



*Promoting Healthy Communities by  
Protecting Our Environment Since 1998*

February 24, 2025

Albert Chang, Director  
Mining and Minerals Division, EMNRD  
1220 South St. Francis Drive  
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Via e-mail: [mmd.marp@emnrd.nm.gov](mailto:mmd.marp@emnrd.nm.gov)

**RE: Public Comments Tyrone Peak Exploration Project, Permit No. GR093ER**

Dear Mr. Chang:

On behalf of the Gila Resources Information Project (GRIP), I would like to submit public comments on the Tyrone Peak Exploration regular permit application Permit No. GR093ER.

Thank you for responding to the public's request for a public hearing which was held on February 10 in Silver City. The Freeport presentation was helpful for the public to understand the details of the exploration proposal and the potential impacts to the community, environment, and wildlife.

**Insufficiency of Application**

Freeport could have provided better maps in its application that show the location of adjacent residents in relation to its proposed exploration activities plans. A USGS quadrangle map was not provided in the initial application or the revised application. This is an explicit requirement in the application. Why was this not required before deeming the application technically complete?

Additionally, a new access to the northern portion of the mine exploration area from Highway 90 does not appear on the maps in the initial or updated application. This new access is not discussed in the application.

**Best Management Practices to Mitigate Light, Noise, and Fugitive Dust**

Freeport often refers to its grievance line as a means to deflect attention away from preventing potential impacts. Simply telling people to call the grievance line if there is a problem is not acceptable. Prevent problems from the start – spell out for neighbors and the community what specific measures will be implemented to reduce noise, reduce nuisance lighting, and keep

**305A North Cooper St. Silver City, NM 88061  
575.538.8078 • [www.gilaresources.info](http://www.gilaresources.info) • [grip@gilaresources.info](mailto:grip@gilaresources.info)**

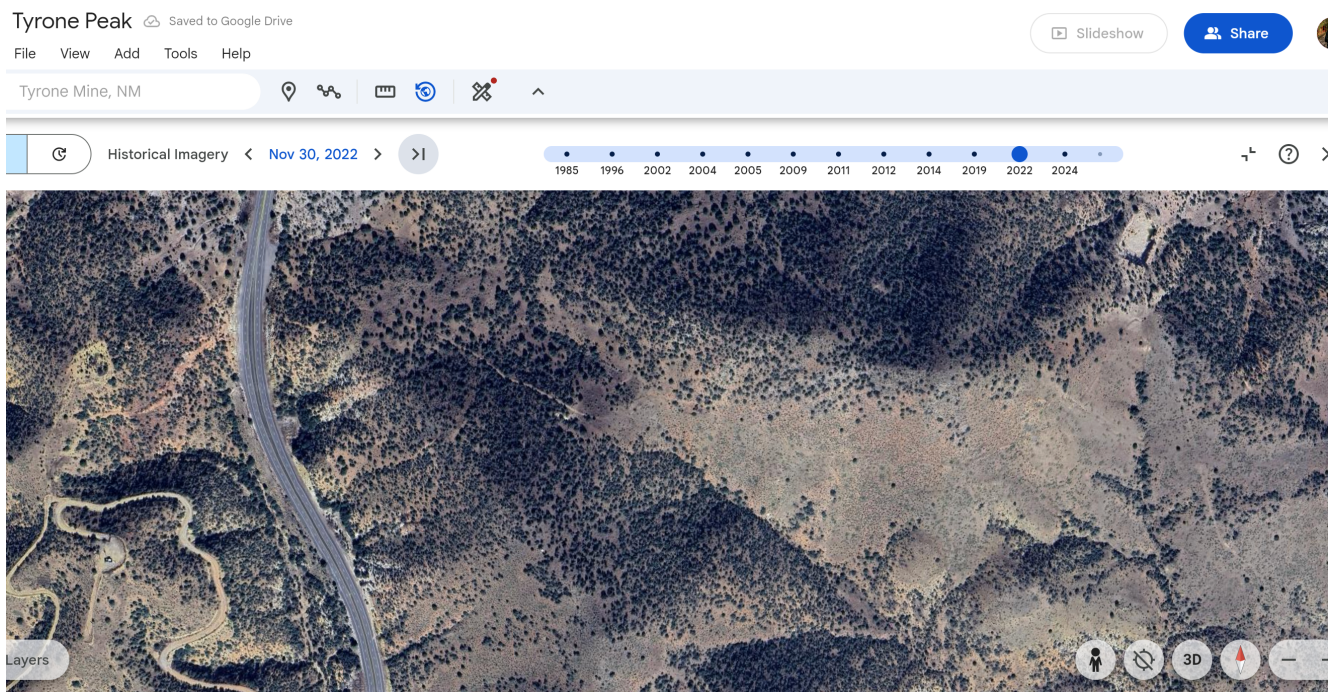
fugitive dust down. Supposedly the company follows a dust control plan and a lighting plan, but it has never made these plans public.

