



DIRECTOR AND SECRETARY  
TO THE COMMISSION  
Michael B. Sloane

STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
DEPARTMENT OF GAME & FISH

One Wildlife Way, Santa Fe, NM 87507

Tel: (505) 476-8000 | Fax: (505) 476-8180

For information call: (888) 248-6866

[www.wildlife.dgf.nm.gov](http://www.wildlife.dgf.nm.gov)

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23 August 2024

Alaina Osimowicz, Permit Lead  
Mining Act Reclamation Program  
Mining and Minerals Division (MMD)  
1220 South St. Francis Drive  
Santa Fe, NM 87505

**RE: Modification 24-1, Black Springs Mine, McKinley County, New Mexico, Permit No. MK026MN; NMDGF Project No. NMERT-3578.**

Dear Ms. Osimowicz,

The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (Department) has reviewed the above referenced permit modification. Menefee Mining Corporation (Menefee) is requesting the partial release of financial assurance associated with approximately 3.4 acres of reclamation work that is expected to include backfilling, recontouring, and ripping/seeding. Staff from the Department, MMD, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, and Menefee conducted a site inspection on 21 August 2024.

Department staff observed that reclamation earthwork, specifically backfilling and recontouring the old mine pit area to conform with the surrounding habitat, had been performed. Menefee proposes to perform the ripping and seeding in November 2024. The Department does not have any issues with the proposed partial release of financial assurance for the earthwork already completed but recommends that some of the reclamation work financial assurance be retained by MMD until the final ripping and seeding of the reclamation area has been satisfactorily completed.

Spread of the noxious weed halogeton (*Halogeton glomeratus*) has been a matter of concern for previous reclamation efforts at the Black Springs Mine. The Department recommends that Menefee continue to implement a weed monitoring program that includes a commitment to aggressive control of halogeton within the mine permit area.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed permit modification. If you have any questions, please contact Ron Kellermueller, Mining and Energy Habitat Specialist, at (505) 270-6612 or [ronald.kellermueller@dgf.nm.gov](mailto:ronald.kellermueller@dgf.nm.gov).

Sincerely,

Virginia Seamster, Ph.D.  
Assistant Chief for Technical Guidance, Ecological and Environmental Planning Section

cc: USFWS NMES Field Office