

PART 3

MINIMAL IMPACT EXPLORATION OPERATION

PERMIT APPLICATION

Accompanying instructions for this permit application are available from MMD, and on MMD webpage:

<http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/MMD/MARP/MARPAApplicationandReportingForms.htm>

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

Webpage: www.emnrd.state.nm.us/MMD/index.htm

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

- ☐ Yes ☒ No My project **will exceed 1000 cubic yards of excavation**, per permit.
- ☐ Yes ☒ No Surface disturbances for constructed roads, drill pads and mud pits **will exceed 5 acres** total for my project.
- ☐ Yes ☒ 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 ☒ 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 ☒ 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 ☒ No My project is located in a known cemetery or other burial ground.
- ☐ Yes ☒ 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 ☒ 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 ☒ No My project is expected to use or using cyanide, mercury amalgam, heap leaching or dump leaching in its operations.
- ☐ Yes ☒ 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 ☒ 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

- ☐ Yes ☒ 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: Steins Mineral Exploration Project

Nearest Town To Project: Steins, New Mexico

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

Name: Curiosity Exploration LLC

Address: 2021 Shattuck Avenue, Suite 210

Berkeley, CA 94704

Office Phone: _____ Cell Phone: (612) 432-3012

Fax Number: _____ Email: land@koboldmetals.com

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

Name: Zak Smith

Address: 4745 E Adams St

Tucson, AZ 85712

Office Phone: _____ Cell Phone: (803) 640-0888

Fax Number: _____ Email: zak.smith@koboldmetals.com

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.

The Project Area includes BLM-administered public lands in Sections 19 and 33, Township 24 South, Range 21 West, NMPM, as well as adjacent private lands owned by the Hooper family. The applicant has secured legal rights to access the project area and conduct exploration and reclamation activities through a combination of agreements and mineral claim holdings, as documented in the attachments. These include: A Surface Use Agreement between the surface owner (Susan and James Hooper) and the operator, which grants access for exploration, drilling, and reclamation activities, including ingress and egress across the property and use of the surface for mineral exploration operations and reclamation waiver (Attachment A). A recorded Memorandum of Agreement / Exploration and Earn-In Agreement between Curiosity Exploration LLC (KoBold) and Freeport-McMoRan entities, which provides the applicant with the right and privilege to explore and develop the subject mineral claims and associated project area (Attachment B). Documentation of valid, existing unpatented mining claims, including BLM serial numbers and proof of maintenance fee payments for the assessment year, demonstrating control of mineral rights across the project area (Attachment C).

Attachments See above

- 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):

Name	Address	Phone #
☒ U.S. BLM	Las Cruces District Office 1800 Marquess St.	575-525-4300
☐ U.S. Forest Service	Las Cruces, NM 88005	
☐ State of NM		
☒ Private/Corporate	391 Braidfoot Road	
Name: Hooper Family	Steins, NM 88045	
☐ Other		
Name:		

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

Name	Address	Phone #
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Mineral Estate Owner(s):

Name	Address	Phone #
☐ Bureau of Land Management	_____	_____

☐ US Forest Service	_____	_____

☐ State of NM	_____	_____

☒ Claim/Lease Holder	<u>333 North Central Ave.</u>	_____
Name: <u>Freeport-McMoRan Exp</u>	<u>Phoenix, AZ 85004</u>	
Claim Numbers: _____		
☐ Claim/Lease Holder	_____	_____
Name: _____	_____	
Claim Numbers: _____		
☐ Other	_____	_____
Name: _____	_____	

C. Has a Cultural Resource Survey been performed on the site? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please provide the author, title, date and report number, and include a copy of the survey with this application, if possible:

WestLand Engineering & Environmental Services, Class III Cultural Resources Inventory.
WestLand Cultural Resources Report No. 2026-136
Bureau of Land Management Report No. BLM-NM-030-26-023
May 14, 2026; Revised August 28, 2026 and uploaded to NMCRIS

Attachment D

D. Has a wildlife survey or vegetation survey been performed for the permit area?

☒ Yes ☐ No If yes, please provide the author, title, date and report number, and include a copy of the survey with this application, if possible:

1. WestLand Engineering & Environmental Services, Biological Evaluation, field evaluations in February and March of 2026.
2. Special-Status Plant Species Survey Report for the Steins Exploratory Drilling Project in Hidalgo County, New Mexico. May 18, 2026.

Attachment E and F

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

A. Project Location:

Township 24 South Range 21 West Section 19,28-29,32-33

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	I.D. Number	Northing / Latitude	Easting / Longitude
Project Phase 1: ST-PP-009: 3562582 686716 ST25P-5: 3563717 687119 ST25P-6: 3562037 687219 ST25P-8: 3564416 684927 Project Phase 2: ST25P-1: 3562760 686877 ST25P-2: 3563053 686877 ST25P-4: 3563566 686865 ST25P-7: 3562186 687462 ST25P-9: 3564289 684650 Zone 12					

Coordinate system used to collect GPS data points:

- ☐ NAD83 Geographic

☐ NAD27 Geographic

☒ NAD83 UTM Zone 13 (or 12)

☐ NAD27 UTM Zone 13 (or 12)

☐ WGS 1984

☐ Other: _____

Attachment _____ (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:

- ☒ Yes – The boundary of the proposed exploration project Permit Area
- ☒ Yes – The proposed exploration locations (i.e., borehole locations)
- ☒ Yes – Existing roads, new roads and overland travel routes
- ☒ Yes ☐ N/A – Areas of proposed road improvement