GRIP recommends that language be included in the exploration permit that requires Freeport to follow best management practices to eliminate light pollution, nuisance noise, and the potential for fugitive dust from roads and other exploration-related disturbance.

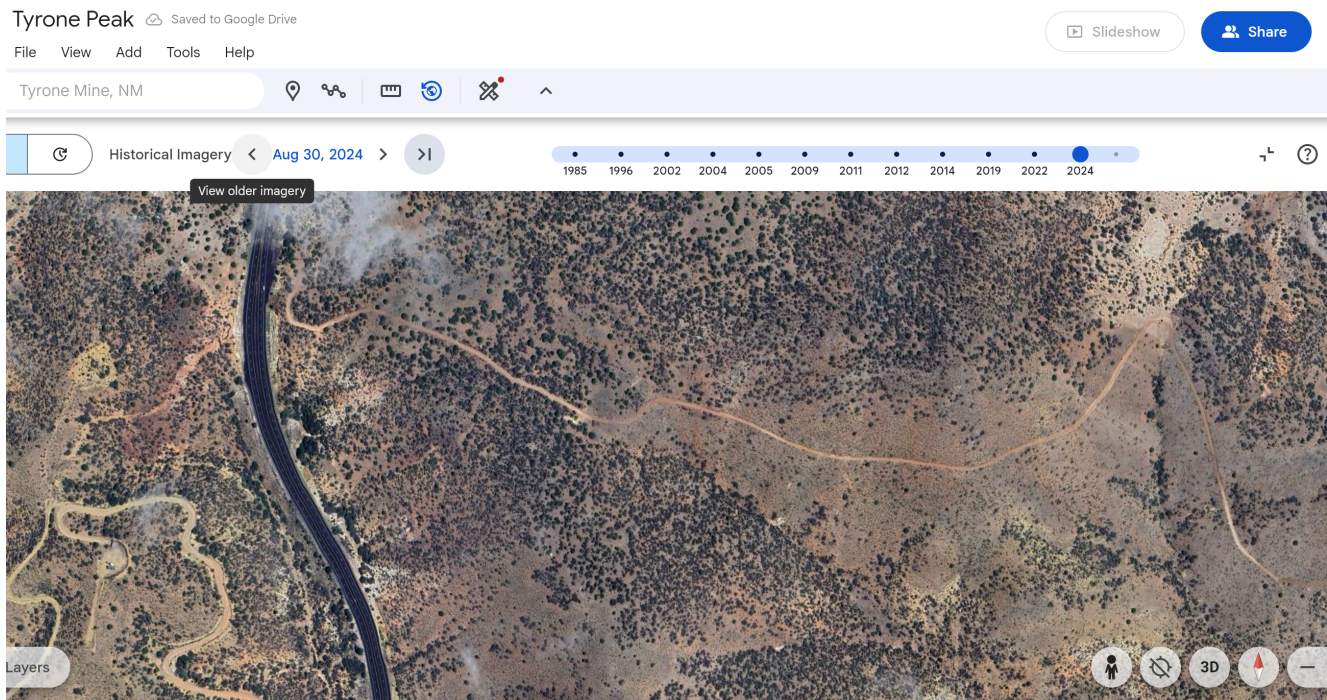
### **Land Disturbance Has Occurred Prior to Permit Application**

Google Earth imagery from Nov. 30, 2022 doesn't show any roads in the proposed permit area, only some unimproved roads or tracks in 2022. In August 2024, we see roads where there were no roads before, and the unimproved tracks are now improved roads. Freeport applied for its exploration permit in July 2024 and does not yet have an approved permit. See the Google Earth screen shots below which are only for the northern portion of the proposed exploration project. Other roads within the proposed permit boundary have also been improved prior to submitting or obtaining a permit.

