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## Electronic Transmission

November 17, 2023

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 October 20, 2023 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 processing the renewal application for Discharge Permit (DP) 484, which will combine DP-213, DP-214 and DP-484 into a single DP-484 permit. 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

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Sherry Burt-Kested, Freeport-McMoRan Chino Mines Company  
Approval of the HWCIU IRA Completion report  
November 17, 2023

cc: Petra Sanchez, USEPA (via email)  
Joe Fox, NMED (via email)  
Brad Reid, NMED (via email)  
D.J. Ennis, MMD (via email)  
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