed.

☐ Excavated from drill pads and stored at each drill pad

☐ Excavated from road improvements/construction and stored adjacent to road

x Excavated from mud/fluid pits and storage at each pit

☐ Other, describe_____

_____

B. Erosion Control

Describe the best management practices that will be implemented to control erosion:

☐ Silt fencing Location: _____

☐ Straw waddles Location: _____

☐ Straw bales Location: _____

☐ Ditches/swales Location: _____

☐ Berms/dikes/dams Location: _____

☐ Sediment basins Location: _____

X Other or N/A Type/Location: No erosion is expected at drill locations because of flat topography

C. Wildlife Protection / Noxious Weed Prevention

Will the perimeter of drill pits be fenced to prevent wildlife entrapment? X Yes ☐ No

Proposed pit perimeter fence material: Plastic fencing

Describe how the pit perimeter fencing will be installed and secured (i.e., T-posts, wooden stakes, etc.):

T- posts

Will at least one side of the interior of the drill pits be sloped at 3:1 as a ramp for wildlife escape? X Yes ☐ No

If No, will another type of constructed escape ramp be installed? Describe:

Applicant/Owner/Operator commits to pressure-washing or steam-clean all equipment prior to entering the permit area: X Yes ☐ No

D. Reclamation Details

Describe in general how re-contouring or re-establishment of the surface topography will be restored:

Drill sumps and sites will be flattened and recontoured as necessary.

Describe how the reclamation of portals, adits, drilling fluid/mud and/or waste pits, shafts, ponds, roads and other disturbances will be performed: Drill sumps will be backfilled when dry and recontoured to blend with the surrounding topography. Upon completion of drilling, roads will be watered down to form a crust to aid in dust suppression.

Is seeding of the reclaimed areas proposed: ☐ Yes X No

If no, provide a justification as to why no revegetation is needed:

Activities will take place on an essentially barren or sparsely vegetated, salty, playa lakebed surfaces, alluvial gravels and sand dunes.

Plant mix to be used in the re-establishment of vegetation:

☐ US Forest Service specified mix applied through broadcast at their recommended rate
☐ BLM specified mix applied through broadcast at their recommended rate
☐ Other:

Plant Species	Seeding Rate (lbs./acre)
To be determined	To be determined

Broadcast applied or drill-seeded: ☐ Broadcast ☐ Drill-seeded

Scarification Methods (check all that apply):

☐ Primary tillage to greater than 6-inches depth of all constructed drill pads and roads
☐ Secondary tillage of all constructed drill pads and roads, and/or overland travel routes
☐ Chain drag or tire drag over seeds in areas used for overland travel
☐ Light raking of soil over seeds in areas used for overland travel
X None
☐ Other/describe:

Mulch Use:

☐ Certified weed-free straw mulch will be placed over areas that have been tilled/disced or ripped at a rate of 2 tons per acre, and will be crimped in place

X No mulch is proposed

E. Reclamation Timeline

Applicant/Owner/Operator commits to reclamation of the disturbed area as soon as possible following the completion or abandonment of the exploration operation, unless the disturbed area is included within a complete permit application for a new mining permit:

X Yes ☐ No

Anticipated Start of Reclamation:

X 0-30 days after completion of drilling

☐ 31-60 days after completion of drilling

☐ Other/specify: _____

SECTION 8 – PERMIT FEES AND FINANCIAL ASSURANCE (§302.I.2 AND 5)

A. Financial assurance must be posted with Mining and Minerals Division prior to approval of this application. The acceptable forms of financial assurance are surety bonds, letters of credit, and certificates of deposit. Provide an estimate of, and an instrument for, the proposed financial assurance required by Subpart 3.

☐ Surety Bond
☐ Letter of Credit
X Cash Account / Certificate of Deposit

☐ Estimated amount of financial assurance: _____

Or

x☐ Applicant will provide the amount of financial assurance calculated by MMD.

B. Attach the permit fees as determined pursuant to Subpart 2. The application fee for a minimal impact exploration permit is $500.00.

