



SUSANA MARTINEZ  
Governor

JOHN A. SANCHEZ  
Lieutenant Governor

NEW MEXICO  
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

*Ground Water Quality Bureau*  
1190 South St. Francis Drive (87505)  
P.O. Box 5469, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-5469  
Phone (505) 827-2900 Fax (505) 827-2965  
[www.env.nm.gov](http://www.env.nm.gov)

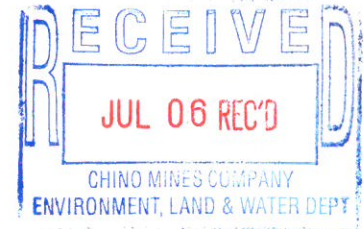


BUTCH TONGATE  
Cabinet Secretary

J.C. BORREGO  
Deputy Secretary

June 30, 2017

Ms. Sherry Burt-Kested, Manager  
Environment Services  
Freeport-McMoRan Chino Mines Company  
P.O. Box 10  
Bayard, New Mexico 88023



**RE: Proposed Interim Remedial Actions and Deferral of Human Health Risk Assessment, Chino Administrative Order on Consent, Hanover Whitewater Creek Investigation Unit**

Dear Ms. Burt-Kested:

The Ground Water Quality Bureau of the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) met with Ms. Alicia Voss and Ms. Pam Pinson from Freeport McMoRan-Chino Mines Company (FMI-Chino) on June 20, 2017 in Santa Fe, NM regarding the Chino Administrative Order on Consent, Hanover and Whitewater Creek Investigation Unit (HWCIU). FMI-Chino requested the meeting to discuss the HWCIU Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA) and the possibility of performing interim remedial actions (IRA) to remove contaminant source materials from within the HWCIU.

NMED agrees with the FMI-Chino proposal to develop a work plan, subject to agency review and approval, to perform the IRA as discussed. The work plan should reflect and address cleanup based on the Remedial Investigation, the April 2008 HHRA, and the October 2015 Ecological Risk Assessment reports. The work plan should address the potential cleanup of impacted sediments identified in bars, active channels and overbank/terraces where source materials are identified for cleanup.

Consideration for finishing the update to the HHRA through the Neptune scope of work will be deferred to a future date, after the completion of the IRA and in respect to completion of a feasibility study. NMED understands that a component of the IRA will include data collection for a residual risk assessment for the HWCIU.

Please submit a workplan for review as discussed during the meeting. If you have any questions, please contact me at (575) 956-1550.

Sincerely,



David Mercer, Chino AOC Project Manager  
Mining Environmental Compliance Section  
Ground Water Quality Bureau  
New Mexico Environment Department  
Silver City Field Office

DWM: dwm

cc: Petra Sanchez, USEPA (via email)  
Michelle Hunter, NMED (via email)  
Kurt Vollbrecht, NMED (via email)  
Joe Fox, NMED (via email)  
Alicia Voss, Freeport-McMoRan Inc. (via email)  
Pam Pinson, Freeport-McMoRan Chino Mines Company (via email)  
Joe Allen, Formation Inc. (via email)  
Mark Lewis, Formation, Inc. (via email)