

pg. 1 State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

Susana Martinez
Governor

David Martin
Cabinet Secretary

Brett F. Woods, Ph.D.
Deputy Cabinet Secretary

Fernando Martinez, Director
Mining and Minerals Division



7008 3230 0002 9163 7405

CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

September 28, 2015

Mr. Joe Lister, Mine Manager
Mount Taylor Mine
Rio Grande Resources Corporation
P.O. Box 1150
Grants, NM 87020

RE: Agency and Tribal Comments on Application for Standby Renewal, Mount Taylor Mine, Revision 14-1, Permit No. CI002RE

Dear Mr. Lister,

The New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division (“MMD”) received a letter from Rio Grande Resources Corporation (“RGR”), dated October 1, 2014, requesting renewal of standby status for the Mt. Taylor. MMD has assigned Revision 14-1 to Permit No. CI002RE to process the application to renew standby status. MMD reviewed the application to renew standby status and deemed it administratively complete on December 5, 2014. Subsequently, MMD sent a copy of the application to renew standby status to other state agencies and tribal entities requesting their comments pursuant to 19.10.5.505.B(3) and 19.10.506.E NMAC. MMD has received responses from the New Mexico Environment Department (“NMED”), the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer (“NMOSE”), the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs (“NMDCA”), the New Mexico State Forestry Division (“NMSFD”); and the Navajo Nation.

MMD is enclosing copies of the response letters and e-mails from the NMED, NMOSE, NMDCA, the NMSFD and the Navajo Nation for RGR’s review and response. Please respond to these comments within 30 days of receipt of this letter. MMD will provide comments on the application to renew standby status under separate cover.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (505) 476-3432, or at david.ohori@state.nm.us.

Sincerely,

David Ohori, Permit Lead
Mining Act Reclamation Program (“MARP”)

Enclosures

RE: Agency and Tribal Comments on Application for Standby Status Renewal, Mount Taylor Mine,
Revision 14-1, Permit No. CI002RE
September 28, 2015
pg. 2

cc: Holland Shepherd, Program Manager, MARP
Kurt Vollbrecht, Program Manager, Mining Environmental Compliance Section
("MECS"), Ground Water Quality Bureau, NMED
David Mayerson, MECS, Ground Water Quality Bureau, NMED
Mine File (CI002RE)



SUSANA MARTINEZ
Governor

JOHN A. SANCHEZ
Lieutenant Governor

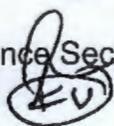
NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Harold Runnels Building
1190 St. Francis Drive
P.O. Box 5469, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-5469
Phone (505) 827-2855 Fax (505) 827-2965
www.nmenv.state.nm.us



RYAN FLYNN
Secretary

BUTCH TONGATE
Deputy Secretary

TO: Holland Shepherd, Mining and Minerals Division Mining Act Reclamation Program Manager (EMNRD/MMD)
FROM: David L. Mayerson, Mining Environmental Compliance Section (NMED)
THROUGH: Kurt Vollbrecht, Program Manager (MECS/NMED) 
DATE: February 11, 2015

RE: New Mexico Environment Department response to "Request for comments, Application to renew standby status, Mt. Taylor Mine Revision 14-1, Permit No. C1002RE" (December 2, 2014)

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) received a request, dated December 5, 2014, from the New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) to review and provide comments on the above-referenced Application, dated October 12, 2014, to renew standby status for the Mt. Taylor mine. The Mt. Taylor mine, which is owned and operated by Rio Grande Resources Corporation (RGRC), is a conventional underground uranium mine that is located approximately one-half mile northeast of the Village of San Mateo in Cibola County, New Mexico, in Section 24, Township 13 North, Range 8 West.

The application and recent site inspection by NMED personnel indicate that no changes in the physical conditions of the site have occurred since the last renewal of standby. Review of the application to renew standby indicate there are no proposed changes from the previous standby approval. The Ground Water Quality Bureau, Surface Water Quality Bureau, and Air Quality Bureau have no comments on the current application to renew standby. NMED previously issued a determination dated May 27, 2011 that environmental standards will be met during the standby period if carried out as described in the New Mexico Mining Act permit application. The previous determination by NMED still stands.

Please contact me at (505) 476-3777 or by email at david.mayerson@state.nm.us if there are any questions.

Ohori, David, EMNRD

From: Roth, Daniela, EMNRD
Sent: Friday, December 12, 2014 1:52 PM
To: Ohori, David, EMNRD
Subject: RE: Application to Renew Standby to Active Status, Mount Taylor Mine (Permit No. CI002RE) - Revision 14-1

Dear David Ohori:

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment on the application to renew the Standby to Active Status for the Mount Taylor Mine in Cibola County, New Mexico (Permit No. CI002RE, Revision 14-1). I do not anticipate any impacts to state listed endangered plants from the proposed mining project or revision 14-1.

Please let me know if I can be of further help.

