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5 November 2024

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

RE: Southwest Lampbright Waste-Rock Stockpile Buttress, Modification 24-1, Chino Mine, Grant County, Permit No. GR009RE; NMDGF No. NMERT-3723.

Dear Mr. Barnes,

The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (Department) has reviewed the above referenced mine permit modification. Freeport-McMoRan Chino Mines Company (Chino) is proposing to construct a buttress on the north side of the Southwest Lampbright Waste-Rock Stockpile. The buttress is needed to stabilize the stockpile where a toe heave has been observed.

The entire area of the proposed buttress and infill is within the current Design Limits of the existing Lampbright stockpiles and will occur in an area previously disturbed by mining operations. The Department does not anticipate any significant impacts to wildlife or wildlife habitat by the proposed construction of the Southwest Lampbright Waste-Rock Stockpile Buttress.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to Chino's 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.

Sincerely,

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

cc: USFWS NMES Field Office