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3	NEW MEXICO MINING AND MINERALS DIVISION
4	MINE EXPANSION AND UPDATED CLOSEOUT PLAN
5	
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7	
8	LITTLE ROCK MINE
9	
10	PERMIT NO. GR007RE, Revision 14-1
11	
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13	
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16	
17	Public Hearing on the above-entitled matter,
18	taken at the request of Freeport-McMoRan Tyrone Inc.,
19	at the Grant County Commissioners Meeting Room,
20	1400 Highway 180 East, Silver city, New Mexico 88061,
21	on September 2, 2015.
22	
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24	
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Page 2
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                 HEARING OFFICER ORTH: Let's prepare to
                                                             1 up? Is this going up?
                                                                              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Better.
2 begin, please. Can you hear me in the back row?
                                                             2
                 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.
                                                                              THE COURT: Is that better? Very sorry.
3
                                                             3
                 HEARING OFFICER ORTH: Yes? All right.
                                                             4
                                                                              MR. OHORI: Thank you.
5 Terrific. My name is Felicia Orth, and we are here
                                                             5
                                                                              HEARING OFFICER ORTH: All right. So
 6 this evening in Silver City to take public comment on
                                                             6 you'll hear the mine tonight referred to as the Little
7 certain aspects of the amended application for revision
                                                             7 Rock Mine, if I didn't mention that earlier. Let's
8 14-1 of New Mexico Mining Permit GR007RE.
                                                             8 see, we will take -- we will take a break after an hour
                 In particular, the applicants plan to
                                                             9 and a half or so just to allow folks to take a break,
10 expand the mining operation, and the updated closeout
                                                            10 but we're here tonight as long as necessary to take all
11 plan and financial assurance. You probably saw the
                                                            11 public comment that is ready to be offered.
12 sign-in sheet when you walked in on that back desk. If
                                                            12
                                                                              I will say this again at the end of the
13 you haven't signed in yet, please do so. No salesmen
                                                            13 hearing. If you have comments that you would like to
14 will call. We use the sign-in sheets as evidence of
                                                                submit in writing to be considered by the Mining and
15 public participation and for the correct spelling of
                                                            15 Minerals Division, you have until close of business on
16 your name in the transcript.
                                                            16 September 23rd to do that, September 23rd. And, again,
                 On the back desk, you would also have
17
                                                            17 I'll repeat that at the end of the hearing.
18 seen a fact sheet on this mine. It resembles a time
                                                            18
                                                                              Finally, there are a number of regulatory
19 line of certain events in connection with the permit.
                                                            19 agencies that sometimes share regulatory authority for
20 A number of other documents are on the EMNRD Mining and
                                                            20
                                                                the same operation. One of the other regulatory
21 Minerals Web page. I encourage you to look there,
                                                            21 agencies that regulates the Little Rock Mine is the
22 including the permit application prepared by Golder
                                                            22 New Mexico Environment Department. Again, they are not
23 Associates. I certainly welcome you to look at the
                                                            23 providing comment tonight but there are representatives
24 copy I have borrowed, and on a break you can also speak
                                                            24 from NMED here tonight, including Kurt Vollbredt, and
25 with the Mining and Mineral Division representatives
                                                            25 I've lost the other guys, John. All right.
                                                     Page 3
                                                                                                                  Page 5
1 who are here tonight, again on a break.
                                                                              MR. EHLERT: And I'm Keith Ehlert. I'm
                 Holland Shepherd is walking across the
                                                             2 in the permit department on the Little Rock Mine.
3 back of the room in the blue shirt and David Ohori is
                                                             3
                                                                              HEARING OFFICER ORTH: Thank you very
4 across the way there. They will not be speaking during
                                                             4 much.
5 the comments this evening, but are happy to talk with
                                                             5
                                                                              And again all these gentlemen are happy
6 you on a break.
                                                             6 to talk with you on the break. And by the way, if you
                 You also see sort of an array along this
                                                             7 say something tonight or submit something in writing to
8 wall, a number of poster boards that show the existing
                                                             8 the Mining and Minerals Division that relates perhaps
9 permit boundary, the proposed expanded permit boundary
                                                             9 more directly to the permit that's issued by the
10 and other items and some photographs.
                                                            10 New Mexico Environment Department, as I understand it
11
                 So the hearing will be conducted in
                                                            11 from the Mining and Minerals Division staff, they will
12 accordance with the applicable regulation, which is
                                                            12 forward that to NMED for their consideration. This is
13 19.10.9, Section 905. These are the non-coal mining
                                                            13 not the NMED hearing.
14 public participation rules adapted by the New Mexico
                                                            14
                                                                              Let's see, are there any strictly
15 Mining Commission. Essentially, all testimony is taken
                                                            15 procedural questions? I know there are bathrooms and
16 under oath and is subject to cross-examination.
                                                            16 vending machines out there.
17
                                                            17
                 The hearing is being recorded and
                                                                              So we're going to start with a
18 transcribed by Truenea Teasley, court reporter. And if
                                                            18 presentation by the permit applicant, Freeport-McMoRan,
19 you would like to purchase a copy of the transcript,
                                                            19 and I believe I'm to call on Ms. Lande. We'll then go
20 please see Ms. Teasley directly. The transcript also
                                                                to GRIP and Ms. Siwik and her colleagues, and then \ensuremath{\mathsf{I}}
21 eventually becomes a public record.
                                                            21 will call on folks in the order in which you signed in.
22
                 Mr. Ohori.
