



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

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

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29 August 2024

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

**RE: Modification 24-1, Eagle Mesa Humate Mine, Rammsco Operations, Inc., Sandoval County, New Mexico, Permit No. SA009MN; NMDGF Project No. NMERT-3750.**

Dear Ms. Rynas,

The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (Department) has reviewed the above referenced permit modification. Rammsco Operations, Inc. (Rammsco) is requesting the partial release of financial assurance associated with approximately 2.1 acres of reclamation work that included backfilling, recontouring, ripping, and seeding. Rammsco is also proposing to expand mining operations and disturb no more than 6.6 additional acres within the mine permit area. Staff from the Department, MMD, New Mexico Environment Department, and Rammsco conducted a site inspection on 28 August 2024.

Department staff observed that the disturbed mine pit area had been backfilled, recontoured to conform with the surrounding habitat, ripped, and seeded. Rammsco has also incorporated small depressions and berms within the reclamation site to hold and contain water for longer periods of time following precipitation events. Seeding had been performed approximately three weeks prior to the site inspection, and the reclamation site was already exhibiting significant germination of grasses and forbs. The Department does not have any issues with the requested partial release of financial assurance or the proposed expansion of mining operations.

The noxious weed halogeton (*Halogeton glomeratus*) was observed within the mine permit area. The Department recommends that Rammsco continue to implement a weed monitoring program and maintain their 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