#### **November 30, 2022 Google Earth imagery of the northern portion of the proposed permit area.**



## August 30, 2024 Google Earth imagery of the northern portion of the proposed permit area.



We wonder if Freeport is trying to dodge reclamation and financial assurance requirements by claiming most of the roads are existing and only a small portion are new. This is unacceptable.

We understand that Freeport was required by MMD to submit a regular exploration permit application rather than a minimal impact exploration application for the Tyrone Peak project. However, this seems quite lenient for the extent of the road building that occurred prior to submission of the permit application to MMD. Freeport should receive a Notice of Violation and a penalty for not following the Mining Act.

### New Access to Exploration Project Area from Highway 90

Although not noted on any of the maps or discussed in its application, Freeport acknowledged at the public hearing on February 10 that it will be constructing a new access to the exploration project area from Highway 90. GRIP recommends that MMD include a permit condition requiring Freeport to ensure that NMDOT permits and approvals are obtained to access the state highway to ensure public safety.

### Wildlife Protection

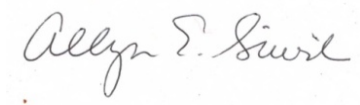
GRIP supports the NM Department of Game and Fish comments that offer permit requirements that will protect wildlife, a requirement of the Mining Act.

- The mud pits should also be adequately fenced to prevent larger animals from walking onto the tarps and potentially becoming entrapped. To exclude mule deer and other large animals, the above-ground fence height should be a minimum of eight feet.

- The Department of Game and Fish continues to recommend that Tyrone use a closed loop drilling system. Closed loop systems eliminate the need to build fences or install netting or similar materials to exclude wildlife from mud pits, reduce the amount of surface disturbance associated with the drill pad site, and consume significantly less water.
- We agree to leave large legacy trees – juniper and pinon.
- We concur with NM DGF that to minimize the likelihood of adverse impacts to migratory bird nests, eggs, or nestlings during implementation of proposed road and drill pad construction activities, the Department of Game and Fish recommends that ground disturbance and vegetation removal activities be conducted outside of the primary breeding season.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Allyson Siwik". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Allyson Siwik  
Executive Director

Cc: Alaina Osimowicz, permit lead  
David Ennis, Mining Act Reclamation Program Manager

2-6-2025

Albert Change, Director of Metal and Minerals Division,  
Submitting comments to: [emnrd.mmd2@emnrd.nm.gov](mailto:emnrd.mmd2@emnrd.nm.gov)

I am submitting my public comments on the **Tyrone Peak Exploration Project** prompted by the legal notice posted in the Silver City Daily Press, January 4, 2025, page 15. The time frame for comments is open until further notice from MMD.

I also plan on being at the Public Hearing Monday, February 10, 2025 at 5:00pm at the Grant County Veterans' Business and Conference Center for both the Emma Pit first and Tyrone Peak Project second. I am one of the public commenters that asked for a Public Hearing- thank you.

I have serious concerns after reading the application and supplemental information at [emnrd.nm.gov/mmd/gr093er-tyrone-peak-exploration-project](http://emnrd.nm.gov/mmd/gr093er-tyrone-peak-exploration-project). The Town of Silver City's nearby Gabby Hays well is Silver City's most productive municipal well at 1,100 gallons per minute. It is about three miles away from the proposed project's numerous boreholes. The Town's Anderson Well is at one mile by Google Earth Maps, just north of the Tyrone Peaks Project's footprint, at 250 gallons per minute. In between both wells are the Woodward Wells. With the 36 boreholes permitted to go down to 2,500 feet in depth these boreholes will go through our city's Gila Group Aquifer and may shorten the useful life of three-quarters of Silver City's municipal wells and well fields.

The State of New Mexico Office of the State Engineer had concerns in locating the bottom hole locations. The vertical depth has not been supplied, but could it be below all the adjacent wells' water column at 5,400 feet? The highest surrounding peak is Indian Peak at 6,200 feet minus 2,500 feet borehole depth equaling 3,700 feet depth or 1,700 feet below the adjacent wells's water column.