Attachments Figures 1-6

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

- ☒ Yes – Drill pad dimensions and constructed drill pad locations

Attachments Figure 6

C. Provide detailed driving directions to access the site:

From Steins, New Mexico, head southeast on Summit Road for approximately 0.1 mile, then turn right to merge onto Interstate 10 westbound toward Arizona. Travel west on Interstate 10 for approximately 3.8 miles and take Exit 390 for Cavot Road. Turn left (south) onto North Cavot Road and proceed approximately 0.2 miles, then turn left (east) onto Chato Road. Continue on Chato Road for approximately 3.6 miles to reach the project area. Access to drill sites follows existing two-track and improved access roads as shown on the Project Map (Figure 2). Right of Entry Permit RE-8255 was approved by New Mexico State Land Office on August 14, 2026, authorizing transit access across the existing road in NE4NE4 of Section 32, T24S, R21W.

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

A. Anticipated exploration: Start Date: August 15, 2026 End Date: August 15, 2027

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

C. Proposed method(s) of exploration:

☐ **Air drilling (air rotary, coring, etc.):**

_____ # of holes _____ Depth (ft.) _____ Diameter (in.)

_____ # of drill pads _____ Length (ft.) _____ Width (ft.)

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

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

Approx. Weight of Drill Rig (lbs.) _____ Number of Axles: _____

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

Is a support pipe truck anticipated? ☐ Yes ☐ No _____ Weight (lbs.)

Weight of support compressor (lbs.): _____ Trailer mounted? _____

Anticipated Drilling Contractor: _____ License No. _____

☒ **Mud/fluid drilling:**

9 # of holes 3,500 Depth (ft.) 4.5 Diameter (in.)

9 # of drill pads 100 Length (ft.) 100 Width (ft.)

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

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

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

If mud/fluid pits are proposed:

18 # of pits 12 Length (ft.) 12 Width (ft.) 4 Depth (ft.)

Anticipated excavating equipment: D9 bulldozer or equivalent

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

Low-boy

Will mud pits be lined?: ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, proposed material to line the mud pits: _____

Approx. Weight of Drill Rig (lbs.) _____ Number of Axles: _____

Anticipated Drilling Contractor: _____ License No. _____

☐ **Test pits / exploratory trenches:**

_____ # 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:

Attachment G.

TOTAL ACREAGE TO BE DISTURBED DUE TO DRILL PADS = 2.07 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 ☒ N/A

Will excess drill cuttings be buried at each drill site location or within a single disposal pit?
☒ 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):

_____ Length (ft.) _____ Width (ft.) _____ Depth (ft.)

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

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

☒ 4x4 Trucks/Vehicles	Quantity:	4
☒ Water Truck	Weight (lbs.):	1
☐ Geophysical Truck	Weight (lbs.):	
☒ Pipe Truck (rig support)	Weight (lbs.):	1
☒ Bulldozer	Type:	1
☐ Backhoe	Type:	
☐ Trackhoe	Type:	
☒ Scaper/Grader	Type:	1
☒ Trailers	Quantity/Type:	1
☒ Portable Toilet	Quantity:	1
☒ Other	List:	1x Forklift

F. Roads and Overland Travel:

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

Description of <i>NEW</i> Roads	Length (ft.)	Width (ft.)	Total Acres (length x width x 0.0000229)
Temporary access for drill rig - BLM lands	2507	13	0.747
Temporary access for drill rig - Private lands	2237	13	0.666
TOTAL ACRES DISTURBED BY NEW ROAD CONSTRUCTION :			1.413

Describe how new roads will be constructed:

New roads will be constructed to a 13-foot width, including spoil. Private landowner reclamation waiver for all private land roads is in Attachment A.

List for extension or widening of existing roads:

Description of Modification to <i>EXISTING</i> Roads	Length (ft.)	Width (ft.)	Total Acres (length x width x 0.0000229)
Widen existing roads from 11' to 13' - BLM lands	1055	13	0.314
Widen existing roads from 11' to 13' - Private lands	5381	13	1.602
TOTAL ACRES DISTURBED BY ROAD IMPROVEMENTS :			1.916

Describe how existing roads will be extended or widened:

Some existing roads will be widened with dozer blade per box above. Other existing roads will be regraded infrequently (only as needed) to achieve a consistent running surface; maintenance with no new disturbance. See Figures 4 and 5. Private landowner reclamation waiver for all private land roads is in Attachment A.

List for routes of overland travel:

Description of <i>OVERLAND TRAVEL</i> Routes	Length (ft.)	Width (ft.)	Total Acres (length x width x 0.0000229)
TOTAL ACRES DISTURBED BY OVERLAND TRAVEL :			0

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.

H. **TOTAL ACREAGE TO BE DISTURBED BY PROJECT = 5.399 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.

☒ Drilling Mud (i.e., EZ Mud)	Type/Quantity:	
☒ Diesel Fuel	Quantity:	
☒ Down-hole Lubricants	Type/Quantity:	
☐ Lost Circulation Materials	Type/Quantity:	
☒ Oils/Grease	Quantity:	
☒ Gasoline	Quantity:	
☒ Hydraulic Fluid	Quantity:	
☐ Ethylene Glycol	Quantity:	
☐ Cement	Type/Quantity:	
☒ Water	Source:	Trucked or sourced onsite: Attachment G.
☒ Bentonite	Quantity:	
☐ Fertilizer	Type/Quantity:	
☐ Other	Type/Quantity:	

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

All chemicals will be stored in original containers with secondary containment where applicable. Refueling will occur on level ground away from drainages. Spill kits will be maintained on site. Any contaminated material will be removed and disposed of at an approved facility.

