



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Las Cruces District Office
1800 Marquess Street
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88005
www.blm.gov/nm



In Reply Refer To:
1793 (L0000)

February 3, 2012

Dear Interested Party:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Las Cruces District invites you to participate in the identification of issues to determine the scope for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) concerning the planned construction, operation, and mine reclamation of the Copper Flat Mine in Sierra County, New Mexico.

New Mexico Copper Corporation (NMCC) submitted a Mining Plan of Operations to the BLM for mining and processing copper and other minerals at the Copper Flat mine in central Sierra County. The proposed mine is located approximately 4 miles north-northeast of the town of Hillsboro, New Mexico. Mining, ore processing and related activities will occur on both private and BLM lands.

As the EIS process begins, the BLM's goal is to reach out and involve the public. The first opportunity for you to participate will be at the upcoming open houses for public scoping. The purpose of the public scoping process is to discover relevant issues that will influence the scope of the environmental analysis, including alternatives to the proposed action, and guide the process for developing the EIS.

Participants will have an opportunity to talk with resource and planning specialists, and are encouraged to provide comments on the scope of the EIS and on potential alternatives, to share issues and concerns, and to ask questions. BLM will consider these comments in determining the scope of the EIS, including alternatives to the proposed action.

The open house format also will allow the BLM, NMCC, and State agencies to provide information about the EIS process, the proposed action, as well as information regarding the development, operation, and mine reclamation for the Copper Flat mining claims. The public scoping open houses will be:

FEBRUARY 22, 2012 7-9 P.M.
HILLSBORO COMMUNITY CENTER
ELENORE ST.
HILLSBORO, NEW MEXICO

FEBRUARY 23, 2012 7-9 P.M.
TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES CIVIC AND CONVENTION CENTER
400 WEST FOURTH
TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES, NEW MEXICO

Your thoughts, ideas, and comments are important to us throughout the process. Please attend the scoping open houses or send us your written comments on the enclosed comment form before the scoping period ends, which is March 9, 2012.

You may also submit comments using any of the following methods:

EMAIL: BLM_NM_LCDO_Comments@blm.gov

FAX: 1(703) 760-4899

TOLL-FREE NUMBER: 1(866) 760-1421

MAIL:

Copper Flat Mine
C/O Mangi Environmental Group
7927 Jones Branch Drive
McLean VA 22102

Also if you wish to be removed from the mailing list, please let us know by checking the box on the comment form. Otherwise your name will be retained on the list and you will receive information on the Copper Flat project in the future. Informational materials like this letter will be available on the Copper Flat website at www.cuflateis.com.

BLM will provide you an opportunity later in the process to review the Draft EIS, which is scheduled for release in January 2013. During the public review period, BLM will conduct public meetings to accept comments on the adequacy of the Draft EIS. Written comments will also be accepted during the review period.

If you have any questions, please contact Mike Smith at 575-525-4421.

Sincerely,



Bill Childress
District Manager

1 Enclosure