                                                            22 And again, please, sign in if you haven't done so.
23
                 MR. OHORI: Excuse me, Felicia, could you
                                                            23
                                                                              So let's see, where are the folks
24 turn the volume up a little bit?
                                                            24 testifying on behalf of the permit applicant? Is it
25
                 HEARING OFFICER ORTH: Oh, is this going
                                                            25 just you, Ms. Lande, or is it you and Mr. Shelley?
```

Page 6 Page 8 MS. LANDE: It would be myself, 1 documents. It just shows that the mine is located in 2 Mr. Shelley and Martin Soltero. 2 southwestern New Mexico in Grant County, and then the HEARING OFFICER ORTH: All right. So if 3 Little Rock Mine. It's located actually about 11 miles 3 4 the three of you would please raise your right hand. 4 southwest of here, Silver City, and it's about a mile 5 (Speakers were sworn en masse.) 5 from the Tyrone Mine. I have other maps in the 6 HEARING OFFICER ORTH: Ms. Lande. 6 presentation that will give you a better idea of where MS. LANDE: I don't know where a good 7 in the world we are, but this is just a general 8 place to stand is. I guess I'll stand this way. It's 8 location map. 9 kind of -- the microphone is -- I don't do this very The next slide is the, again, mine 10 often. 10 history. We've been mining in this area since the 11 So my name is Lynn Lande and I'm Chief 11 1890s. There have been miners mining materials again 12 Environmental Engineer for Freeport-McMoRan, and I work 12 in the 1940s. I think they mined floral spar out there 13 in the Environmental Sustainability Department and my 13 at this site. 14 focus is reclamations, mine reclamations. Before we 14 In the 1970s -- this is more of a modern 15 mining company, USNR or the United States Natural 15 get started, I just want to thank everybody for coming. 16 I want to thank David, David Ohori, the MMD Permit Lead 16 Resource Company, leased and operated the Little Rock 17 and, also, Holland Shepherd, the Program Manager. They 17 Mine, and they're a private mining company and they 18 have certainly guided us through this process and many 18 actually operated at the site and they produced copper 19 others. 19 at the site. They set up what we call a P plant, a 20 I would also like to introduce some of my 20 precipitation plant. They also have a leach stockpile 21 coworkers that will help address questions during this 21 and it's an overburdened stockpile. 22 process today. Martin Soltero, he's the Tyrone 22 Since they were located very close to the 23 Environmental Manager. Tom Shelley is the Reclamations 23 Tyrone Mine, Tyrone is interested in acquiring that 24 Manager for our New Mexico Operations. They are going 24 mine and seeing if it was economic. In the 1990s 25 to help me address questions from everybody here, and 25 Tyrone began permitting, doing a permitting and Page 7 Page 9 1 so what I would like to do, if everybody is on board, 1 acquiring the mine, and they acquired the mine. And I 2 is -- the presentation isn't very long. I guess that's 2 don't -- I apologize. I don't know the year they 3 the good news. 3 acquired the mine. And so what I would like to do is work 4 In 2010 they -- we actually had a hearing 5 through the presentation, and -- with the expectation 5 much like this where we were requesting to come off of 6 that maybe some of your questions are addressed in this 6 standby, which means to go back into operations. And I 7 presentation. And at the end, if you have other 7 think it was held in this room, actually. At this same 8 questions, please, you know, we're here to answer 8 time, the same year, Tyrone reclaimed one of those 9 questions now or at the break. That's why we brought 9 historic stockpiles called the Copper Leach Stockpile, 10 these. We tried to prepare these poster boards. 10 and I'm going to talk about that more a little later. 11 So the first slide -- so before we get 11 Tyrone was able to start up the mine in 12 started, I just wanted to review what I was going to 12 2011, and then in 2014 we submitted application to expand the mine. So this is just a brief overview of 13 cover today. So this is about the reclamation designed 13 14 for the Little Rock Mine, and also the expansion 14 the operation. It's a typical copper mining operation 15 boundaries. So I want to just give a brief overview of in that we break up the rock using explosives. We use 16 the mine. I want to talk about the expansion and the 16 a large shovel, and you can almost see the shovel in 17 17 closeout plan, and the closeout plan is a little that picture, and then we load the trucks. 18 tricky. Closeout plan really, in normal language, 18 The material from Little Rock is put in a 19 means reclamation plan. So I'm going to call it a 19 truck and then it's taken to the Tyrone Mine where 20 reclamation plan. Closeout plan is just an MMD permit there's an existing stockpile, and that's where we 21 word. 21 process the copper at Tyrone. We're not processing at 22 And the last thing I'm going to talk 22 the Little Rock Mine. On the other hand, we are -- we 23 about is the financial assurance estimate. I've got just started putting overburdened material into the 23

24 Little Rock Mine. Before that we were bringing it to

25 the Tyrone Mine, but now we're putting it on the west

24 some notes on here. Oh, okay. Well, this slide is

25 just a location map. It's usually included in most

Page 10 Page 12 1 side of the mine. 1 a haul road in it, though. So there is a facility 2 there. Okay. Thanks. 2 So now I'm going to talk about the permit 3 boundary, and that's part of the permit process and has 3 The next thing I want to talk about is 4 financial assurance. So how do we calculate financial 4 to do with the expansion project. So if you -- oh, I 5 don't -- here's the pointer. So I'm just going to talk 5 assurance? Financial assurance is the cost. Costs are 6 about what's called the permit boundary, and that's the 6 calculated for the highest cost mine configuration on a 7 outer limits of the mine area, and that's this magenta 7 five-year period. That's kind of a confusing sentence, 8 line, that nice line they did in the 1990s, the nice 8 but all it means is we -- the mine planners -- will 9 squared line the engineers love. 9 make designs for the mine. And we look at each year 10 We are expanding it, but it is not a 10 and we come up with a general cost, which one is the 11 pretty line, but it does define the limits of where we 11 most expensive, and then we work with the agencies and 12 need to mine and it's this magenta and green line here, 12 we agree upon which one of those plans will be the most 13 and then it comes back up here, comes around, just 13 expensive reclamations year, and so that's how that's 14 follow it around, magenta all the way around. 