

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



February 3, 2025

Electronic Transmission

Amber Rheubottom
NMED Ground Water Quality Bureau
P.O. Box 5469
Santa Fe, NM 87505-5469

RE: Request for Agency Comments, Modification 25-1, Black Spring Mine, McKinley County, New Mexico, Permit No. MK026MN

Dear Ms. Rheubottom,

On January 2, 2025, the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) of the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD), received an application for Mine Expansion. The proposal includes the expansion of Menefee's existing Black Spring Humate Mine (a shallow surface mine) located on BLM-managed surface and mineral estate near the community of Ojo Encino in McKinley County, New Mexico (NM). Menefee is proposing to expand their existing Black Spring Humate Mine by approximately 117 acres. Additionally, they are requesting to increase the mine's current design limit from 10 to 12 acres. The Black Spring Mine is located 30 miles southwest of Cuba, NM, and four miles south of the community of Ojo Encino, in Section 4, Township 15N, Range 5W, NM Principal Meridian (NMPM), McKinley County, NM.

The Modification for 25-1 can be found on MMD's website at <https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/mmd/mining-act-reclamation-program/pending-and-approved-mine-applications/minimal-impact-new/mk026mn-black-springs-mine/>

An Agency field inspection has been scheduled for February 18, 2025 at 10 am. Please confirm if you plan on attending. In accordance with §19.10.3. 304.H NMAC, your agency has 30 days (March 3, 2025) from the date of receipt of this letter in which to provide comments. If you have any questions, please contact me at:
(505) – 490 – 0967.

Sincerely,

Alaina Osimowicz

Permit Lead
Mining Act Reclamation Program

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 Transmission

February 3, 2025

Cortney Wands
Department of Cultural Affairs
Historic Preservation Division
407 Galisteo Street, Suite 236
Santa Fe, NM 87501

RE: Request for Agency Comments, Modification 25-1, Black Spring Mine, McKinley County, New Mexico, Permit No. MK026MN

Dear Ms. Wands,

On January 2, 2025, the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) of the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD), received an application for Mine Expansion. The proposal includes the expansion of Menefee's existing Black Spring Humate Mine (a shallow surface mine) located on BLM-managed surface and mineral estate near the community of Ojo Encino in McKinley County, New Mexico (NM). Menefee is proposing to expand their existing Black Spring Humate Mine by approximately 117 acres. Additionally, they are requesting to increase the mine's current design limit from 10 to 12 acres. The Black Spring Mine is located 30 miles southwest of Cuba, NM, and four miles south of the community of Ojo Encino, in Section 4, Township 15N, Range 5W, NM Principal Meridian (NMPM), McKinley County, NM.

The Modification for 25-1 can be found on MMD's website at <https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/mmd/mining-act-reclamation-program/pending-and-approved-mine-applications/minimal-impact-new/mk026mn-black-springs-mine/>

An Agency field inspection has been scheduled for February 18, 2025 at 10 am. Please confirm if you plan on attending. In accordance with §19.10.3. 304.H NMAC, your agency has 30 days (March 3, 2025) from the date of receipt of this letter in which to provide comments. If you have any questions, please contact me at:
(505) – 490 – 0967.

Sincerely,

Alaina Osimowicz
Permit Lead
Mining Act Reclamation Program

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 Transmission

February 3, 2025

Erika Rowe, State Botanist
EMNRD – Forestry Division
1220 S. St Francis Dr.
Santa Fe, NM 87505

RE: Request for Agency Comments, Modification 25-1, Black Spring Mine, McKinley County, New Mexico, Permit No. MK026MN

Dear Ms. Rowe,

On January 2, 2025, the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) of the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD), received an application for Mine Expansion. The proposal includes the expansion of Menefee's existing Black Spring Humate Mine (a shallow surface mine) located on BLM-managed surface and mineral estate near the community of Ojo Encino in McKinley County, New Mexico (NM). Menefee is proposing to expand their existing Black Spring Humate Mine by approximately 117 acres. Additionally, they are requesting to increase the mine's current design limit from 10 to 12 acres. The Black Spring Mine is located 30 miles southwest of Cuba, NM, and four miles south of the community of Ojo Encino, in Section 4, Township 15N, Range 5W, NM Principal Meridian (NMPM), McKinley County, NM.

