



Electronic Transmission

January 23, 2026

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

RE: Approval of Annual Monitoring Report and Approval to Terminate Annual Reporting, 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 28, 2025, from Freeport-McMoRan Chino Mines Company (Chino). NMED has reviewed the Report and hereby approves the Annual Monitoring Report.

Based on Chino's request to cease annual reporting for the Groundhog Mine Sites IRA and accomplishments on the ground satisfying requirements outlined in previous completion reports over the past 10 years, NMED approves the request to terminate annual reporting requirements for the IRA.

NMED agrees that continued monitoring of these sites shall be assessed for remedial success under the pending Feasibility Study and Record of Decision for the Hanover and Whitewater Creeks Investigation Unit.

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.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (505) 660-9060 or David Mercer of my staff at (505) 372-8545.

Sincerely,

Joseph Fox, Program Manager
Mining Environmental Compliance Section
Ground Water Quality Bureau

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Sherry Burt-Kested, Freeport-McMoRan Chino Mines Company

Approval of the HWCIU IRA Completion report

January 23, 2026

DM

cc: Erica Almance, USEPA (via email)
 David Mercer, NMED (via email)
 Mike Boulay, NMED (via email)
 D.J. Ennis, MMD (via email)
 Mike Steward, Freeport-McMoRan Inc. (via email)
 Pam Pinson, Chino (via email)
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