Despite Grant County and Silver City officials being notified by registered mail, none of our trustees responded to this significant threat to the Grant County's Regional Water System tying in the Tyrone Peaks adjacent wellfields to the wells in Santa Clara and Hurley. We cannot afford to lose municipal water to the Tyrone Peaks Project in future years. If the project goes forward it could dig down into the old ore body beneath to a depth of 2,500 feet. Some officials think some short-term mining jobs are more important than a good long-term municipal drinking water supply.

Already by permit Freeport uses 136 million gallons of water per day for "hydromet" or water based mining. Silver City delivers two million gallons of drinking water per day.

This is a 68 times unbalanced use of water, already being used by Freeport, that was not anticipated in Silver City's 2006 Water Plan. A plan that counted on the Gila River Diversion to meet future water demand requirements and the mines using less water in the future. The plan did not anticipate their significant increase in water based mining.

And where are the Tyrone Peaks' 36 boreholes spread over 36 acres of project disturbance? They are on both sides of US 90 South between the highpoint and down to the railroad overpass at the bottom of the Little Burro Mountains. I remember way back in 1977 when the east side lane of the road was closed as an abandoned adit under the highway collapsed. There are old early 20th century Phelps Dodge underground workings throughout the Tyrone Peaks Project footprint. The old PD mill concrete ruins are at the base of the Tyrone Peaks Project.

The same project manager over the Emma Pit expansion is also over the Tyrone Peaks Project: he will be a busy rancher learning the requirements of multiple state agencies overseeing both projects. Do not let this permit proceed until Silver City's 19 year old water plan is updated to reflect the threat that the Tyrone Peaks Project is to our groundwater. A permit from you does not guarantee there will be no pollution or that our groundwater will not be jeopardized.

Thank you for allowing me to make these public comments.

Glenn Griffin  
3701 Tracy Circle  
Silver City, NM 88061  
575-590-2341 cell  
gilatreethinners@gmail.com

**From:** [Susan Hanna](#)  
**To:** [MARF, MMD, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Tyrone and Emma Mine Exploration  
**Date:** Sunday, February 23, 2025 12:32:51 PM

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**CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.**

I am writing to ask that the permits for these mining explorations be denied or at the very least curtailed. As a landowner who lives and has a well not far from the proposed affected areas I am quite concerned about the danger to the wells and the water table due to the huge amount of water required to run the mining operations. I would ask that restrictions be placed regarding this and also that a fund be established to buy out any homeowners property at current market value that becomes affected by either losing their well to a depleted water supply or contamination secondary to the mine's activities.

We are counting on you to stand in the gap for us who would be the most affected.

Respectfully,

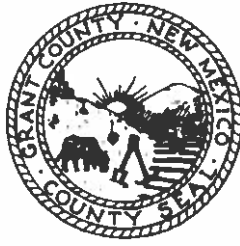
Susan Hanna

## GRANT COUNTY

**CHRIS M. PONCE**  
*Commissioner, District 1*

**ELOY MEDINA**  
*Commissioner, District 2*

**NANCY STEPHENS**  
*Commissioner, District 3*



**EDDIE FLORES**  
*Commissioner, District 4*

**THOMAS L. SHELLEY**  
*Commissioner, District 5*

**CHARLENE WEBB**  
*County Manager*

February 14, 2025

Albert C.S. Chang, Director  
Mining and Mineral Division  
NM Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Dept.  
1220 South St. Francis Drive  
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Email: [mmd.marp@emnrd.nm.gov](mailto:mmd.marp@emnrd.nm.gov)

Re: Written Comments, Emma Project Exploration Application

Dear Mr. Chang,

Please accept the enclosed Resolution R-25-15 as Grant County's written comment related to the Tyrone Peak and Emma Exploration Project.

