

Mr. Bryan Dail Surface Water Quality Bureau New Mexico Environment Department P.O. Box 5469 Santa Fe, NM 87502

## Re: Private Land Status of Open Pit Lake New Mexico Copper Corporation

Dear Mr. Dail,

This letter provides additional information regarding the location of New Mexico Copper property at Copper Flat.

As you may recall, NMCC identified an error with a property boundary on land status maps being used by State and Federal agencies; specifically maps showing private property lines in Sections 25, 26, 35, and 36, Township 15S, Range 7W, N.M.P.M. As I researched this matter, I learned that the maps in question are based on GIS records maintained by the BLM. As described in my September 27, 2017 letter to Ms. Shelley Lemon, Chief of the Surface Water Quality Bureau, the maps using BLM GIS information for this area erroneously show the NMCC property line crossing the existing pit lake. The correct location of the property line is approximately 300 feet west of the existing pit lake, which places the existing pit lake completely within the NMCC owned property.

This matter was raised with BLM in early 2017 in a meeting at BLM's State Office in Santa Fe, which was attended by representatives from BLM cadastral, land legal, and GIS departments, NMCC's registered land survey consultant, and NMCC. During this meeting, and in subsequent discussions, BLM pointed out that maps sourced through their GIS department are not precise and advised that property owners are responsible to prepare and document surveys to establish correct locations for property boundaries. As further evidence to the possibility for error, the following disclaimer appears when accessing BLM GIS information online:

"The geographic coordinates and their associated products are NOT legal land survey records. These coordinates can NOT be used as a substitute for a legal land survey."

Following our discussions with BLM, NMCC completed a boundary plat of NMCC property in the aforementioned area. The field work and plat were prepared according to New Mexico Land Survey Statutes and BLM standards, which require physical location and tagging of section and



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property corners by a registered land surveyor. The plat was sealed by a New Mexico registered land surveyor, recorded with Sierra County, and submitted to the BLM Cadastral Survey Department. A copy of the sealed and recorded plat was provided to your office with my September 2017 letter. The plat shows the outline of the current pit water body and shows the existing water body is fully confined to private property owned by NMCC. Figure 1 attached to this letter is page 1 of the boundary plat with NMCC property and the existing pit lake highlighted for clarity.

Figure 2 was developed by Mr. Stephen Beyerlein, a land surveyor in BLM's cadastral survey office in Santa Fe. To create this figure, Mr. Beyerlein overlaid the NMCC property plat onto BLM property maps that are maintained by the BLM cadastral survey department. This figure confirms that the private property boundaries mapped by NMCC align with BLM survey information. Mr. Beyerlein states in his October 12 email (provided with figure 2) that "this [overlay] should be evidence for the State or anyone else that you are in the proper location." On December 12, Mr. Beyerlain further clarified that regarding this figure "it was our (i.e. BLM's) intention to show that the claims are on private land."

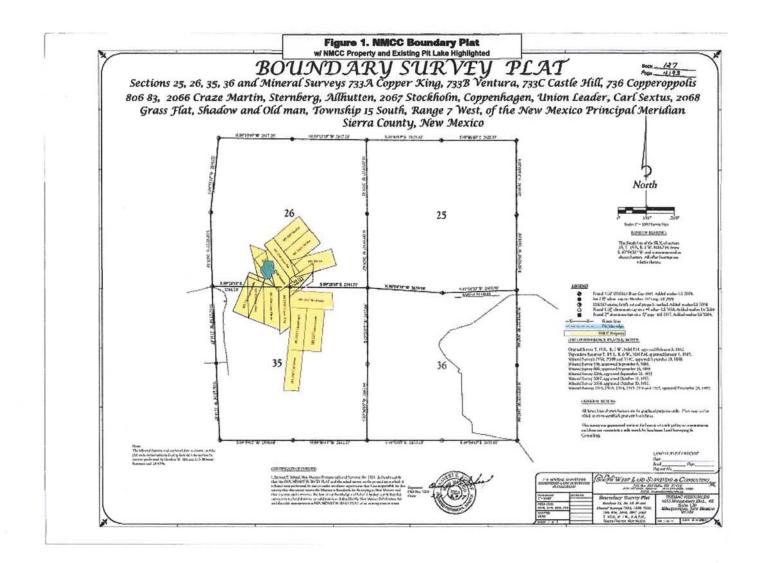
Figure 3 shows the future pit design described in our Mine Reclamation and Closure Plan with NMCC property lines. This figure clearly shows the proposed future pit lake is fully contained within the boundaries of private land owned by NMCC.