C. Describe where equipment fueling/refueling will occur:

Fueling procedures and locations would be managed operationally in compliance with BLM requirements.

D. Describe how hazardous material spills/leaks will be handled:

Spill prevention and response equipment will be maintained on-site and readily available for immediate response to any releases. All waste materials will be removed to licensed disposal facilities in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local regulations.

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

☒ Bentonite clay or cat litter

☒ Adsorbent pads, rolls, mats, socks, pillows, dikes, etc.

☒ Drum or barrel for containing contaminated soil/adsorbent materials

☐ Other/list: _____

☐ 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): ☒ 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.): 43-800 TDS concentration (mg/L): unknown

Describe the source of this information:

Used the form at this address:

<https://nmwrrs.ose.nm.gov/nmwrrs/well-log-meter-info-form> to look at depth to water recorded during drilling activities within the basin. NOTE: No data available for the actual Project Area, only other wells in the same general area. Many wells have no DTG listed and encountering groundwater during exploration is not certain.

- B. Will dewatering activities be conducted: ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, please describe:

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

If **YES**:

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? ☐ Yes

Have you completed Form WD-08 (Well plugging plan of operations) and mailed it to the District Office of the State Engineer? ☐ Yes

See above

Attachment _____ (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 ($\geq 20\%$ 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

- ☐ Wet hole abandonment (option 1): 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.
- ☒ Wet hole abandonment (option 2): High-density bentonite clay ($\geq 20\%$ 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:

- D. 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: ☒ Yes ☐ No

E. Is any drilling proposed to occur within the channel of any perennial, intermittent, or ephemeral streams? ☐ Yes ☒ No

F. Is any drilling anticipated to occur within 100 feet of any perennial, intermittent, or ephemeral streams? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Only small ephemeral washes are in the area, no intermittent or perennial streams.

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 ☐ No

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

- ☐ 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
- ☐ 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: | <u>As needed</u> |
| ☒ Straw wattles | Location: | <u>As needed</u> |
| ☐ Straw bales | Location: | <u></u> |
| ☐ Ditches/swales | Location: | <u></u> |
| ☒ Berms/dikes/dams | Location: | <u>As needed</u> |
| ☐ Sediment basins | Location: | <u></u> |
| ☒ Other or N/A | Type/Location: | <u>Attachment G</u> |

C. Wildlife Protection / Noxious Weed Prevention

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

Proposed pit perimeter fence material:

Snow 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? ☒ 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: ☒ Yes ☐ No

D. Reclamation Details

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

Drill pads will be regraded to blend with surrounding topography and eliminate sharp angles or unnatural landforms. Roads will be reclaimed by pulling berms, installing water bars on slopes greater than 5 percent at 50- to 100-foot intervals, and restoring natural drainage patterns. Compacted surfaces will be scarified to a minimum depth of 6 inches on drill pads and 8 inches on roads to restore soil permeability and provide suitable seedbed conditions for revegetation. All reclaimed areas will be seeded with native plant species appropriate for Chihuahuan Desert plant communities native to Hidalgo County, New Mexico. Seed mixes will be selected in consultation with BLM Las Cruces District Office personnel to ensure species composition is consistent with the surrounding vegetation community and meets BLM reclamation standards. Seeding will be performed using hydroseeding or broadcast seeding with crimped straw mulch applied immediately following seeding operations to improve moisture retention and seed-to-soil contact. Noxious weed monitoring and control will be implemented throughout operations and the post-reclamation monitoring period using methods approved by BLM and the New Mexico Department of Agriculture.

Describe how the reclamation of portals, adits, drilling fluid/mud and/or waste pits, shafts, ponds, roads and other disturbances will be performed:

Sumps will be filled with excavated materials and compacted in 12-inch lifts.

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

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

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 Name	Seeding Rate (lbs./acre)
Attachment G.	

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
- ☐ None
- ☐ Other/describe: _____

Mulch Use:

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

- ☒ Yes ☐ No

Anticipated Start of Reclamation:

- ☒ 0-30 days after completion of drilling
- ☐ 31-60 days after completion of drilling
- ☐ Other/specify: _____

SECTION 8 – PERMIT FEES AND FINANCIAL ASSURANCE (§302.1.2 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
☐ Cash Account / Certificate of Deposit

☒ Estimated amount of financial assurance: To be determined

Or

- ☐ 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.

