



MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
GOVERNOR

JAMES C. KENNEY
CABINET SECRETARY

MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 1, 2024

TO: Amber Rheubottom, Mining Environmental Compliance Section, Ground Water Quality Bureau, New Mexico Environment Department

FROM: Eliza Martinez and Alan Klatt, Watershed Protection Section, Surface Water Quality Bureau, New Mexico Environment Department, and

SUBJECT: **Request for Review and Comment, Modification 24-1, Minimal Impact New Mine, Black Springs Mine, Menefee Mining Corporation, McKinley County, New Mexico, Mining Act Permit No. MK026MN.**

On June 13, 2024, the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED)-Surface Water Quality Bureau (SWQB) received a request for comments regarding the above referenced application. Menefee Mining Corporation requests modification to the Black Springs Mine, Permit No. MK026MN located approximately 24 miles southwest of Cuba in McKinley County, New Mexico at the approximate latitude and longitude 35.899841° North, -107.378908° West. The Black Springs Mine is a surface humate mine that has been in operation since 2011. The purpose of the application is to request the partial release of financial assurance associated with 3.4 acres. SWQB has prepared the following comments pursuant to §19.10.3.304.H New Mexico Administrative Code (NMAC):

There are no perennial water resources, seeps, springs, or wetlands within the project area; however, an unnamed ephemeral drainage is located approximately 1,000 feet to the north of the project area. The unnamed tributary is subject to Section 20.6.4.98 Standards for Interstate and Intrastate Surface Waters, New Mexico Administrative Code (NMAC) with designated uses that include livestock watering, wildlife habitat, marginal warmwater aquatic life, and primary contact. To protect surface water quality, erosion and stormwater controls, such as those identified in the Original Application and Approved Permit, should be implemented and maintained at the reclamation area until permanent site stabilization is achieved through revegetation success.



Electronic Transmission

MEMORANDUM

Date: July 5, 2024

To: David Ennis, Program Manager, Mining Act Reclamation Program

Through: Amber Rheubottom, Acting Mining Act Coordinator, Mining Environmental Compliance Section (MECS)

From: Eliza Martinez and Alan Klatt, Surface Water Quality Bureau (SWQB)
Sufi Mustafa, Air Quality Bureau (AQB)

Subject: **New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Comments, Black Springs Mine, Minimal Impact Permit Modification, Menefee Mining Corporation, McKinley County, New Mexico, Mining Act Permit No. MK026MN**

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) received correspondence from the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) on May 6, 2024, requesting that NMED review and provide comments on the above-referenced MMD permitting action. Pursuant to the Mining Act, Black Springs Mine is proposing to modify their existing minimal impact permit. MMD requested comments on the application within 20 days of receipt of the request for comments. An extension was requested and granted until July 6, 2024.

Background

Menefee Mining (Applicant) proposes to reclaim 3.4 acres of their permitted 12 acres of Bureau of Land Management land. The Applicant proposes to backfill, recontour and seed the area. This site is located approximately 24 miles southwest of Cuba, New Mexico.

Air Quality Bureau

The AQB has no comments.

Surface Water Quality Bureau

The SWQB comments are attached.

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Mining Environmental Compliance Section

The MECS has no comments.

NMED Summary Comment

NMED has determined the proposed modification of Black Springs Mine Permit MK026MN to conduct reclamation activities will be protective of the environment.

If you have any questions, please contact Amber Rheubottom at (505) 660-2379.

cc: Joseph Fox, Program Manager, NMED-MECS
Shelly Lemon, Bureau Chief, NMED-SWQB
Dana Bahar, Acting Bureau Chief, NMED-AQB
Alaina Osimowicz, EMNRD-MARP