



MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
GOVERNOR

JAMES C. KENNEY
CABINET SECRETARY

Electronic Transmission

April 28, 2025

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 30, 2024, 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. NMED approved the renewal application for Discharge Permit (DP) 484 and issued the permit on January 19, 2024, which combined DP-213, DP-214 and DP-484 into a single DP-484 permit. Furthermore, the issuance of DP-484 establishes the responsibility of the "Groundhog Lower Pond collection system" into the operation discharge permit, including monitoring and inspection requirements, and the potential necessity for abatement of groundwater in the area to the DP-1340 Sitewide Abatement and Closure permit.

Therefore, that operational permit action by NMED depicted in Figure 2 of the 2024 annual report allows for the removal of oversight of the Groundhog Lower Pond Collection System from the Chino AOC.

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

Sincerely,

David W Mercer

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
April 28, 2025

cc: Erica Almance, USEPA (via email)
Joe Fox, NMED (via email)
Mike Boulay, NMED (via email)
Brad Reid, NMED (via email)
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