- ☐ Money Order/Cashier's Check
☐ Check

Check Number : _____

Financial Institution: _____

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: _____

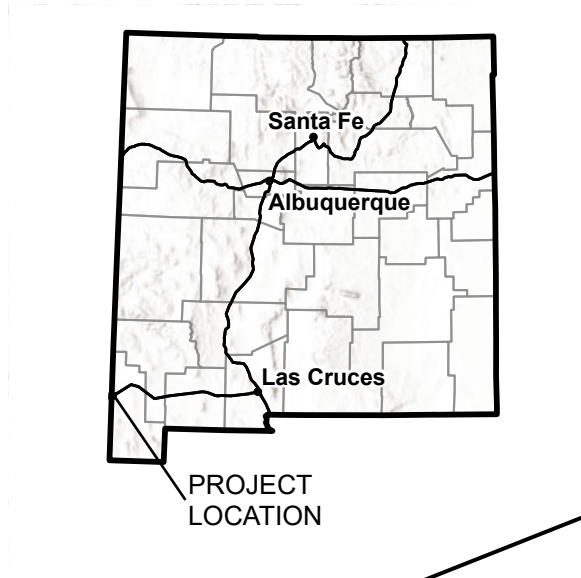
Name (type or print): _____

Title/Position: _____

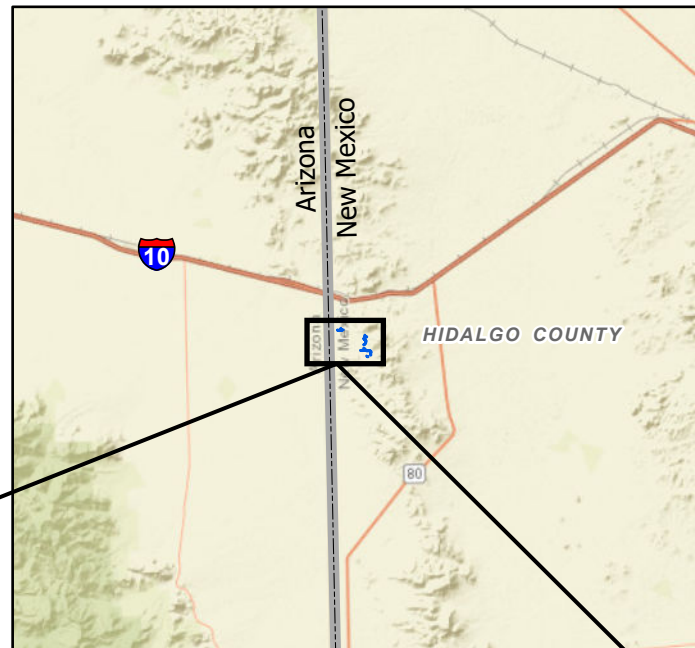
Date: Berkeley, CA 94704

FIGURES

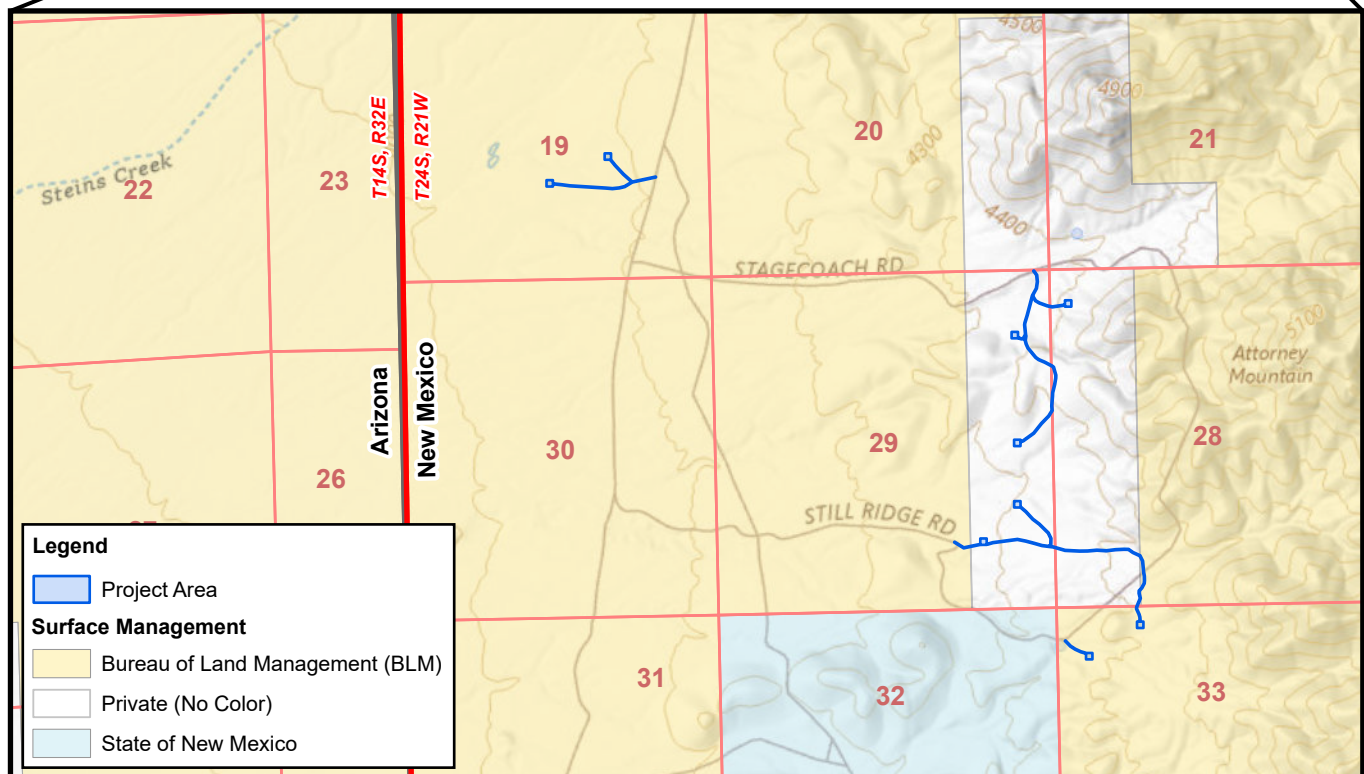
NEW MEXICO



PROJECT VICINITY



Approximate Scale 1 inch equals 10 miles



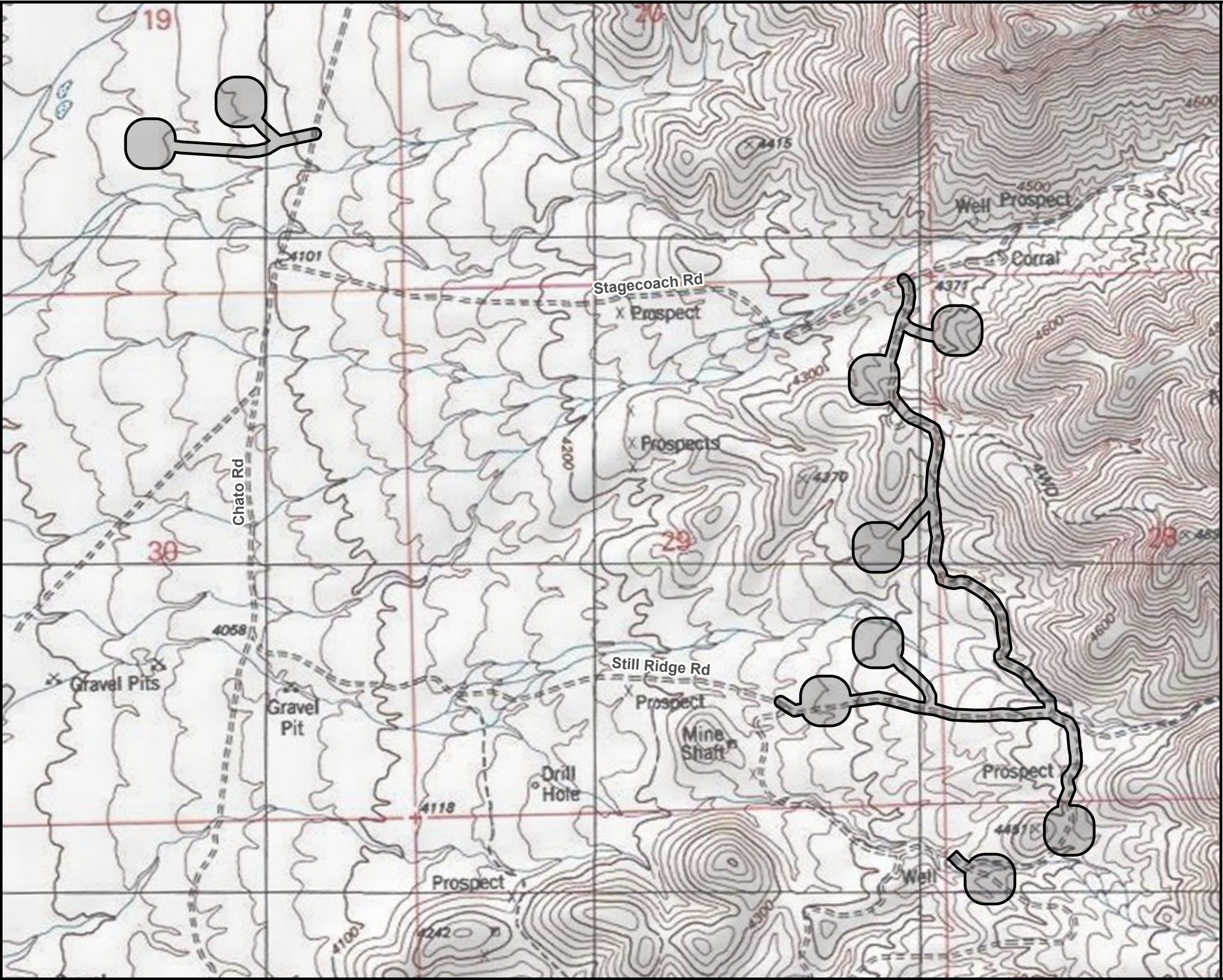
T24S, R21W, Portions of Sections 19, 28, 29, 32, and 33,
 Hidalgo County, New Mexico
 Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 12N
 Surface Management: BLM ArcGIS service accessed 08/28/2026
 Image Source: ArcGIS Online, World Street Map
 and USGS TNM Topo Base Map

CURIOSITY EXPLORATION
Steins Exploratory Drilling Project
Minimal Impact Exploration
Operation Permit Application

VICINITY MAP

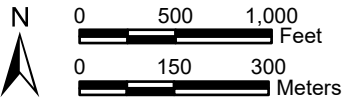
Figure 1





T24S, R21W, Portions of Sections 19,
28, 29, 32, and 33,
Hidalgo County, New Mexico
Vanar USGS 7.5' Quadrangle
Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 12N

