

20180326-004



NEW MEXICO  
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT



SUSANA MARTINEZ  
Governor

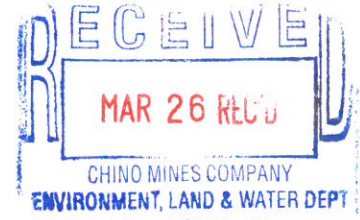
*Harold Runnels Building*  
1190 South St. Francis Drive (87505)  
P.O. Box 5469, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-5469  
Phone (505) 827-2900 Fax (505) 827-2965  
www.env.nm.gov

BUTCH TONGATE  
Cabinet Secretary

JOHN A. SANCHEZ  
Lieutenant Governor

J.C. BORREGO  
Deputy Secretary

March 21, 2018



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

RE: Approval of Groundhog Mine and Historic Stockpiles Annual Monitoring Report  
Hanover and Whitewater Creeks Investigation Unit (HWCIU)  
Chino Administrative Order on Consent (AOC)

Dear Ms. Burt-Kested:

The Ground Water Quality Bureau of the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) received the Groundhog Mine and Historic Stockpiles Annual Monitoring Report (Report) dated October 31, 2017 from Freeport-McMoRan Chino Mines Company (Chino). NMED has completed a review of the Report and accepts this document as written with the exception of the section noted below. NMED continues to review the Draft Site Wide Abatement Stage 1 Final Investigation Report, including sections related to the Groundhog Mine site and the concentration trend discussed in previous correspondence.

The section related to the request to remove the area noted in the report from the AOC and place it within the operational area of the appropriate Discharge Permit must follow a separate regulatory process. Chino should submit a separate detailed request to move the area out of the AOC and submit a request to amend or modify the appropriate Discharge Permit through the Discharge Permit process. NMED is willing to work with Chino to properly navigate through this request.

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: Bruce Yurdin, Division Director, NMED (via email)  
Kurt Vollbrecht, Program Manager, MECS (via email)  
Petra Sanchez, Remedial Program Manager, USEPA (via email)  
Joe Fox, AOC Team Leader, MECS (via email)  
Mark Lewis, Formation Environmental (via email)  
Joe Allen, Formation Environmental (via email)  
Alicia Voss, Freeport-McMoRan Inc. (via email)  
Pam Pinson, Freeport-McMoRan Chino Mines Company (via email)