Sincerely,

Amy Lockett

Executive Assistant to  
Grant County Manager and Board of County Commissioners

### Office of the Grant County Commissioners

1400 Highway 180 East, Silver City, NM 88061-7837 • P. O. Box 898, Silver City, NM 88062-0898  
Telephone: (575) 574-0008 Fax (575) 574-0073

**STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
COUNTY OF GRANT**

**RESOLUTION NO: R-25-15  
SUPPORTING TYRONE PEAK EXPLORATION AND EMMA EXPLORATION BY  
FREEPORT-MCMORAN**

**WHEREAS**, Section 4-37-1, NMSA 1978, grants Counties the powers necessary to provide for the safety, preserve the health, promote the prosperity and improve the morals, order, comfort and convenience of any county or its inhabitants; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 4-38-18, NMSA 1978, provides that the Board of County Commissioners has the power to represent the county and have the care of the county property and the management of the interest of the county in all cases where no other provision is made by law; and

**WHEREAS**, Freeport-McMoRan operates the Tyrone Copper Mine located approximately ten miles south of Silver City in Grant County, New Mexico; and

**WHEREAS**, Freeport-McMoRan submitted applications for exploration permits near the Tyrone mine for exploration drilling; and

**WHEREAS**, the exploration of the Emma and Tyrone Peak areas holds potential for discovering valuable mineral resources that can contribute to the economic stability of our county;

**WHEREAS**, the possible extension of mine life and jobs from these projects are crucial to the well-being of our county;

**WHEREAS**, in 2023 Freeport-McMoRan's mining operations generated \$175 million in economic benefits for Grant County and \$414.5 million for the State of New Mexico; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition to the direct economic impact on Grant County there is indirect impact from vendor purchases, employee spending, spending from pension income as well as the spending from new tax revenues; and

**WHEREAS**, Freeport-McMoRan's community investment enables community well-being, resiliency and sustainability by supporting local organizations such as numerous non-profits and education entities; and

**WHEREAS**, Freeport-McMoRan has exhibited a high level of environmental stewardship and community engagement by conducting responsible, sustainable practices and adherence to regulatory requirements to minimize any potential environmental impact; and

**WHEREAS**, Freeport-McMoRan's reclamation, land restoration efforts and habitat preservation demonstrate the commitment to the environment in Grant County; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of County Commissioners of Grant County understands the importance of responsible mineral exploration and the significant economic benefits it brings to Grant County;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Board of County Commissioners of Grant County urges the New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division to provide timely approval of Freeport-McMoRan's exploration permit applications for the Emma and Tyrone Peak projects. The approval of this permit will not only support economic development but also ensure that the exploration is conducted in an environmentally responsible manner.

**APPROVED AND ADOPTED** this 13<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2025.

[Signature page follows]

**Board of County Commissioners  
Grant County, New Mexico**

  
**Chris Ponce, District 1, Chairman**

Voted: Yes ☒ No ☐ Abstained ☐

  
**Eloy Medina, District 2, Vice-Chair**

Voted: Yes ☒ No ☐ Abstained ☐

  
**Nancy Stephens, District 3**

Voted: Yes ☒ No ☐ Abstained ☐

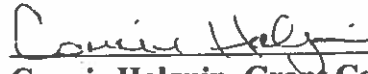
  
**Eddie M. Flores, District 4**

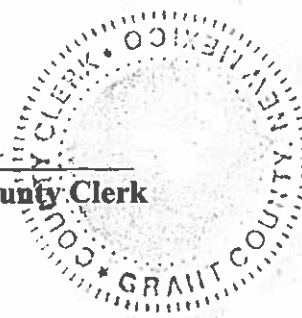
Voted: Yes ☒ No ☐ Abstained ☐

  
**Thomas L. Shelley, District 5**

Voted: Yes ☒ No ☐ Abstained ☐

**ATTEST:**

  
**Connie Holguin, Grant County Clerk**





Tyrone Operations  
P.O. Box 571  
Tyrone, NM 88065

February 24, 2025

Mr. Albert C.S. Chang, Director  
Mining and Minerals Division  
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department  
1220 South St. Francis Drive  
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Dear Mr. Chang:

**Re: Tyrone Peak Exploration Project Permit GR093ER  
Freeport-McMoRan Tyrone Comments**

Freeport-McMoRan Tyrone Operations (Tyrone) thanks the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resource Department Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) for the opportunity to comment on the above-referenced permit. Tyrone is concerned about the length of time it has taken to process this exploration permit and we are eager to work cooperatively with the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resource Department Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) to simplify and streamline the permitting process in the following areas. The following are some opportunities identified by Tyrone.