X Money Order/Cashier's Check
☐ Check

Check Number: _____

Financial Institution: Bank of America

SECTION 9 – CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT (§302.I.3 & 4)

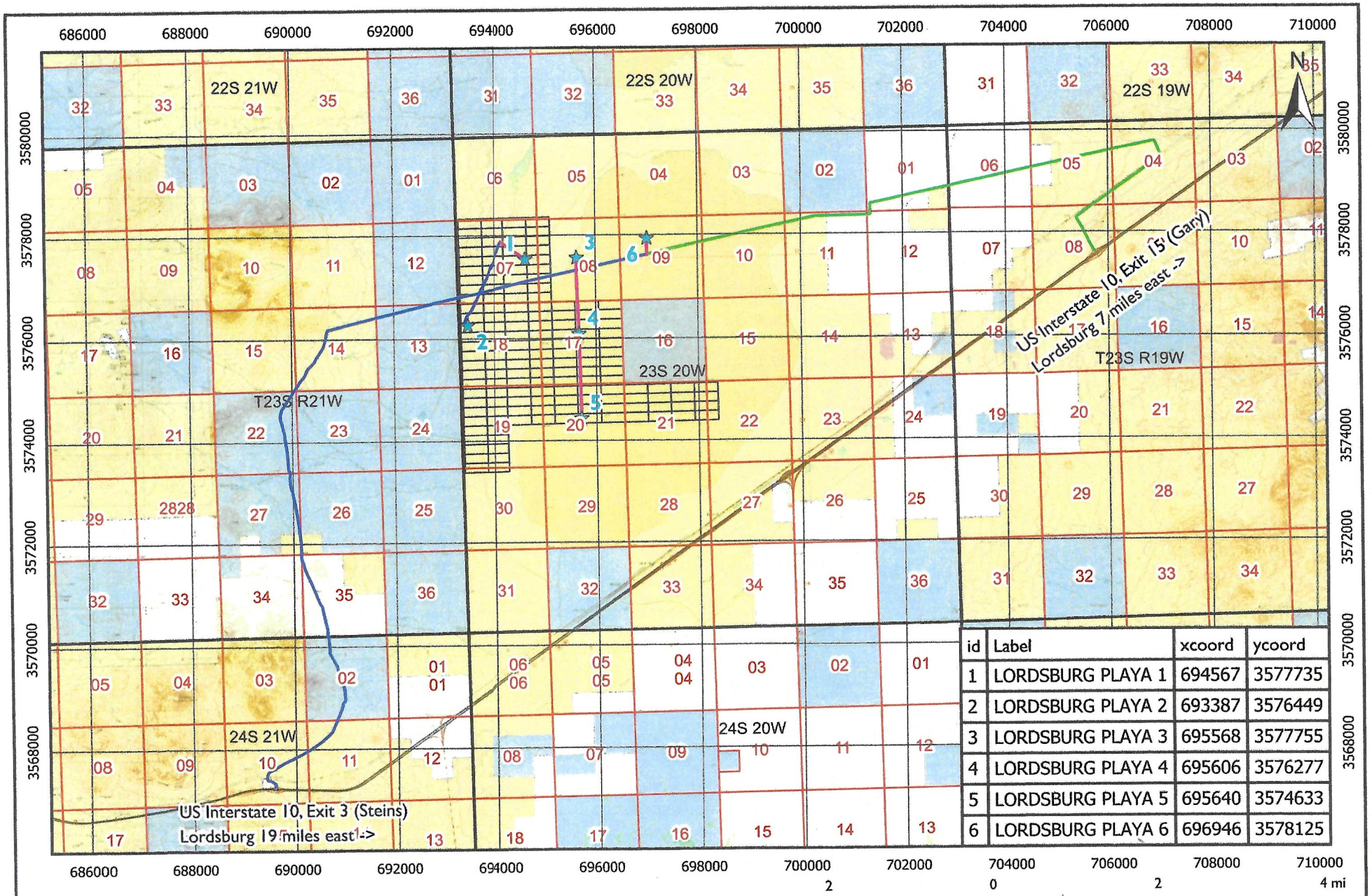
I certify that I have personally examined and am familiar with the information submitted herein and based on my inquiry of those individuals responsible for obtaining the information; I believe the submitted information is true, accurate, and complete. I agree to comply with the reclamation requirements set forth in this permit application and related correspondence, the New Mexico Mining Act and the Rules. Further, I certify that I am not in violation of any other obligation under the New Mexico Mining Act or the Rules adopted pursuant to that Act and I allow the Director to enter the permit area, without delay, for the purposes of conducting inspections during exploration and reclamation.