The Modification for 25-1 can be found on MMD's website at <https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/mmd/mining-act-reclamation-program/pending-and-approved-mine-applications/minimal-impact-new/mk026mn-black-springs-mine/>

An Agency field inspection has been scheduled for February 18, 2025 at 10 am. Please confirm if you plan on attending. In accordance with §19.10.3. 304.H NMAC, your agency has 30 days (March 3, 2025) from the date of receipt of this letter in which to provide comments. If you have any questions, please contact me at:
(505) – 490 – 0967.

Sincerely,

Alaina Osimowicz

Permit Lead
Mining Act Reclamation Program

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 Transmission

February 3, 2025

Virginia “Ginny” Seamster, Ph. D, Assistant Chief for Technical Guidance
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
Wildlife Management Division
1 Wildlife Way
Santa Fe, NM 87507

RE: Request for Agency Comments, Modification 25-1, Black Spring Mine, McKinley
County, New Mexico, Permit No. MK026MN

Dear Dr. Seamster,

On January 2, 2025, the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) of the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD), received an application for Mine Expansion. The proposal includes the expansion of Menefee’s existing Black Spring Humate Mine (a shallow surface mine) located on BLM-managed surface and mineral estate near the community of Ojo Encino in McKinley County, New Mexico (NM). Menefee is proposing to expand their existing Black Spring Humate Mine by approximately 117 acres. Additionally, they are requesting to increase the mine’s current design limit from 10 to 12 acres. The Black Spring Mine is located 30 miles southwest of Cuba, NM, and four miles south of the community of Ojo Encino, in Section 4, Township 15N, Range 5W, NM Principal Meridian (NMPM), McKinley County, NM.

The Modification for 25-1 can be found on MMD’s website at
<https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/mmd/mining-act-reclamation-program/pending-and-approved-mine-applications/minimal-impact-new/mk026mn-black-springs-mine/>

An Agency field inspection has been scheduled for February 18, 2025 at 10 am. Please confirm if you plan on attending. In accordance with §19.10.3. 304.H NMAC, your agency has 30 days (March 3, 2025) from the date of receipt of this letter in which to provide comments. If you have any questions, please contact me at:
(505) – 490 – 0967.

Sincerely,

Alaina Osimowicz
Alaina Osimowicz, Permit Lead
Mining Act Reclamation Program

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 Transmission

February 3, 2025

Katie Zemlick, PhD., Hydrology Bureau Chief
New Mexico Office of the State Engineer
P.O. Box 25102
Santa Fe, NM 87504

RE: Request for Agency Comments, Modification 25-1, Black Spring Mine, McKinley
County, New Mexico, Permit No. MK026MN

Dear Dr. Zemlick,

On January 2, 2025, the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) of the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD), received an application for Mine Expansion. The proposal includes the expansion of Menefee's existing Black Spring Humate Mine (a shallow surface mine) located on BLM-managed surface and mineral estate near the community of Ojo Encino in McKinley County, New Mexico (NM). Menefee is proposing to expand their existing Black Spring Humate Mine by approximately 117 acres. Additionally, they are requesting to increase the mine's current design limit from 10 to 12 acres. The Black Spring Mine is located 30 miles southwest of Cuba, NM, and four miles south of the community of Ojo Encino, in Section 4, Township 15N, Range 5W, NM Principal Meridian (NMPM), McKinley County, NM.

The Modification for 25-1 can be found on MMD's website at
<https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/mmd/mining-act-reclamation-program/pending-and-approved-mine-applications/minimal-impact-new/mk026mn-black-springs-mine/>

An Agency field inspection has been scheduled for February 18, 2025 at 10 am. Please confirm if you plan on attending. In accordance with §19.10.3. 304.H NMAC, your agency has 30 days (March 3, 2025) from the date of receipt of this letter in which to provide comments. If you have any questions, please contact me at:
(505) – 490 – 0967.

Sincerely,

Alaina Osimowicz
Alaina Osimowicz, Permit Lead
Mining Act Reclamation Program