

Freeport-McMoRan Chino Mines Company  
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January 19, 2018

**Certified Mail #7017100000085315927**  
**Return Receipt Requested**

Mr. Bruce Yurdin, Director  
New Mexico Environment Department  
Water Protection Division  
P.O. Box 5469  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

Dear Mr. Yurdin:

**Re: Year 5 Report on pH Monitoring to Evaluate the Effect of the White Rain on the Smelter Tailing Soils Investigative Unit – Chino AOC**

Freeport-McMoRan Chino Mines Company (Chino) received the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) comment letter dated November 16, 2017 on the *Year 5 Report on pH Monitoring to Evaluate the Effect of the White Rain on the Smelter Tailing Soils Investigative Unit (STSIU) under the Chino Administrative Order on Consent (AOC)*. Chino requested an additional 30 day extension to review NMED comments in order to respond in a letter dated December 20, 2017. NMED approved the extension request in a letter dated January 9, 2018.

Chino agrees with NMED's general comments that there is considerable uncertainty of the long term effects of the white rain event and that this uncertainty concerning persistence will be addressed by additional monitoring under the STSIU Feasibility Study (FS). Rather than revising the draft report again, Chino will include the draft report and NMED's comments as appendices to the FS and acknowledge that there are differences of opinion on data interpretation.

Please contact Ms. Alicia Voss at (602) 366-8049 with any questions or comments concerning this report.

Sincerely,



Sherry Burt-Kested  
Manager, Environmental Services

SBK:pp  
20180119-001

c: David Mercer, NMED (email)  
Joseph Fox, NMED (email)  
Petra Sanchez, US EPA (email)  
Alicia Voss, FCX (email)