Signature of Permittee or Authorized Agent: Frank Bain

Name (type or print): Frank Bain

Title/Position: Registered Professional Geologist – Lordsburg Project Manager

Date: April 10, 2026



id	Label	xcoord	ycoord
1	LORDSBURG PLAYA 1	694567	3577735
2	LORDSBURG PLAYA 2	693387	3576449
3	LORDSBURG PLAYA 3	695568	3577755
4	LORDSBURG PLAYA 4	695606	3576277
5	LORDSBURG PLAYA 5	695640	3574633
6	LORDSBURG PLAYA 6	696946	3578125

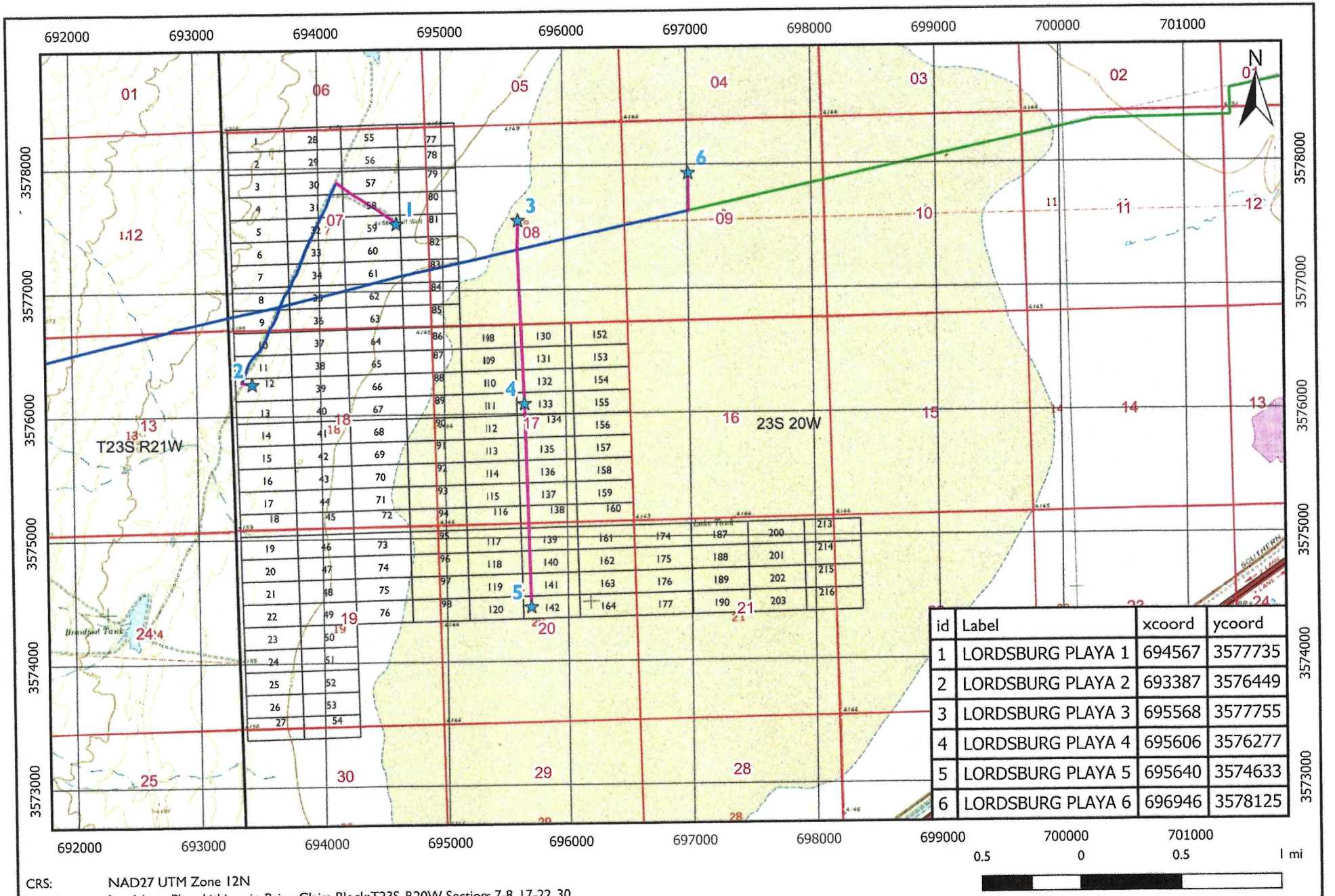
CRS: NAD27 UTM Zone 12N

Location: Lordsburg Playa Lithium-in-Brine Claim Block: T23S, R20W, Sections 7-8, 17-22, 30

Explanation

- Claim Block
- Proposed Drill Holes
- Project Access
- West Access, Existing
- New Access
- East Access, Existing
- Surface Ownership
- BLM
- Private
- State