14 conducted. 15 So as you can see, the majority of 15 Now, you might think intuitively that it 16 expansion of this mine is in this area I'm here. This 16 would always be the last year, but it isn't. It has to 17 is where the most is, and also right here. So the 17 really do with what the reclamation costs are. And in 18 current permit boundary is 610 acres. It's going to 18 this case the most expensive reclamation year was 2017. 19 be -- we're proposing to expand it to 680, a 70-acre 19 And that simply had to do with that it was the year --20 expansion. 20 it was the area in the mine where we had the greatest 21 21 amount of reclamation, surface reclamations that had to Thanks, Martin. 22 MR. SOLTERO: Uh-huh. 22 be -- that would be conducted, and that's the only 23 MS. LANDE: Now, I want to talk about the 23 reason. So we had more vegetation costs, more 24 area of operational activity. That would be this green 24 regrading costs, more reseeding costs and stuff like 25 line in here, and then the darker green line. These 25 that. Page 11 Page 13 1 are all the lines we're asking to expand, MMD. So the So I wanted to point out the current 2 green line you see in here, which is 200 acres, is the 2 plan, approved plan and our proposed plan. I kind of 3 current approved mine. So when you look at these mine 3 wanted to put them on the same page so you could see 4 them, but I don't think you would see them. They would 4 pictures, you know we're mining within that boundary. 5 Also, as part of that boundary -- it doesn't show up 5 be so small. So I tried to put them on separate 6 well on this map, but I will show it on the other 6 slides. The reason I wanted them on the same slide is 7 map -- is the haul road. So there's a haul road. It 7 because they are pretty similar, and I just wanted to 8 leads in and out of this mine to the Tyrone Mine, and 8 show you that the proposed plan and current plan are 9 pretty similar. It's not really a surprise. 9 that's about 260 acres, and that's the current plan. 10 The proposed plan is the darker green 10 The major differences is that the mine is 11 line and it's expansion to 470 acres. Most of the 11 getting bigger to the east, larger to the east. The 12 expansion is on the east side of the mine, right in 12 financial assurance for this mine is roughly \$1.5 13 here and around here. And, of course, you can follow 13 million for the operational reclamation costs. So for 14 it around. The funky shape that you're kind of seeing 14 that proposal, for that approved mine closure plan and 15 right here is because there's a haul road that needs to this proposed one, the post-mining land use for both 16 deliver material over here. 16 are wildlife habitat. So that's what we're 17 So -- oh, oh, the last thing I wanted to 17 developing -- we're doing the reclamation for is 18 wildlife habitat. 18 point out was the crest of our pit. So I've talked 19 about just areas we're expanding, where we're going to 19 I want to make sure I don't miss -- this 20 operate in, but I wanted to point out how the actual 20 slide I spent a lot of time on. So make sure I don't 21 crest of the pit changes. So this is the current crest 21 miss something. So the entire mine is going to be used 22 of the pit, this green line, and the dark blue line is 22 for wildlife animals to be able to access various 23 the proposed new crest. So really it's in this area, 23 places in the mine. There's going to be out-slopes.

24 There's going to be flat surfaces. There's going to be

25 high walls, which are going to be like cliffs. So it's

24 and that would be -- currently it's 200 acres. It goes

25 to 330 acres. Some of this area, again, it already has

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Page 14
                                                                                                                Page 16
1 pretty diverse in the mine habitat.
                                                             1 where Little Rock is in relationship to the Tyrone
                 There -- if you look in that red line,
                                                             2 Mine. So I wanted to show you. And I don't know if
2
3 there's -- within this red line, there's these gray
                                                             3 you can see very well, but that's the Tyrone Mine.
4 areas and also out here, outside the red line, all in
                                                                             UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Little Rock.
                                                             4
5 here. Those are where we're bringing the equipment in
                                                             5
                                                                             MS. LANDE: I mean Little Rock. Thanks.
6 and we're able to regrade it and rip it and vegetate
                                                             6
                                                                             Little Rock Mine, and this is the Tyrone
7 it. The other areas we just don't have -- we won't
                                                             7 Mine. And that water will flow right towards the
8 have access with equipment.
                                                             8 Tyrone main open pit. That's all.
                 There also is an open pit lake just like
                                                             9
                                                                             This is the last slide. And why I wanted
10 the original plan right here, and there was a water
                                                            10 to show folks -- show this slide is because it shows
                                                            11 our reclaimed stockpile at the mine. This is the USNR
11 quality model done in 2014, updated, and it was an
12 updated model, and it shows good quality water. There
                                                            12 site. It's an older stockpile, but it was just
13 is -- it's a little bit of concern involved, but it
                                                            13 recently reclaimed. It was reclaimed five years ago in
14 looks like the only exceedings that might be a little
                                                                2010, and it's located on the south end of the mine
15 high is fluoride, but again it is a conservative model.
                                                            15 right here. So this is the -- right here.