**Permit Processing Timeframes**

The ability to accurately plan the timing of the necessary resources for a drilling project is critical to mining whether it is for developing a new resource or continuing a current mine operation like Tyrone's. Tyrone supports the implementation of procedures to streamline the permitting process for this routine activity and ensure that permits are issued as quickly as possible in the future. Exploration drilling is a costly and resource-intensive activity. This permit is for drilling on 100% private land owned by and adjacent to the Tyrone Mine, a world-class mine that has been in operation for over 50 years. This request for installing roads and drilling on Tyrone's private property has taken 6 months to get to a hearing date. We expect it will take at least 2 more months to respond to comments, secure financial assurance and issue the final permit. In the interim, mine planning for the future of Tyrone and its approximately 300 employees is stalled at a time of economic uncertainty. Freeport-McMoRan New Mexico Operations is eager to work collaboratively with the New Mexico MMD to find ways to enable the issuance of permits within the timeframes provided in regulation such as allowing for agency and public comment to occur simultaneously and the scheduling of a hearing immediately following the comment period.

## **Operational Flexibility**

Current MMD interpretation is that the permittee must provide detailed maps of the exact proposed disturbance for approval by the agency. Some operational flexibility is necessary on the ground due to a myriad of situations that can arise during construction such as the need to avoid biological resources or slight re-routing of roads due to terrain or geology. Tyrone understands the agency's concerns about creating disturbances outside of the scope of what is submitted in the permit application. In order to assuage those concerns Tyrone proposed to include additional acreage of "other disturbances" that could be created outside of areas cleared for biological or cultural resources. Tyrone proposed to secure additional financial assurance for that "other disturbance" to ensure that the cost of reclamation is secured. Tyrone believes this is a reasonable process to allow for real-time operational flexibility that is protective of the environment and other social concerns while avoiding the time consuming and costly process of stopping the project for approval of minor changes to the planned disturbance.

## **Regulatory Duplication**

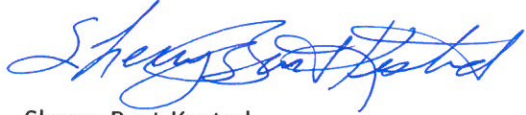
In recent years, MMD has been incorporating requirements from other agencies into mining permits. For example, requiring that OSE permits be issued prior to the MMD permit or as part of the MMD permit application. The regulations for a Part 4 Exploration Permit do not include this requirement. 19.10.4.404 NMAC states: "Enforcement of other state or federal laws, regulations or standards shall be conducted by the agency charged with that responsibility under the applicable state or federal law, regulation or standard.". Additionally, 19.10.13.1303 NMAC provides assurance that the agency will avoid "duplicative and conflicting requirements" and for this situation, "to avoid enforcement of other statutes or regulations to be conducted by the agency charged with that responsibility under the applicable state or federal statute.". The MMD practice requiring OSE permits at the time of MMD application submittal creates multiple time delays. MMD can simply require the operator to obtain all necessary permits by other agencies or eliminate redundant language and rely on the statements already in regulation and permits that remind operators to meet other regulatory requirements.

## **Roads:**

Tyrone respectfully suggests that MMD's recent interpretation that the blading of vegetation that has grown on previously established roads is a "new disturbance" that must be included in the permit process is a counterproductive policy. It is common practice to blade and/or improve old, previously established roads in remote/rural areas even when vegetation has started to grow, rather than create new roads in areas that have been truly undisturbed. To minimize disturbance to established vegetation, incentive should be given to improving previously disturbed roads over creating a new path especially if those roads provide a dual purpose and are wanted by the private land owner. This current MMD interpretation of "new roads" disincentivizes operators from attempting to minimize disturbance by planning roads and drill pads on previously established roads. Also, 19.10.4.403.J states that "Roads to remain permanent must be approved by the surface owner..." which suggests that the surface owner, in this case Tyrone, can determine which roads will remain un-reclaimed for future use as long as erosion is controlled. Private land owners should have the flexibility to create or improve permanent roads on their property and should be incentivized to use those roads for drilling projects rather than being forced into a lengthy Part 4 permit process for projects that would otherwise qualify as minimal impact.

