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STATE OF NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF GAME & FISH

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13 February 2025

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 of Harding Mine, Sawni LLC., Sierra County, New Mexico. Permit No. SI025MN; NMDGF No. NMERT-4165.

Dear Ms. Rynas,

The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (Department) has reviewed the above referenced permit modification. Sawni LLC has proposed changing the reclamation plan for closing the shaft and for the permanent closure and termination of the mine permit. Staff from the Department, MMD, and the New Mexico Environment Department conducted a site inspection on 11 February 2025.

During the site inspection, Department staff confirmed that the mine shaft had been permanently closed and all mining-related structures and equipment had been removed. Only a small cement pad around the closed mine shaft remains. The Department does not have any issues with the proposed site closure and termination of the mine permit.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Harding Mine closure. 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