                                                                             And we reclaimed it, like I said, in 2010 \,
16 But, yeah, it could exceed on fluoride.
                                                            16
17
                 Let's see what else. So we have safety
                                                            17 and we use material from one of the older, overburdened
18 berms going around the entire mine, safety berms,
                                                            18 stockpiles. That material came right from the Little
19 fencing, depending on the conditions on those slopes.
                                                            19 Rock Mine. So we used the material from the Little
20 We -- I talked about the contouring. The haul road
                                                            20 Rock Mine that was devoid of any mineralization, and
21 will get reclaimed so these -- this is the haul road
                                                            21 used it as reclamation material.
22 right here. And that -- so access there. This is part
                                                            22
                                                                             I wanted to also mention that the
23 of the haul road, part of the haul road, revegetation,
                                                            23 material that we're backfilling the Little Rock Mine,
24 open pit lake. I talked about that. There's also a
                                                            24 making a stockpile I talked about inside the Little
25 monitor well included. There's long-term monitoring
                                                            25 Rock Mine, is also tested to ensure that it will not
                                                   Page 15
                                                                                                                Page 17
1 and reporting and, of course, maintenance.
                                                             1 affect ground water quality. I want to -- last
                 The cost came to $1.9 million, so it's
                                                             2 slide -- just thank everybody for listening and being
3 about a half a million dollars higher than the previous
                                                             3 patient. And if you have any questions, we would be
4 estimate, and I just want to point out that this -- I
                                                             4 really happy to answer them right now. And I want Tom
5 just want to point out one more thing, just so it's
                                                             5 and Martin to kind of help me.
6 clear, is that is the 2017 mine plan. Okay. I talked
                                                                             MS. SMITH: My question was about that
                                                             6
7 about why we would use that mine plan because of it
                                                             7 slide, you know. And I think you said that's a 2017
8 being the most expensive.
                                                             8 portrayal, but the pit lake looks like it's up at the
9
                 MS. SMITH: Do I get to ask a question or
                                                             9 elevation that it would be in eight years when it's
10 no?
                                                            10 completely full. Isn't it about 5750 or something? I
11
                 HEARING OFFICER ORTH: Sally, you'll be
                                                                just am wondering if you could comment on that.
                                                                             MS. LANDE: I -- well, I don't know if
12 able to ask a question when she's done.
                                                            12
13
                 MS. SMITH: Okay.
                                                            13 that's the final design. Do you guys know?
14
                 MS. LANDE: Next slide. So we haven't
                                                                             MR. SHELLEY: You're right, Sally.
                                                            14
15 talked -- so we talked about groundwater quality, and
                                                            15 That's the pit lake that would form over the long term
16 what I also want to talk about is the groundwater flow.
                                                            16 if it -- if it remained in the configuration at 2017.
17 The left side is a potentiometric map, and all a
                                                            17
                                                                             MS. SMITH: Projected with that --
18 potentiometric map is -- it's a lot like a contour map
                                                                             MR. SHELLEY: Yeah. Sure.
                                                            18
19 where it -- you contour the elevation of the ground
                                                            19
                                                                             MS. SMITH: -- in other words.
20 surface. This map contours the elevation of the water
                                                            20
                                                                             MR. SHELLEY: Yeah.
21 table.
                                                            21
                                                                             MS. LANDE: And we thought that would
22
                 And if you look at that map, the higher
                                                            22 be -- I mean what we wanted to do is show people how
23 elevation is to the left, the lower to the right, which
                                                            23 big the lake would be so it was a good idea to put
                                                            24 the --
24 means that water is flowing to the east. Now, that --
25 that -- that potentiometric map doesn't really show you
                                                            25
                                                                             MS. SMITH: So then projected out, if
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Page 18
                                                                                                                Page 20
1 your mining continues to 2020, that is not the size the
                                                             1 people access to the lake?
                                                                             MS. LANDE: We will allow animal access
2 lake would be? It would be bigger than that.
                                                             2
                 MS. LANDE: Yeah. It would be bigger,
3
                                                             3 to the lake.
4 uh-huh.
                                                             4
                                                                             MR. MARTIN: So --
                 MS. SMITH: And would it be further up
                                                             5
                                                                             MS. LANDE: So I should be clear. If you
6 the ramp than that.
                                                             6
                                                               take a really close look at that map --
7
                                                                             MR. MARTIN: Right.
                 MS. LANDE: No. It would actually be
                                                             7
8 lower.
                                                             8
                                                                             MS. LANDE: -- there's a couple labels on
9
                 MS. SMITH: Lower on the ramp.
                                                             9
                                                              the side. And we actually have fencing and we have
                                                            10 berms and we have different kinds of fencing. So, you
10
                 MS. LANDE: Yeah.
                 MS. SMITH: So it would fluctuate on the
11
                                                            11 know, if you're looking at a high voluntary peak at
12 ramp because the ramp is a leach stockpile. It's going
                                                            12 that edge, you don't want animals. So we have a
13 to fluctuate its contact with the leach stockpile.
                                                            13 higher, and another area would be lower.
14
                 MS. LANDE: That's not a leach stockpile.
                                                            14
                                                                             MR. MARTIN: But say in 80 years' time,
                                                            15 is there going to be security or anything if it's an
15 That is just overburdened material.
16
                 MS. SMITH: It's what?
                                                            16 attractive nuisance to both humans or wildlife to
17
                 MS. LANDE: Overburdened. It's tested
                                                            17 prevent access?
18 and it will not affect groundwater at all, Sally. But
                                                            18
                                                                             MS. LANDE: There will be security, yes.