Tyrone thanks the MMD for the opportunity to submit comments and looks forward to working collaboratively on future permits.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sherry Burt-Kested", with a stylized, cursive script.

Sherry Burt-Kested,  
Manager Environmental Services



Mr. Albert Chang, Director  
Mining & Minerals Division  
NM Energy, Minerals & Natural Resources  
1220 South St. Francis Drive  
Santa Fe, NM 87505  
mmd.marp@emnrd.nm.gov

RE: Comments for Emma Exploration Permit Tracking No. GR095ER  
Comments for Tyrone Peak Exploration Permit Tracking No. GR093ER

Dear Mr. Chang,

I attended the public hearing on February 10, 2025 for Emma Exploration project and for Tyrone Peak Exploration project and I have reviewed the applications submitted by Freeport McMoRan – Tyrone for both of these projects. I offer the following comments to MMD.

#### **Emma Project Permit Tracking No. GR095ER**

Rather than performing reclamation of the Emma Exploration project area upon completion Tyrone proposes to leave drilling pads and roads constructed during the project, ostensibly because it plans to mine the area in the near future. Permit lead Clint Chisler recommends evaluating “the reclamation status of exploration permit GR095ER at the time of renewal each year to determine whether or not reclamation needs to be initiated or not.” (MMD letter to Burt-Kested, 1/31/25)

Subsection D of Section 5 (Reclamation and Operation Plan) of the Exploration Permit Application states that “(t)he project may also be left disturbed because the area is to be mined in accordance with Revision 21-1 (Emma Expansion Project) under GRO10RE.” It is unclear what exactly will be “left disturbed” by Freeport. Is Freeport referring to drill pads; roads; storage piles; boreholes? And if reclamation is indefinitely postponed as proposed by Freeport and MMD, or mining commences within the project area, aren’t reclamation activities described in Subsection D such as revegetation and seeding irrelevant?

Because Freeport is currently involved in litigation with adjacent property owners over water rights which may effect proposed mining activities at the Emma site, I ask that Freeport initiate reclamation upon completion of the project. Project reclamation performed upon completion of the project will minimize and/or eliminate environmental impacts from fugitive dust and erosion associated with the construction of drill pads, roads, storage piles and boreholes.

If MMD chooses to evaluate the reclamation status of the project (exploration permit GR095ER) on a yearly basis, I ask that that Freeport submit a plan that details measures for dust and erosion control during periods of inactivity.

#### **Tyrone Peak Permit Tracking No. GR093ER**

##### **Mapping**

Subsection B of Section 4 (Maps and Location) of the Exploration Permit Application asks Freeport to “provide a topographic map(s) of at least 1 inch = 2,000 feet (ie, a 1:24,000 USGS Quadrangle map).” While such a map is provided by Freeport in the Emma Exploration application (Figure 3, Generalized Regional Topographic Map), there is no USGS quad map of the project site in the Tyrone Peak application. A 7.5 minute quad map (ie, 1:24,000) of the project area would make it easier for readers to locate proposed drill sites. For example, Figures 2 through 4 of the application show that the

majority of proposed drill sites are located in Sections 17 and 18, Township 19 South, Range 14 West, but there is no identifiable section number for three drill sites to the west (TP23-Q; TP23-H; TP23-N). If Freeport is unable to provide a standard USGS quad map of the project site, it can at the very least identify the section, township and range in the map legend.

In addition to showing drill sites, maps could also show other important features that may be impacted by the proposed project such as adjacent residents and Town of Silver City municipal wells, which are located nearby.

### Wildlife

Unlike the Emma Exploration project, which is scheduled to begin in October, Tyrone Peak is scheduled to begin in July. According to NM Game & Fish, construction activities will occur during the breeding season for migratory songbirds and most raptors (March 1 – September 1). Will the project area be surveyed for active nest sites as Game & Fish recommends? If not, isn't it better for Freeport to wait until October to commence with proposed construction activities?

### Ground Water

Subsection B of Section 7 (Ground Water Information) of the Exploration Permit Application lists the source for groundwater data as F.D. Trauger, *Water resources and general geology of Grant County, New Mexico*, which is a study over 50-years old. Isn't there more recent data on groundwater in the project area?