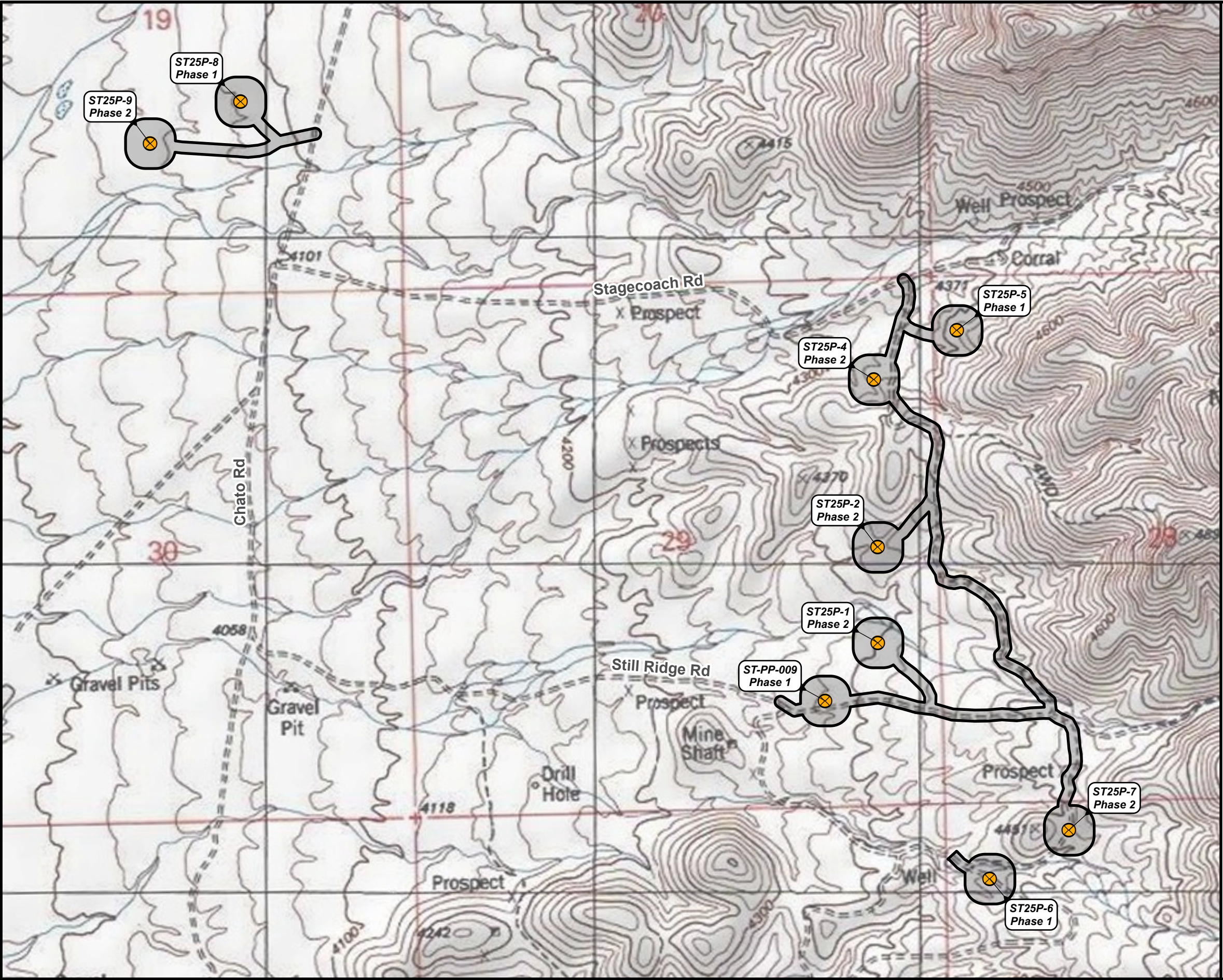
Legend
Permit Area



WestLand Engineering & Environmental Services

CURIOSITY EXPLORATION
Steins Exploratory Drilling Project
Minimal Impact Exploration Operation
Permit Application

PERMIT AREA
Figure 2



T24S, R21W, Portions of Sections 19,
28, 29, 32, and 33,
Hidalgo County, New Mexico
Vanar USGS 7.5' Quadrangle
Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 12N

