

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

Michele Lujan Grisham
Governor

Melanie A. Kenderdine
Cabinet Secretary Designate

Ben Shelton
Acting Deputy Secretary

Albert C.S. Chang, Director
Mining and Minerals Division



Electronic Submittal

September 23, 2024

Kevin L. Raabe, Operations Manager, RSO
Rio Grande Resources Corporation (RGR)
P.O. Box 1150
Grants, NM 87020

RE: Conditional Approval on *Discharge Pipeline Abandonment Work Plan*, dated April 19, 2024, Mt. Taylor Mine, Permit No. CI002RE, Cibola Co. NM.

Dear Mr. Raabe,

The New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) received the *Discharge Pipeline Abandonment Work Plan* (Workplan), dated April 19, 2024 for the Mt. Taylor Mine, Permit No. CI002RE located in Cibola County, NM. This Workplan was submitted by Engineering Analytics, Inc. (EA) on behalf of RGR. MMD and the New Mexico Environment Dept. (NMED) sent RGR a comment letter on September 5, 2024. A Response by RGR was submitted to the agencies on September 19, 2024.

MMD hereby approves the Workplan and associated response to comments made on September 19, 2024 with the following conditions.

- Pipeline work on the United States Forest Service (USFS) portions of the Workplan may only be started once RGR and the USFS resolve the access issues that were brought up in the September 19, 2024 meeting that was held with MMD, NMED, USFS, and RGR.
- Please provide MMD with the associated approval from the USFS regarding access prior to starting any work on USFS portions of the Workplan.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to Clint Chisler at clinton.chisler@emnrn.nm.gov or (505) 467-9589.

Sincerely,

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Clint Chisler
Permit Lead
Mining Act Reclamation Program

CC: Melissa Meyer, EA Project Environmental Engineer
Anita Wilcox, Department Specialist III, RGR
Corey Dimond, NM Environment Dept.
DJ Ennis, Program Manager, MARP