

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

Susana Martinez
Governor

David Martin
Cabinet Secretary

Brett F. Woods, Ph.D.
Deputy Cabinet Secretary

Fernando Martinez, Director
Mining and Minerals Division



January 29, 2015

Derek Heafey
Chevron Mining Inc.
P.O. Box 469
Questa, NM 87556

RE: Reclamation of Goathill Exploration Road

Dear Mr. Heafey,

As part of a routine mine inspection on Monday, January 26th, and your notice to MMD of a notice of intent to reclaim, I had the opportunity to accompany you on a visit to sites of 2014 exploration drilling, the subject of pending Permit Modification No. 13-1 to TA001RE. We travelled along a steeply ascending primitive road ("Goathill Exploration Road") leading from behind the Questa Mine administration building, uphill, for about 1/3 mile to view drilling pads and road improvements that CMI had constructed to enable exploration drilling. Along the route there were multiple spur roads that had not been used for many years, as evidenced by the many shrubs and small- to medium-sized trees that had grown within these unused spurs. The highest drilling pad was located at a ridgetop, perhaps a few hundred feet above and overlooking the Slickline Gulch channel from the West. There was little, if any, observable disturbance beyond the bounds of the pre-existing roadway. Drilling pads were placed within switchbacks along the length of the roadway.

MMD is satisfied that your proposed plan to reclaim this roadway satisfactory. I understand that you plan to use an excavator to pull native materials back onto the roadway to re-establish a natural grade and prevent future access. At other exploration sites MMD has observed that this technique can provide excellent reclamation results. Please proceed. If you have any further questions, feel free to contact me at 505.476.3414.

Yours truly,

Joe Vinson

Permit Lead, Questa Mine Permit TA001RE

cc: Holland Shepherd, MARP Program Manager
Anne Maurer, NMED Permit Lead