Legend

-  Drill Hole
-  Permit Area

N

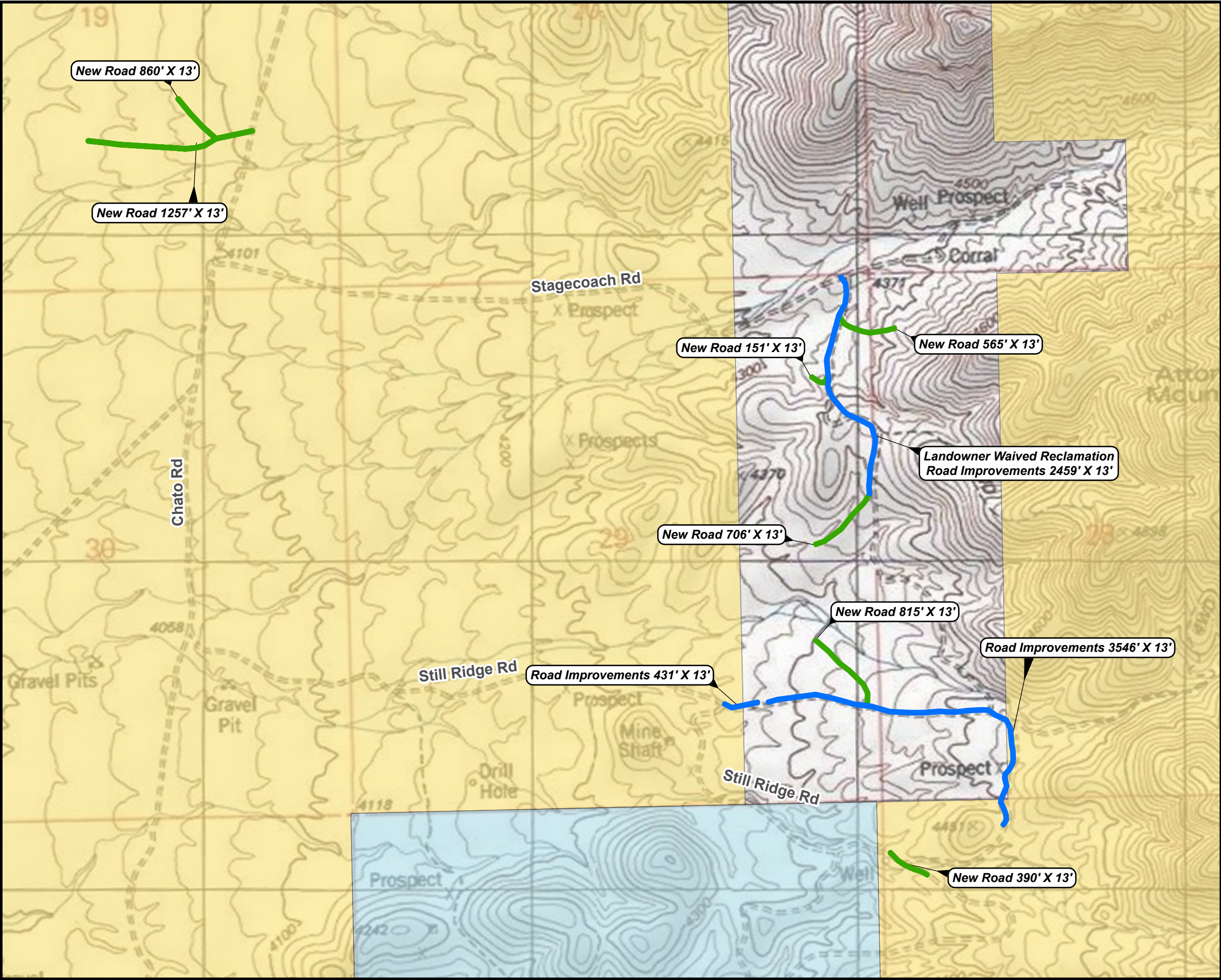
0 500 1,000 Feet

0 150 300 Meters

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BOREHOLE/EXPLORATION LOCATIONS
Figure 3



T24S, R21W, Portions of Sections 19, 28, 29, 32, and 33, Hidalgo County, New Mexico
Vanar USGS 7.5' Quadrangle
Surface Management: BLM SMA ArcGIS service accessed 10/06/2026
Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 12N

Legend

New Road

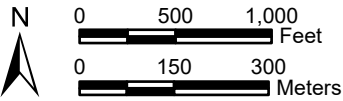
Road Improvements

Surface Management

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

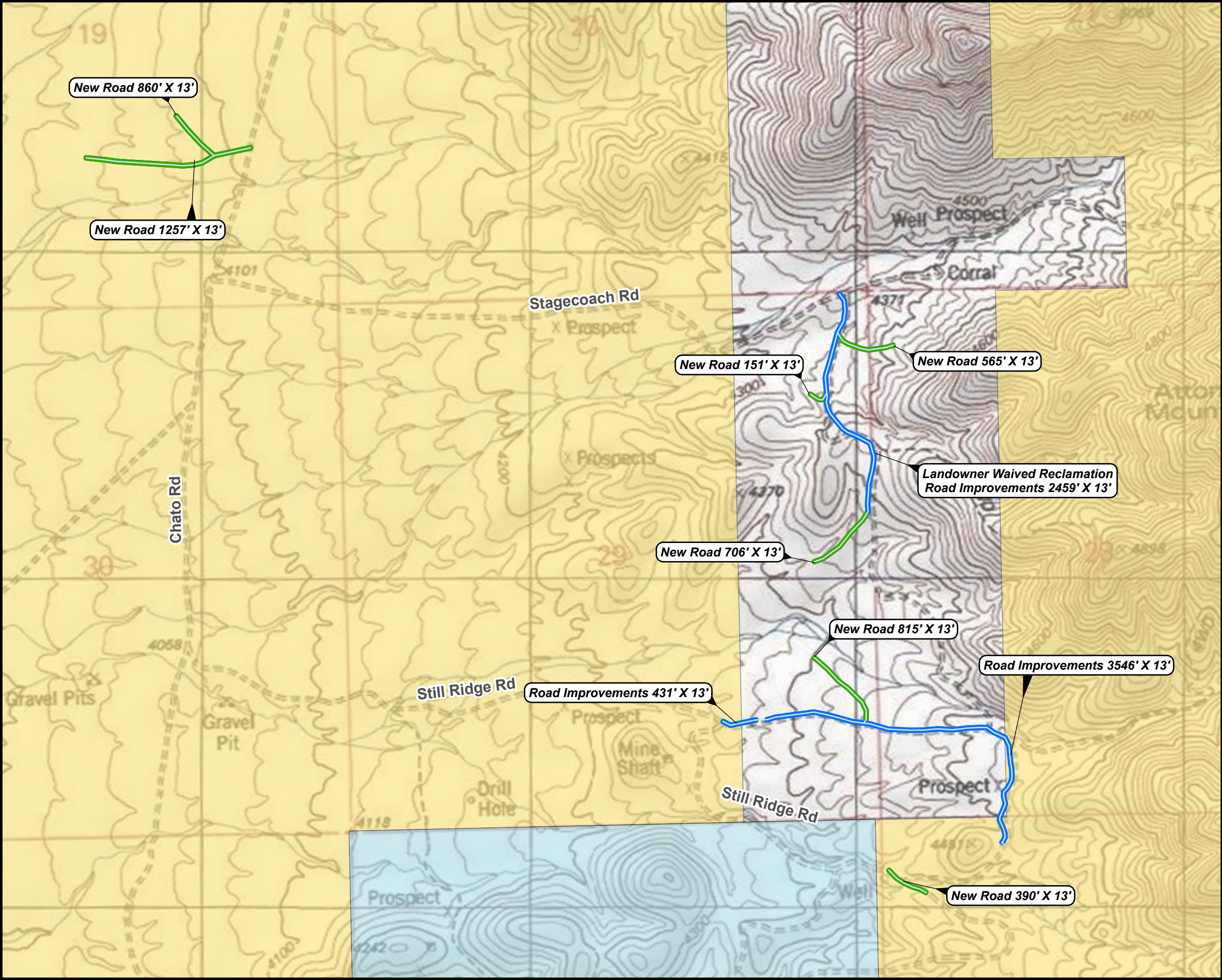
Private (No Color)