Sincerely,

Daniela

BOTANY PROGRAM COORDINATOR
EMNRD-Forestry Division
1220 S. St. Francis Dr.
Santa Fe, NM 87505
(505)476-3347 (Phone)
(505)476-3330 (Fax)
<http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/SFD/>

2/2/15

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

Susana Martinez
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Deputy Cabinet Secretary

Fernando Martinez, Director
Mining and Minerals Division



December 2, 2014

RECEIVED
MME DEC 04 2014
HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION

Michelle Ensey
Department of Cultural Affairs
Historic Preservation Division
407 Galisteo Street, Suite 236
Santa Fe, NM 87501

**RE: Request for Comments, Application to Renew Standby Status, Mt. Taylor Mine,
Revision 14-1, Permit No. CI002RE**

Dear Ms. Ensey:

The New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division ("MMD") received an application from Rio Grande Resources ("RGR") to renew standby status for the Mt. Taylor Mine, dated October 12, 2014. RGR submitted additional information in support of the application for renewal of standby status in a submittal, dated October 16, 2014 that includes proof of public notification as required by 19.10.9.903 NMAC.

MMD requests that you review the application to renew standby status and provide comments on it, if any, within 60 days after the receipt of this letter. The Mt. Taylor Mine application to renew standby status may be viewed at the MMD website at:

<http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/MMD/MARP/CI002RERev14-1.html>

A hardcopy version of the Mt. Taylor Mine application to renew standby status is also available from MMD upon request.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (505) 476-3432 or by email at: david.ohori@state.nm.us.

Sincerely,

David Ohori, Permit Lead
Mining Act Reclamation Program ("MARP")

No COMMENTS

2/3/15
for NM State Historic Preservation Officer

cc: Holland Shepherd, Program Manager, MARP
Mine File (CI002RE)

Ohori, David, EMNRD

From: Myers, Kevin, OSE
Sent: Monday, January 05, 2015 12:28 PM
To: Ohori, David, EMNRD
Cc: Johnson, Mike S., OSE
Subject: NMOSE comments for Revision 14-1 MMD permit No. CI002RE - Renew Standby Status
- Mt. Taylor Mine

David,

On December 2, 2014, the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer Hydrology Bureau (NMOSE) received a request for review and comments from the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) for the Revision 14-1 to renew standby status for the Mt. Taylor Mine – Rio Grande Resources Corporation – MMD Permit No. CI002RE (Revision). Mt. Taylor Mine is located in Section 24, T13N, R8W near the village of San Mateo in Cibola County. NMOSE has reviewed the materials for this Revision, which requests renewal of standby by adding a 5-year term thru October 12, 2019 or when mine returns to active status. Previously, NMOSE has commented six times on three CI002RE revisions numbered 10-1 (OSE comments August 4, 2010), 13-1 (OSE comments April 11, 2013 & February 13, 2014) and 13-2 (OSE comments March 7, 2014; June 9, 2014 & August 20, 2014). The previous revisions include an updated closure/closeout plan, a renewal of standby status for two years (thru October 12, 2014) and a change from standby to active status.

NMOSE has no comments for this Revision.

If you have any questions about the above, contact me.

Kevin Myers, Hydrologist
Hydrology Bureau - NM OSE
P.O. Box 25102
Santa Fe, NM 87504-5102
Ph: (505) 476-7402
Fax: (505) 476-0220

<http://www.ose.state.nm.us/>



THE
NAVAJO
NATION



BEN SHELLY
PRESIDENT

Historic Preservation Department, POB 4950, Window Rock, AZ 86515 • PH: 928.871-7198 • FAX: 928.871.7886

REX LEE JIM
VICE-PRESIDENT

January 23, 2015

Fernando Martinez
State of New Mexico
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Subject: **APPLICATION OFR REVISION 14-1, MOUNT TAYLOR MINE, RIO GRANDE RESOURCES CORPORATION, PERMIT NO. C1002RE**

Dear: Mr. Martinez,

The Historic Preservation Department-Traditional Culture Program, hereafter (HPD-TCP) is in receipt of your letter regarding the proposed permit renewal for the Mount Taylor Mine located in Cibola County, New Mexico.

After reviewing the information documents provided, HPD-TCP has determined the project **will have** adverse effects to Navajo Traditional Cultural Properties. HPD-TCP on behalf of the Navajo Nation has concerns at this time. Mt. Taylor's criteria stands as registered as a National Historic Site on the Register for Historic Places, therefore the Navajo Nation opposes the application from Rio Grande Resources Corporation to renew standby status for the Mount Taylor Mine. This property stands as a sacred site according to Navajo traditional cosmology and worldview, along with many other indigenous nations in the greater southwest. HPD-TCP urges the New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division to withdraw the permit request and cease mining activity on Mount Taylor. *(The Navajo Nation claims cultural affiliation to all Anasazi people (periods from Archaic to Pueblo IV) of the southwest. The Navajo Nation makes this claim through Navajo oral history and ceremonial history, which has been documented as early as 1880 and taught from generation to generations).*

The HPD-TCP appreciates the State of New Mexico's consultation efforts regarding this document. Should you have any additional concerns and/or questions do not hesitate to contact me electronically at tony@navajohistoricpreservation.org or telephone at 928-871-7750.

Sincerely,

Tony H. Joe, Jr., Supervisory Anthropologist
Section 106 Consultation
Traditional Culture Program
Historic Preservation Department