Potential impacts to groundwater from drilling activities may be relevant since the proposed project area is located approximately one mile from the Town of Silver City's Anderson well, and within two miles of the Woodward Well Field. How will Tyrone Peak affect the municipal well supply? Does Freeport-Tyrone draw from the same aquifer as Silver City? Further analysis may be required to determine potential impacts of this project as well those from the proposed Emma expansion.

### MMD

It seems that the date of the public hearing for Tyrone Peak (2/10/25) was scheduled prematurely and is a case of putting the cart before the horse since the updated Tyrone Peak application was not readily available. To obtain the updated application I had to personally contact the permit lead, Alaina Osimowicz, who then texted me the link. Online applications should be easily accessible to the public and updated *before* a public hearing so that invested public participants can stay informed.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments,

Randy Chulick  
5203 Little Walnut Road  
Silver City, NM  
gilaconglom@yahoo.com

**From:** [Christina Hess](#)  
**To:** [MARP, MMD, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Exploration projects  
**Date:** Monday, February 24, 2025 5:02:12 PM

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Dear Mr. Chang- I am writing to you again, concerning both the Emma and Tyrone Peak exploration projects. I continue to have many concerns! Yes, I understand mining will continue. However, per all it's toxic impacts on this earth along with all else that lives upon it. .... and the Earth soil, water, air, light, and noise pollution... I feel there are places it shouldn't be allowed to expand. Many areas in New Mexico have very fragile ecosystems and sadly, not enough protections behind them.

It is very obvious. There are many concerns on these what with SB 21/22 water protections, and, green amendment, all trying to become law. I feel Freeport has received far too many permits, which only end up toxic damages and, hoarding of water. Serious depletion of water in many areas! I try to be the best earth Stewart I can be as earth is our home, what gives and lets us live life. Earth has given humans, many climate warnings, which aren't slowing in pace and are becoming evermore catastrophic.

Freeport is using the lands of New Mexico and has reaped millions and billions in profit. Sadly, they continue to pollute not being held responsible for green mining/as nonpolluting as possible. Example, months back they had asked for a permit that would allow increasing amounts of pollution being expelled into the air! Again, it is time to hold them responsible for far greener mining practices. Yes, they do have the money to implement these practices. Another example Chino, mine, 30 years back and still far from a completed cleanup! This is very concerning and time to clean up.

So they want to continue expanding, yet they are held to zero protections for residence private wells in these areas! There are a whole lot of residents who have lost their water in Grant County and Freeport has not been held responsible to help them. Let's please begin having concerns for residents private Wells , along with monitoring, streams, and rivers.

Why grant a permit for Emma exploration? OSE recommended denying Freeport's water rights application for Emma expansion. It was determined domestic wells and local springs would be very much impacted through mining/dewatering practices. Where is all this water supposed to come from in New Mexico's desert escape? They need to be held to reusing their product water much more seriously. Please do take action.

We had a attended a main stream New Mexico meeting concerning putting plans into place for water consumption reduction along with what residents can do. And what was unbelievable is Freeport who uses millions of gallons of water daily was never even mentioned/put into these water usage plans! Greivous! I asked you as the director please begin to take serious responsible action to hold Freeport accountable, to mine as green/non-polluting as possible!

No reclamation plans must be changed, please. They cannot be allowed to explore and then not repair. This will lead to serious erosion and ground/surface water pollution. There are also no maps showing where residents are located, compared to where explorations will be. How close? Please correct this.

And some of these exploration projects would be carried out on private land. That's no excuse to pollute, as their projects wouldn't be confined to these areas. ... Air, water, soil, light, and noise pollution. We were made aware there are disturbances, new roads started! They don't have the permits to do so! What are they trying to? Avoid? Yes many concerns along with not following permits, laws, rules.

I am addressing both the Emma/Tyrone Peak explorations in this letter. So my words apply to all. And Tyrone Peak

is way too close to Silver City's municipal Wells! Are Freeport projects going to leave Silver city high and dry?

Much at stake here for our environment, for residents, along with everything else that shares life and doesn't have a voice! I totally applause both of these exploration projects in these areas and I ask you as well to oppose. Please begin holding them responsible for all I have commented on. It's not just about Freeport, but, the Earth foremost. She has been warning us, has she not? Thank you! Christine Hess, Silver City,NM