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RYAN FLYNN
Secretary - Designate

BUTCH TONGATE
Deputy Secretary

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 25, 2015

TO: Holland Shepherd, Program Manager, Mining Act Reclamation Program

FROM: David Mayerson, Ground Water Quality Bureau
Neal T. Butt, Air Quality Bureau
Neal Schaeffer, Surface Water Quality Bureau

THROUGH: Keith Ehlert, Acting NMED Mining Act Team Leader

RE: **Comments, Mt. Taylor Mine Updated Closeout Plan, Amendment to Revision 10-1, Permit No. CI002RE**

On February 26, 2015 The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) received a request for comments on a letter received from Rio Grande Resources (RGR) requesting that the application for Revision 10-1 be amended to include the updated closeout plan that MMD was processing under Revision 13-1. In addition, the RGR letter requests that upon amending the Revision 10-1 application to include the updated closeout plan, the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) no longer process the updated closeout plan under Revision 13-1.

The Ground Water Quality Bureau and Surface Water Quality Bureau have no comments at this time. The Air Quality Bureau has provided the attached comments.

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) is providing the attached determination that the above-referenced Closeout/Closure Plan is protective of environmental standards.

NMED provided a determination dated May 27, 2011 that environmental standards will be met during the standby status addressed under Revision 10-1 and subsequently affirmed the determination upon review and comment in a memorandum dated February 11, 2015 on Revision 14-1. The Permittee is abating ground water impacts pursuant to an approved abatement plan in accordance with Water Quality Control Commission Regulations (WQCC) 20.6.2.4000 through 4115 NMAC.

Holland Shepherd, Mining Act Reclamation Program Manager

March 25, 2015

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xc: Phyllis Bustamante, Acting Bureau Chief, GWQB
Richard Goodyear, Chief, AQB
Fernando Martinez, Director, EMNRD-MMD
David Mayerson, GWQB
Kurt Vollbrecht, Program Manager, MECS



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Ryan Flynn
Secretary

Butch Tongate
Deputy Secretary

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 18, 2015

TO: Keith Ehlert
Mining Environmental Compliance Section
Ground Water Quality Bureau

FROM: Neal Butt
Environmental Scientist & Specialist, Air Quality Bureau

RE: Request for Comments, Updated Closeout Plan, Amendment to Revision 10-1
MMD Permit No. C1002RE, Mt. Taylor Mine

The New Mexico Air Quality Bureau (AQB) has completed its review of the letter received by the New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division ("MMD") from Rio Grande Resources ("RGR"), dated January 29, 2015, requesting that: their application for Revision 10-1 (for standby status renewal) be amended to include the updated closeout plan that MMD was processing under Revision 13-1, for the Mt. Taylor Mine, Permit No. C1002RE; and that upon amending the Revision 10-1 application to include the updated closeout plan, that MMD no longer process the updated closeout plan under Revision 13-1.

The AQB has no objection to the amendment to Revision 10-1 and concomitant withdrawal of Revision 13-1.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (505) 476-4317.



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RYAN FLYNN
Cabinet Secretary
BUTCH TONGATE
Deputy Secretary

DETERMINATION PURSUANT TO
THE NEW MEXICO MINING ACT,
NMSA 1978, §69-36-7 (P)(2), AND
NEW MEXICO MINING ACT RULES 19.10.5
FOR PERMIT REVISION, UPDATED CLOSEOUT PLAN

Determination is hereby provided that Rio Grande Resources Corporation, the applicant who has submitted an updated Closure/Closeout Plan for the Mt. Taylor Mine, submitted pursuant to the New Mexico Mining Act NMSA 1978, §§69-36-1 through 20 (Repl. Pamp. 1997) (NMMA), has demonstrated that the activities to be permitted or authorized will be expected to achieve compliance with all applicable air, water quality, and other environmental standards if carried out as described in the NMMA and all applicable state and federal air, water quality, and other environmental permits.

Applicant: Rio Grande Resources Corporation
Operation: Mt. Taylor Mine
Permit: CI002RE—Revision 10-1

Determination by: Butch Tongate

for Ryan Flynn, Secretary
New Mexico Environment Department

Date: March 25, 2015