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## Electronic Transmission

December 10, 2021

Sherry Burt-Kested  
Freeport-McMoRan Chino Mines Company  
P.O. Box 10  
Bayard, NM 88023

**RE: Approval of Annual Monitoring Report, Groundhog Mine Site IRA, Hanover Whitewater Creek Investigation Unit (HWCIU), Chino AOC**

Dear Sherry Burt-Kested:

The Ground Water Quality Bureau (GWQB) of the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) received the Annual Monitoring Report for the Groundhog Mine Site IRA, Hanover/Whitewater Creek Investigation Unit dated November 1, 2021 from Freeport-McMoRan Chino Mines Company (Chino). NMED has reviewed the Report and hereby approves the Annual Monitoring Report.

NMED continues to review the Draft Sitewide 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 is currently reviewing the renewal application for DP-484, which will combine two other Discharge Permits into DP-484. This action would remove oversight of the Groundhog Lower Pond Collection System from the AOC and place that area under the jurisdiction of DP-484.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (505) 372-8545.

Sincerely,

David W. Mercer, Chino AOC Project Manager  
Mining Environmental Compliance Section  
Ground Water Quality Bureau

DM

cc: Petra Sanchez, USEPA (via email)  
Kurt Vollbrecht, NMED (via email)  
Joe Fox, NMED (via email)  
Mike Steward, Freeport-McMoRan Inc. (via email)  
Pam Pinson, Freeport-McMoRan Inc. (via email)  
Joe Allen, Formation Inc. (via email)

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