19 the groundwater will, you know, based on a lot of
                                                            19
                                                                             MS. SMITH: My additional question, Lynn,
20 conditions, it will -- if you have a high rain event
                                                            20 about the fencing is that you've got cattle fencing
21 or --
                                                            21 around the haul road areas, just -- there's some
22
                 MS. SMITH: That's just hypothetical
                                                            22 sections there that are cattle fencing. Those -- are
23 because you're going to pump it. So it won't really
                                                            23 those current? Do you have current cattle fencing on
24 be -- you know, if you continue mining.
                                                            24 the haul roads?
25
                 MS. LANDE: So just to be clear that that
                                                            25
                                                                             MS. LANDE: Tom can answer that.
                                                   Page 19
                                                                                                                Page 21
1 stockpile is not going to affect groundwater quality.
                                                                             MS. SMITH: And if so -- and the other
                                                             2 part of the question, Tom, is -- okay -- is the whole
2 We were going to pump during operations. And then,
3 when we stop mining, we are not going to pump. We want
                                                             3 thing is not fenced. It's bermed. And can cattle
                                                             4 access the mine site now?
4 the groundwater to reach equilibrium.
5
                 MS. SMITH: It's not going to look like
                                                             5
                                                                             MR. SHELLEY: Yeah. Okay. Well, help me
                                                             6 if I miss an answer to your question, but we currently
6 that.
                 MS. LANDE: This is the most expensive
                                                             7 have operational fencing around so cattle can't access
8 case scenario and this is how we structure our closure
                                                             8 the mine area right now. Okay. They are not in the
9 plans on, but all that information will work with the
                                                             9 same locations that we show that are in the cost
10 NMED.
                                                            10 estimate for closeout or reclamations, but -- and then
11
                 MS. SMITH: Sure.
                                                            11 the other fences Lynn was talking about are primarily
12
                 HEARING OFFICER ORTH: Are there other
                                                            12 to keep human -- for human safety reasons, to restrict
                                                            13 access.
13 questions of Ms. Lande?
14
                 MR. MARTIN: Richard Martin. If I read
                                                            14
                                                                             MS. SMITH: Chain link, Tom?
15 the plan right, you're saying that the water model says
                                                                             MR. SHELLEY: High walls and things like
                                                            15
16 that in 80 years there could be between 3,900 and 5,700
                                                            16 that. But the rest of the area is livestock fence so
17 acre foot in that lake. Correct?
                                                            17 that wildlife can come in and out of there.
18
                 MS. LANDE: (Nods head.)
                                                            18
                                                                             MS. SMITH: The reason I'm asking is
19
                 MR. MARTIN: But it would only have
                                                            19 because I know in the future you said that the fact
20 excessive fluoride content?
                                                            20 that it's going to be all wildlife habitat doesn't
                 MS. LANDE: Uh-huh.
21
                                                            21 preclude grazing or recreation for that matter. So in
22
                 MR. MARTIN: Now, the six-foot fence that
                                                            22 the future, because you only show cattle fencing in
23 you're going to put around it, is that high enough now
                                                            23 certain places, will there be access to cattle to the
24 that we have elk back in the boroughs again or is the
                                                            24 mine site after closure.
25 intention not to prevent wildlife access, but just
                                                            25
                                                                             MR. SHELLEY: We haven't -- the fencing
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Page 22 1 will be there. So I suppose that could happen, but 2 during -- during the life of this permit, that's not 3 contemplated. There's going to be cattle fencing to 4 preclude livestock access. MS. SMITH: Thank you. 6 HEARING OFFICER ORTH: Other questions of 7 Ms. Lande or Mr. Shelley? Mr. Martin. 8 MR. MARTIN: Again, in my -- it's 9 probably my bad reading, but in reading it I saw 10 references to BLM/USF as being the landowners. There 11 isn't private property within any of this area, is 12 there? It's BLM and Forest Service are the landowners? 13 MR. SOLTERO: No. No. There is. 13 14 MR. MARTIN: There is? MR. SOLTERO: There is. There's 15 16 actually -- private property is actually right along 17 the middle of our -- of the pit and it's actually then 18 also towards the south. There's private property that 19 is actually owned. 20 MR. MARTIN: Okay. 21 HEARING OFFICER ORTH: Other questions? 21 reclaiming the pit. 22 Other questions? No. Thank you very much, 22 23 Mr. Shelley, Ms. Lande, Mr. Soltero. Ms. Siwik, if you would, identify, 25 please, everyone who will testify for GRIP.

