New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

Bill Richardson
Governor

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Cabinet Secretary

Karen W. Garcia
Deputy Cabinet Secretary

Charles Thomas, P.E.
Acting Division Director
Mining and Minerals Division

December 10, 2010

Mr. Eric Jantz, Staff Attorney
New Mexico Environmental Law Center
1405 Luisa Street, Suite 5
Santa Fe, NM 87505

RE: Request for Hearing on Standby Permit Renewal Application, Mt. Taylor Mine, Cibola County, New Mexico, Permit No. CI002RE

Dear Mr. Jantz:

The Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) has received the request from the New Mexico Environmental Law Center (NMELC) for a public hearing regarding the renewal of standby status for the Mt. Taylor Mine, located in Cibola County, New Mexico. MMD hereby approves NMELC's request for a public hearing. At this time, the operator, Rio Grande Resources (RGR), is planning to collect additional data and will be providing same to various regulatory agencies. However, the additional data from RGR is not anticipated to be submitted until approximately April 2011. As such, the public hearing is anticipated to be conducted in approximately May 2011. NMELC will be notified of the public hearing when it becomes scheduled.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (505) 476-3434 or by email at david.ennis@state.nm.us. Alternatively, you may also contact Holland Shepherd, Program Manager, at (505) 476-3437.

Sincerely,

David J. (DJ) Ennis, P.G.
Senior Reclamation Specialist
Mining Act Reclamation Program (MARP)
Mining and Minerals Division

cc: J.C. Lister, Mine Manager, Rio Grande Resources
Holland Shepherd, MARP Program Manager
Chuck Thomas, P.E., Acting Division Director
Jerry Schoeppner, Administrative Order Compliance Team Leader, NMED
Mine File (CI002RE)