

LEGAL NOTICE
and
Preliminary Determination for an Air Quality Permit for
Freeport-McMoRan Chino Mines Co

Freeport-McMoRan Chino Mines Co, PO Box 10, Bayard, NM has submitted an air quality permit application to the Air Quality Bureau (AQB), New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) for an air quality permit to modify Freeport - Chino Mine. The application file has been assigned Permit No. 0298-M9 and TEMPO Agency Interest ID No. 526. The exact location of the facility is at latitude 32 degrees, 47 minutes, .94 seconds and longitude -108 degrees, 4 minutes, 9.1 seconds, Datum: WGS84. To aid in locating this facility, the approximate location is 3.89 miles northeast of Bayard, NM in Grant County.

Previously, the plant received an air quality construction permit and is operating. The main purpose of the plant is to mine copper ore.

The proposed modification will consist of adding a lime slaking process to the Chino Mine. There are multiple factors contributing to the need for a lime slaker. Chino is now processing a portion of the ore body with a higher sulfide content and will be processing this material for an extended period. The resulting tailings from this material has a very high potential for producing low pH water on the tailing dam. This low pH water poses a danger to wildlife including migratory birds of which seasonal migration is expected to begin soon. Compounding the issue, a large amount of water is present on the tailing the dam due to recent monsoon rains. The Office of the State Engineer (OSE) requires Chino to minimize the phreatic surface on the dam face by liming the amount of water that can be stored on the dam. Pumping this low pH water will have a detrimental effect on the carbon steel pipelines that return the water from dam to the concentrator at the Chino mine. Thus, it is imperative to begin slaking lime and begin raising the pH of the water in the tailings pond, thereby reducing the environmental and operational risks.

Total air pollutant emissions to the atmosphere are estimated to be approximately Nitrogen Oxides (NO_x) at 289.2 tons per year (tpy)(197.9 from Non-Fugitive Sources (NFS) (+4.1)); Carbon Monoxide (CO) at 1454.6 tpy (98.3 from NFS) (+0.88); Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) at 21.7 tpy (16.6 from NFS) (+0.33); Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂) at 4.3 tpy (4.0 from NFS) (+0.3); Total Suspended Particulate Matter (TSP) at 9,154.0 tpy (35.0 from NFS) (+0.3), Particulate Matter 10 microns or less (PM₁₀) at 2,404.5 tpy (31.8 from NFS) (+0.3), and Particulate Matter 2.5 microns or less (PM_{2.5}) at 264.9 tpy (25.1 from NFS) (+0.3). The facility is a major, > 75,000 tpy CO₂e, source of greenhouse gas emissions. These emission estimates could change slightly during the course of the Department's review of the application.

The NMED has conducted a preliminary review of the information submitted with the permit application. The preliminary review and applicant's dispersion modeling analysis indicates that the facility's air emissions will meet the ambient air quality standards for NO_x, CO, SO₂, TSP, and PM₁₀. A full review will evaluate the estimated emission rates and the air quality dispersion modeling analysis to determine compliance with ambient air standards.

Based on the applicant's analysis, a preliminary determination is that this facility will comply with the requirements of Title 20, New Mexico Administrative Code (NMAC), Chapter 2, Parts 3, 7, 22, 61, 72, and 73; 40 CFR 50; 40 CFR 60 Subparts Dc, GG, LL, IIII, and JJJJ; 40 CFR 63 Subparts A, ZZZZ, and CCCCCC; and the New Mexico Air Quality Control Act. Therefore, the preliminary intent of NMED is to issue the air quality permit on or before January 27, 2019. This source is a PSD minor source according to 20.2.74 NMAC.

To ensure compliance with state and federal air regulations, the permit is expected to include conditions that limit the emissions, hours of operation, production rate, and conditions that will require record keeping and reporting to the Department.

The permit application is available for review in electronic or hard copy at the Air Quality Bureau Office, 525 Camino de los Marquez Suite 1, Santa Fe, New Mexico. To arrange viewing of this application contact Greg Tickle, at 505-476-4333 or greg.tickle@state.nm.us. The permit application is also available at the NMED Silver City Office, located at 3082 32nd Street By-Pass Rd, Suite D, Silver City, NM 88061 for public review.

All interested persons have thirty (30) days from the date this notice is published, to notify the Department in writing of their interest in the permit application. The written comments should refer to the company name, facility name and Permit No. (or send a copy of this notice along with your comments). The written comments shall state the nature of the issues raised and how it relates to the requirements of applicable state and federal air quality regulations and the Clean Air Act. The written comments should be mailed to Joseph Kimbrell, New Mexico Environment Dept., Air Quality Bureau, Permit Section, 525 Camino de los Marquez Suite 1, Santa Fe, NM 87505-1816.

The Department will notify all persons, who have provided written comments as to when and where the Department's analysis may be reviewed. Although all written comments will be made part of the public record, any person who does not express interest in writing before the end of this first thirty (30) day period will not receive such notification.

If the Department receives written public comment before the end of the Department's thirty (30) day public notice, the Department's analysis will be made available for review for thirty (30) days at the NMED district or field office nearest to the source before the permit will be issued. Written comments on the analysis or permit application may be submitted to the Department during this second thirty (30) day period or at any time before the permit is issued or denied.

Questions or comments not intended to be part of the public record can be directed to Joseph Kimbrell at 505-476-4347. General information about air quality and the permitting process can be found at the Air Quality Bureau's web site. The regulation dealing with public participation in the permit review process is 20.2.72.206 NMAC. This regulation can be found in the "Permits" section of this web site. Este es un aviso de la oficina de Calidad del Aire del Departamento del Medio Ambiente de Nuevo México, acerca de las emisiones producidas por un establecimiento en esta área. Si usted desea información en español, por favor comuníquese con esa oficina al teléfono 505-476-5557.

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