Page 24 1 we are at the public hearing on the Closure/Closeout 2 Plan permit, that there's so many significant issues 3 that are unresolved. The reclamation plan is far from 4 complete because there's no approved cover material. 5 We've seen in the letters, over the course of the last 6 year or more, the discussion going back and forth 7 between the company, Freeport, and Mining Minerals 8 Division and the Environment Department that the 9 company has not yet demonstrated, according to MMD and 10 NMED rules, that leach top meets reclamation standards 11 and requirements and will protect groundwater quality. 12 So we're very concerned about that. We've seen from comment letters that 14 there's still no comprehensive stormwater plan. We've 15 seen discussion back and forth as to whether or not a 16 waiver for the open pit is going to be required. I do 17 note that, you know, there's some inconsistency here, 18 which mean Little Rock and the process at Chino and 19 Tyrone, but at the same time we do acknowledge that, 20 you know, that the company is going to be partially There's a letter dated July 23rd from the 23 Environment Department with a list of issues still left 24 to be worked out that are related to the 25 Closure/Closeout. I understand that it's really more Page 25 1 related to DP-1236. However, they are related to the 2 Closure/Closeout Plan. And we are not going to get an 3 answer, I believe, until later this month. I think the 4 company has 60 days to respond. So that's a huge 5 concern. We're going to get into some of those details

Page 23 MS. SIWIK: Sure, Sally Smith, Steve 2 Blodgett. Do we need to stand up and take the oath? 3 HEARING OFFICER ORTH: Yes, you do. 4 (Speakers were sworn en mass.) 5 HEARING OFFICER ORTH: Please, go ahead. MS. SIWIK: I don't have a presentation. 7 So okay. Good evening, I'm Allyson Siwik. I'm 8 Executive Director of the Gila Resources Information 9 Project. We're a nonprofit environmental group that 10 promotes community health by protecting our environment 11 and natural resources here in southwestern New Mexico, 12 and we've been involved with permitting issues related 13 to Grant County mines since our organization was 14 founded in 1998. So we've been here in this room and 15 other rooms in Santa Fe and Grant County many times. 16 We're also a member of the New Mexico 17 Mining Act Network, and we work on mining act issues at 18 the state level with our partners. So I would like to 19 just give an overview of our comments this evening for 20 our organization, and then we'll talk more about some 21 of the details after. Sorry. It's kind of weird. 22 I've got my back -- I'll try and meet everybody in the 23 middle here. 24 All right. Okay. So we're very

25 concerned that, at this late date in the process, here

6 here in a few minutes. Financial assurance. We're very glad to 8 hear that a surety bond will be kept in place to cover 9 100 percent of the reclamation costs of this \$1.9 10 million reclamation plan. I think this is great news. 11 We're certainly appreciative of Freeport for keeping 12 that surety bond in place because the mining act 13 rules -- you can, you know, have a third party 14 guarantee up to 75 percent. So we're appreciative of 15 keeping that surety bond in place. 16 However, we do believe that some 17 contingency plan should be developed. That includes 18 use of Gila conglomerate in reclamation activities. So 19 as I mentioned previously, there's no -- you know, 20 leach cap is not an approved cover. We don't know if 21 leach cap will be approved by MMD and the Environment 22 Department, and until that happens we don't really 23 know, you know, if the leach cap -- the current plan

24 will be sufficient. So we encourage MMD to require an

25 additional reclamation cost estimate that covers the

Pages 26..29

Page 26 Page 28 1 reclamation at any of the mines. And, you know, we 1 cost of using an approved cover material, and we 2 suspect that will probably raise the costs and 2 need to protect our groundwater quality, wildlife and 3 hopefully the existing surety bond -- you have, I 3 environment. So we strongly encourage Mining and 4 believe, it's \$2.9 million. Freeport was suggesting, 4 Minerals Department to strictly enforce the 5 you know, releasing some of that, but you've got funds 5 requirements of the mining act. 6 in that existing surety bond. So we would like to see 6 So with that I would like to hand the 7 a calculation of new reclamation costs using Gila 7 microphone over to Steve Blodgett for some of the 8 conglomerate. 8 details, to follow up on some of these points. In terms of monitoring, we are very 9 Thank you. 10 concerned that there isn't sufficient monitoring 10 HEARING OFFICER ORTH: Would you like to 11 locations for monitoring groundwater quality for -- or 11 take questions as a panel? 12 down-gradient of faults. So the Closure/Closeout Plan MS. SIWIK: Sure. We can do that. 12 13 characterizes faults as low permeability barriers for 13 HEARING OFFICER ORTH: All right. 14 groundwater transport, but as we've seen with some of 14 MR. BLODGETT: Thank you, Allyson. My 15 the groundwater modeling -- or monitoring on the east 15 name is Steve Blodgett. I'm a consultant working with 16 side of the Tyrone Mine, we have seen that 16 J. Kuipers Associates, and I've been working on behalf 17 mine-impacted water is crossing the Sprouse-Copeland 17 of GRIP on the Grant County mines since about 2002, and 18 Fault on the east side of the mine. And we need to 18 I've actually made a couple of field trips to the 19 have monitors in place to guarantee that these faults 19 Little Rock Mine, although that was probably ten years 20 truly are low permeability barriers. So I encourage 20 ago now. So I just have a few short comments here. 21 the Environment Department and Mining and Minerals 21 And I'm going to follow up on Allyson's 22 Division to require additional monitoring so that we 22 comments on the leach cap material and the issues 23 can be sure that mine-impacted water truly is staying 23 related to using that for reclamation soil. We don't 24 on site. 24 really dispute that this material can probably provide 25 Finally I would like to talk a little bit 25 an adequate growth medium for some plants under certain Page 27 Page 29 1 about the -- Freeport's financial situation. As we've 1 circumstances, but our larger concern here is that 2 all seen in the press for months now, Freeport is \$20 2 there's been demonstrated success at the Tyrone Mine 3 billion dollars in debt companywide, and given 3 over the last ten years in reclaiming various 4 facilities using Gila conglomerate material, which is 4 continued low global copper prices, oil and gas prices, 5 we heard last week the company announced a new 5 widely available throughout the Mangus Valley. 6 operating plan that cuts, you know, operations in North And it's kind of disturbing to learn that 6 7 America, but here, in Grant County, operations are the existing leach -- I mean the existing test plots 8 going to be cut at Tyrone by 50 percent with layoffs of 8 are only testing leach cap material, I guess, at 9 210 employees. 