Title: Lordsburg Playa Lithium-in-Brine Project Access Map		Date: 04-05-26	Scale
Site: Hidalgo County, NM, USA		Draftsman: CB	1:100,000



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CRS: NAD27 UTM Zone 12N

Location: Lordsburg Playa Lithium-in-Brine Claim Block: T23S, R20W, Sections 7-8, 17-22, 30

Explanation

- Claim Block
- Proposed Drill Holes
- Project Access
- West Access, Existing
- New Access
- East Access, Existing

Title: Lordsburg Playa Lithium-in-Brine Project Claim Map		Date: 04-05-26	Scale
Site: Hidalgo County, NM, USA		Draftsman: CB	1:40,000

GOVERNOR
Susana Martinez

DIRECTOR AND SECRETARY
TO THE COMMISSION
Alexandra Sandoval

DEPUTY DIRECTOR
Donald L. Jaramillo

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
DEPARTMENT OF GAME & FISH

One Wildlife Way,. Santa Fe, NM 87507

Post Office Box 25112, Santa Fe, NM 87504

Tel: (505) 476-8000 | Fax: (505) 476-8123

For information call: (888) 248-6866

www.wildlife.state.nm.us

20 November 2017

Clint Chisler, Permit Lead
Mining Act Reclamation Program
New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, NM, 87505

RE: Minimal Impact Exploration Operation Permit Application, Lordsburg Playa Lithium Exploration Project, Permit No. HI018EM; NMDGF No. 18073

Dear Mr. Chisler:

In response to your letter dated 3 October 2017 regarding the above referenced minimal impact exploration project, the Department of Game and Fish (Department) does not anticipate significant impacts to wildlife or sensitive habitats, with implementation of the applicable mitigation or avoidance measures included within the project description.

The playa lakes within the Lordsburg Playa contain limited riparian/wetland vegetation primarily along their borders, and during periods of high run-off the playa lakes contain water that provides an important stopover and wintering site for migratory shorebirds and waterfowl. While the Department does not anticipate significant impacts to wildlife or sensitive habitats for the minimal impact exploratory phase of the project, we feel that the uniqueness and value of these large playa lakes to migratory birds could subject them to adverse impacts from large resource extraction operations, and that the Lordsburg Playa should be managed as important wildlife habitat.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on your project. If you have any questions, please contact Ron Kellermueller, Mining and Energy Habitat Specialist at (505) 476-8159 or ronald.kellermueller@state.nm.us.

Sincerely,

Chuck L. Hayes, Assistant Chief
Ecological and Environmental Planning Division

cc: USFWS NMES Field Office

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION

BATAAN MEMORIAL BUILDING
407 GALISTEO STREET, SUITE 236
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87501
PHONE (505) 827-6320 FAX (505) 827-6338

Susana Martinez
Governor

November 2, 2017

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

Re: Application for Minimal Impact Exploration Permit, Lordsburg Playa Lithium project, Hidalgo County, New Mexico, HI018EM

Dear Mr. Chisler:

This letter is in response to the above referenced new minimal impact exploration permit application received at the Historic Preservation Division (HPD) on October 10, 2017 (HPD log 106574). According to the application, the proposed project is within Township 23 South, Range 20 West, in portions of Sections 8, 9, 10, 15, 17, 20, 21, and 22. .

In accordance with rule 19.10.3 NMAC, *Minimal Impact Operations*, I reviewed our records to determine if cemeteries, burial grounds or cultural resources listed on the State Register of Cultural Properties or the National Register of Historic Places exist within or near the permit area. Our records show that there are no cultural resources listed on the National Register or State Register within or near the proposed permit area and no known cemeteries or burial grounds.

Although there are no cultural resources listed on the State or National Register, our records show that the area has not been was surveyed for cultural resources. There is not enough information to assess the potential for cultural resources in the project area or the access routes.

The application states that the surface and mineral estate is owned by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and is probably subject to review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. To the best of my knowledge, the BLM has not consulted with the SHPO. The BLM may require a cultural resources survey, and will review the results of the survey report and consider project effects on any archaeological sites that may be eligible

for listing on the National Register pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The BLM may require avoidance of any eligible archaeological sites and an archaeological monitor to ensure that eligible sites are not affected.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding these comments. I can be reached by telephone at (505) 827-4225 or by email at bob.estes@state.nm.us .

Sincerely,

Bob Estes

Bob Estes PH.D.
Archaeologist

Log: 106574