



**NEW MEXICO  
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**



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**James C. Kenney**  
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Deputy Secretary

December 19, 2019

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 30, 2019 from Freeport-McMoRan Chino Mines Company (Chino). NMED has completed a review of the Report and accepts this document as written. 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 trends discussed in previous correspondence. In addition, NMED understands that Chino still plans to submit paperwork through DP-213 to move the lower pond collection system out of the AOC and into active operations, as noted in previous correspondence and in the subject monitoring report.

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: 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, Joe Allen Formation Environmental (via email)  
Mike Steward, Pam Pinson, Freeport-McMoRan Chino Mines Company (via email)