9 different thicknesses and different slopes. So one 10 And, you know, we understand that the question that arises is what's actually being compared 10 11 company needs to control costs to create a better 11 here? It makes sense that there would be some plots 12 financial situation, and the better off Freeport is, 12 that had Gila conglomerate so that Gila conglomerate 13 the better off we are here locally. We recognize all 13 could be compared with leach cap material in terms of 14 the terrific work, and -- that Freeport has done in 14 how well it performs as a reclamation cover soil. 15 terms of reclaiming all the accelerated reclamation 15 Apparently that's not being done. 16 that Freeport has done. 16 Also, apparently the company has --17 17 against the advice of MMD -- decided not to apply Tom, terrific job. Your folks, over the 18 last ten years, that are going to -- you know, all of 18 amendments like compost or mulch or other organic 19 this work is going to benefit our groundwater quality, 19 material that might enhance revegetation. And again 20 our environment. So that your -- the company's 20 that's unfortunate because there's widespread 21 financial situation obviously really influences what 21 experience throughout the mining industry around the 22 you're able to do in terms of reclamations. So we 22 world that using amendments always and forever improves 23 recognize that. 23 reclamations. It does cause short-term problems 24 However, you know, we strongly believe 24 occasionally like increased weed growth and loss of 25 that cost cutting shouldn't come at the expense of 25 diversity, but those are O&M problems that can be

Public Hearing on 09/02/2015 Page 30 Page 32 1 managed over time. So our concern is that the Gila 1 concern is that even though the pit will be partially 2 conglomerate, which has proven itself to be a good 2 backfilled, we're seeing that the pit itself is going 3 reclamation cover soil, is not going to be used at all 3 to be filled with some leach cap material, which has 4 at Little Rock, even though right next door at Tyrone 4 been noted doesn't have any sulfides in it, but it's 5 there's very extensive evidence of successful 5 also noted in the closeout plan that this material 6 reclamation using Gila conglomerate. So we would 6 contains up to .15 percent copper, even though that 7 recommend that Gila conglomerate be included in the 7 copper would be in an oxide form and it's not readily 8 test plots, and that ultimately Gila conglomerate be 8 mobile in water. 9 used for the reclamation cover soil at the Little Rock Our concern is that if the water level in 10 Mine. 10 the pit lake fluctuates over the next 80 years as it's 11 Right now, as Allyson mentioned, the 11 approaching equilibrium, that every time the water 12 existing financial assurance is \$2,944,583. Based upon 12 level drops, there will be soluble metal salts 13 the revised, update closure plan and the mine plan, 13 precipitating out of the massive sulfides that underlie 14 Freeport is now estimating a total reclamation cost of 14 the pit. And then, if the water level rises again, 15 \$1.922 million. And we're assuming that they are going 15 those salts will be remobilized and metal will go into 16 to be requesting a reduction in the financial assurance 16 solution. 17 of about a million dollars as a consequence. 17 And so we're concerned that there is some 18 potential if the climate fluctuates over the next 80 18 Well, because there is no contingency 19 being made in these test plots for testing Gila 19 years as the pit fills. So we think, in general, it's 20 conglomerate, we think it's appropriate to maintain the 20 just bad environmental policy to create another pit 21 existing financial assurance of \$2.944 million at the 21 lake, but this is an existing mine so essentially this 22 mine until these tests are completed. Our 22 pit is being grandfathered in, as we understand the 23 understanding is it's going to take seven years to get 23 process. 24 the initial data on the USNR plots, and then there's 24 Anyway those are our basic concerns as 25 existing plots that stockpile 780. So at that time it 25 far as leach cap, stormwater plan and the pit lake. Page 31 Page 33 1 may be appropriate to request a reduction in financial 1 Thank you. 2 assurance, but in the absence of a contingency and in HEARING OFFICER ORTH: Thank you, 3 the event that the state would have to take over 3 Mr. Blodgett. 4 reclamation responsibility if there were bankruptcy, we 4 Ms. Smith. 5 think it's appropriate to maintain the existing 5 MS. SMITH: I'll be brief. My name is 6 financial assurance at 2.944 million. 6 Sally Smith. I'm going to speak for the 79-plus bird Just a couple other comments here. We 7 species that would be attracted to an open pit, and in 8 note that the state environment department has noted 8 the original EIS I believe it was over 100 birds that 9 that there's no comprehensive stormwater plan yet 9 it was a fly-away zone for, the Tyrone Mine and Little 10 submitted and approved for the Little Rock Mine. So we 10 Rock; the 18 mammals or more that have been documented 11 feel that's a major deficiency, and we're expecting 11 there and five reptiles or more that also have been 12 that that will probably be addressed by the end of this 12 documented in the area, and my -- I think the concern 13 month sometime. I think the company has until 13 would be, for the most part, that the pit might become 14 September 23rd or something to submit a stormwater 14 an attractive nuisance that we've already had an 15 plan. So that's a deficiency that can be easily 15 experience of the pit lakes and/or the tailing piles, 16 rectified. 16 the tailing ponds that have become a danger to wild 17 And then the final concern we have 17 life, which resulted in an extended legal battle and 18 relates to the creation of yet another pit lake. I saw 18 fees that were quite significant to the company for 19 Dr. Ingar Walder's initial presentation on the 19 bird kills in the past. And wildlife damage is a 20 groundwater modeling back in -- I believe it's 2002. 20 known -- it's a known factor in pit lake creation in

23

21 many places around the country and I guess around the

25 unpredictability might create a situation that Steve is

But in the 80 years it will take for the

22 world. I don't really know that detail.

24 pit to fill, it is easy to imagine climate

21 And we note that Daniel B. Stephens & Associates has

22 updated the modeling and included some new features

25

23 liked adding the Ausen (phonetic) Amazon and Southern

24 Star Faults as potential barriers to flow to the north.

And those are all good efforts, but our

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Page 34
                                                                                                                Page 36
 1 talking about where the pit could possibly change in
                                                             1 including me.