State of New Mexico



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EXISTING ROADS AND NEW ROADS
Figure 4



T24S, R21W, Portions of Sections 19,
28, 29, 32, and 33,
Hidalgo County, New Mexico
Vanar USGS 7.5' Quadrangle
Surface Management: BLM SMA ArcGIS service accessed 10/06/2026
Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 12N

Legend

New Road

Road Improvements

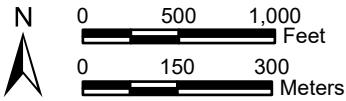
Surface Management

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Private (No Color)

State of New Mexico

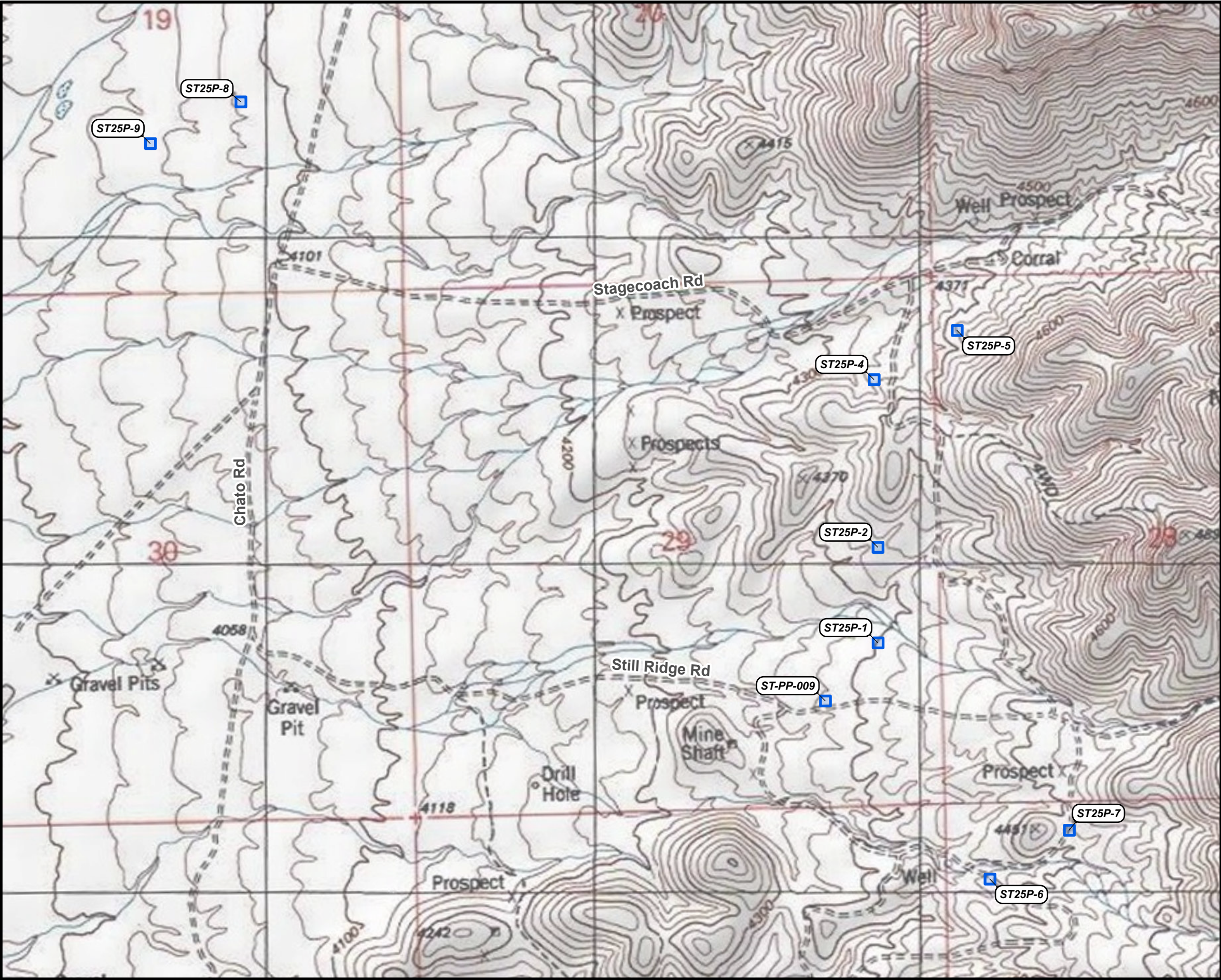
Landowner Waiver: Attachment A



Engineering & Environmental Services

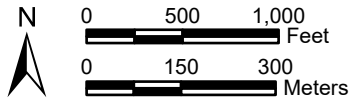
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AREAS OF ROAD IMPROVEMENT
Figure 5



T24S, R21W, Portions of Sections 19,
28, 29, 32, and 33,
Hidalgo County, New Mexico
Vanar USGS 7.5' Quadrangle
Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 12N

Legend
Drill Pad



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DRILL PAD LOCATIONS
Figure 6