NMCC believes that this additional information provides further confirmation to demonstrate that the future NMCC pit lake will be located on private land and that the BLM concurs with this conclusion. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any additional information.

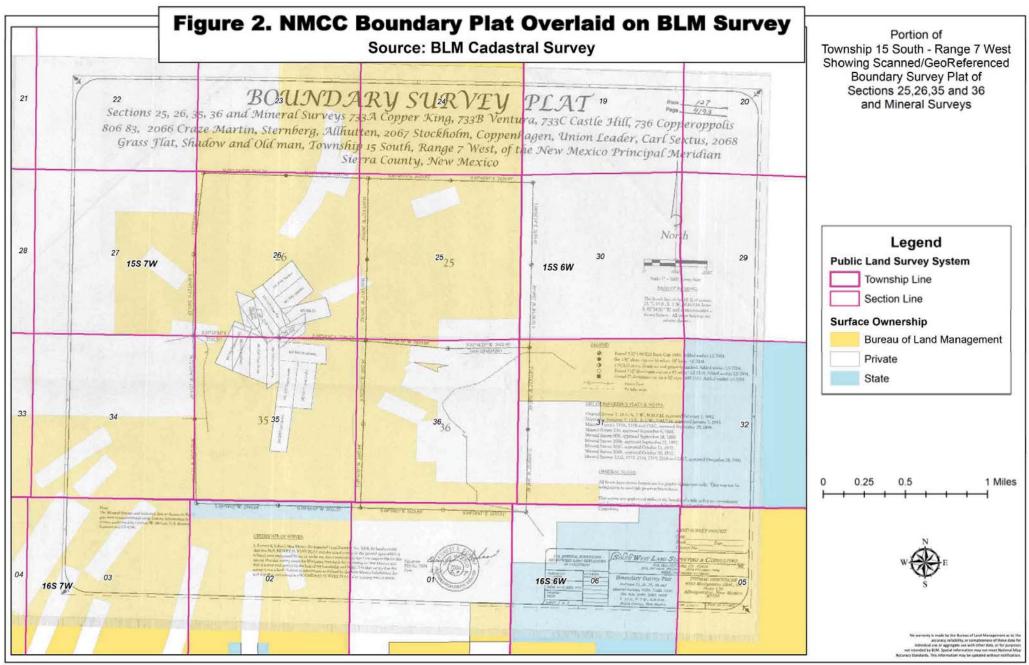
Sincerely,

Jeff Smith Chief Operating Officer New Mexico Copper Corporation

cc: Leighandra Keeven, BLM Geologist David Henney, Solv, LLC, Project Manager Brad Reid, NMED Ground Water Bureau Permit Lead David Ennis, MMD Permit Lead



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## **Jeffrey Smith**

From:Beyerlein, Stephen <sbeyerle@blm.gov>Sent:Tuesday, December 12, 2017 7:46 AMTo:Jeffrey SmithSubject:Re: Copper Flat Boundary Survey Plat

Good morning Jeff. To clarify, it was our intention to show that the claims were made on BLM land and are now private. Many are surrounded by BLM and are not in conflict with the State lands. Hoope this helps.

Steve

From: Beyerlein, Stephen [mailto:<u>sbeyerle@blm.gov</u>] Sent: Thursday, October 12, 2017 12:05 PM To: Jeffrey Smith Subject: Re: Copper Flat Boundary Survey Plat

Jeff. Attached is our GIS overlay showing our survey, your survey and the land status. It shows your claims are all on BLM lands. This should be evidence for the State or anyone else that you are in the proper location. Let us know if we can be of further help.

Steve