2 pH, and metals -- and the metal content.
                                                             2
                                                                             And I would just encourage -- basically
                 And, also, something that I always speak
                                                             3 Allyson and Sally have spoken to the issues that I had
4 about at hearings when it comes to habitat creation --
                                                             4 with the pit lake and also the concerns about
5 there is no map here. There is a map in the -- in the
                                                             5 groundwater flow, and also the concerns about the
6 CDP that shows some habitat features. In my opinion
                                                             6 cover. I was concerned about all of those, but I
7 they are always insufficient. They are usually piles
                                                             7 appreciate the time and I appreciate the work that's
8 of rock pushed up in vast areas of reclamation. No
                                                             8 gone into this hearing. Thank you.
9 complaints about the reclamation. It's been well done
                                                             9
                                                                             HEARING OFFICER ORTH: Thank you,
10 and beautiful in lots of place, but the habitat is
                                                            10 Ms. Morrison.
11 limited.
                                                            11
                                                                             Questions? No.
12
                                                            12
                 It's always confusing in a mine site like
                                                                             All right. I didn't see anyone else on
13 this about whether we want to attract wildlife to this
                                                            13 these sign-in sheets who indicated a wish to offer
14 area. Also, you see that cattle are potentially going
                                                            14 comment, but if you've changed your mind I'm happy to
15 to be involved in the mine site. Is that a danger? Is
                                                            15 hear from you. Is there anyone else who would like to
16 that a danger to cattle? They are often attracted to
                                                            16 offer comment this evening?
17 mine sites for whatever reason. So just that. This
                                                            17
                                                                              Again, you also have an opportunity until
18 wildlife needs to be strongly considered in moving
                                                            18 September 23rd -- I believe that's a Wednesday -- close
19 forward with this project. Thank you.
                                                                of business to send your comments in writing to the
20
                 HEARING OFFICER ORTH: Thank you,
                                                            20 Mining and Mineral Division in Santa Fe.
21 Ms. Smith.
                                                            21
                                                                             Anyone else at all? Is there any reason
22
                 Is there anyone who has questions of
                                                            22 not to adjourn then this evening? Or I suppose we
23 Ms. Siwik, Mr. Blodgett or Ms. Smith?
                                                            23 could take a break for a little bit if anyone thinks
                 No. I see no hands.
                                                            24 someone might show up late?
25
                 All right. In that case I will move to
                                                            25
                                                                             MR. OHORI: Yes.
                                                   Page 35
                                                                                                                Page 37
1 folks indicating a desire to offer comment who have not
                                                                             HEARING OFFICER ORTH: I'm seeing yes
2 already gone.
                                                             2 from Mr. Ohori. All right. So for the moment I'll
3
                                                             3 just take a break. We'll be in the room for a little
                 Carol Morrison, Ms. Morrison.
                                                             4 while in case someone is a late arrival and wants to
4
                 (Ms. Morrison was sworn.)
5
                 MS. MORRISON: And I will be brief. I've
                                                             5 give comment. If we don't have someone say 15 or 20
6 been coming to the MMD meetings for 10 or 12 years. I
                                                             6 minutes from now, I'll probably adjourn at that time.
7 remember being out on 180 when it was so cold we had to
                                                             7 Thank you all very much for coming out tonight.
8 go next door to Wendy's and get coffee cups to try to
                                                             8
                                                                             (A recess was taken.)
9 warm our hands, and I also remember another meeting
                                                             9
                                                                             HEARING OFFICER ORTH: Hello. No one
10 that was up at the Global Resource Center, I think
                                                            10 need take their seat. Let me just say that I didn't
11 about eight years ago, where I -- really kind of
                                                            11 see anyone else come in, but let me ask if anyone has
12 brought home to me as a citizen why I needed to be
                                                            12 changed their mind and would like to offer anything
13 coming to these meetings because I did learn that some
                                                            13 more by way of comment this evening? Otherwise I will
14 of the citations and the fines that were here that were
                                                            14 adjourn. No.
15 actually in abeyance and were on the books for maybe
                                                            15
                                                                              Thank you all very much again, and we're
16 four years. And I thought, "If I got a speeding ticket
                                                            16 adjourned.
                                                            17
17 in New Mexico, how quickly would I have to pay that?"
                                                                              (Meeting concluded at 6:48 p.m.)
                                                            18
18
                 So I'm really interested in maybe putting
19 off problems so that we don't have citations and that
                                                            19
20 we don't have continued problems. I think we need --
                                                            20
                                                            21
21 we want to have a good working relationship in the
22 community and with the mines, but I also believe that
                                                            22
23 corporations are there to maximize profits, and I
                                                            23
24 believe that MMD should be there to protect the
                                                            24
25 environment, our soil, our water, our wildlife,
                                                            25
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1	CERTIFICATE	
2	I, Truenea Teasley, Certified Shorthand	
	Reporter in and for the State of Texas, and Certified	
	Court Reporter in and for the State of New Mexico, do	
	hereby certify that the above and foregoing contains a	
	true and correct record, produced to the best of my	
8	ability via machine shorthand and computer-aided	
9	transcription, of the proceedings had in this matter.	
10	transcription, or the proceedings had in this matter.	
11	Certified to on September 14, 2015.	
12		
13	Junea Teapley	
14	, and	
	Truenea Teasley	
15	Certificate No. 8719	
	Expires 12-31-2015	
16	Firm No. 660	
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