



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:
1792 (L0310)

DEC 11 2013

Dear Interested Party:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) invites you to participate in a public process to gather input regarding the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed expansion of the Little Rock Mine in Grant County, New Mexico. The proposed EA will analyze the potential effects from the expansion of the existing, open pit copper mine and the surface disturbances necessary for the construction, operation, monitoring, closure, and post-closure of the mine. The BLM has determined that preparation of an EA is necessary under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Council on Environmental Quality implementing regulations in 40 CFR Parts 1500 to 1508.

The BLM received the Little Rock Mine Amendment to Mine Plan of Operations NMNM091644 (MPO Amendment) from Freeport-McMoRan Tyrone Inc. (Tyrone) on September 13, 2013, pursuant to requirements of the BLM Surface Management Regulations, 43 CFR Part 3809, for a modification to plan-level operations. The activities and uses proposed in the MPO Amendment facilitate the expansion of the Little Rock Mine, extending the same land uses and activities that have previously been approved. Mineable ore from the Little Rock Mine will continue to be transferred to the adjacent Tyrone Mine facility for copper extraction. Waste rock will be used to backfill a portion of the open pit and will continue to be transported to the Tyrone Mine where it will be stockpiled at existing, permitted facilities and eventually reclaimed. The MPO Amendment requests authorization of new surface disturbance to approximately 109 acres of land managed by the BLM and a change in use of BLM-managed land that are already authorized for disturbance.

The MPO Amendment includes the establishment of a proposed limit of disturbance that will enable:

- Construction, operation, and reclamation of the open pit and a haul road
- Installation of instrumentation, utilities, and access for various operational, monitoring, closure, and post-closure uses, including but not limited to:
 - Geotechnical instrumentation and monitoring facilities
 - Power distribution system and components
 - Communications facilities
 - Surface water and groundwater management and dewatering facilities
- Access to facilities and components

The MPO Amendment also proposes approval of approximately 2,000-feet of pipeline corridor to convey surface water and groundwater inflow from the open pit to an existing, lined pond for use in the Tyrone Mine process water management system. In addition, the MPO Amendment proposes the rerouting of approximately 1,750-feet of a power supply line to the Little Rock Mine across land managed by the BLM (see enclosed Figure).

Prior authorizations for the Little Rock Mine included disturbance to land managed by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (USFS); however, no new disturbances are proposed on USFS-managed land as part of the MPO Amendment.

This project is subject to review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and its implementing regulations in 36 CFR Part 800. In accordance with 36 CFR 800.2(a)(2), the BLM will serve as the "Lead Agency" for the purposes of the Section 106 review.

Public participation and scoping is now underway for this project. We are inviting you to comment on the proposed project in accordance with Section 106 of the NHPA and NEPA. Your input is important to us, and we would like to hear about your issues and concerns.

You may submit comments at any time during the preparation of the EA; however, if you would like to have your comments considered for inclusion in the Draft EA, they must be submitted by **January 16, 2014**. There are several ways in which you can submit your comments on the proposed project:

- File your comments electronically by sending them to: BLM_NM_LCDO_Comments@blm.gov. Please include "Little Rock Mine Expansion EA Comments" in the subject line of your email.
- Mail your comments to: "Little Rock Mine Expansion EA Project," BLM Las Cruces District Office, ATTN: Joseph Navarro, 1800 Marquess Street, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88005.
- Submit your comments on the enclosed postage-paid Comment Form.

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

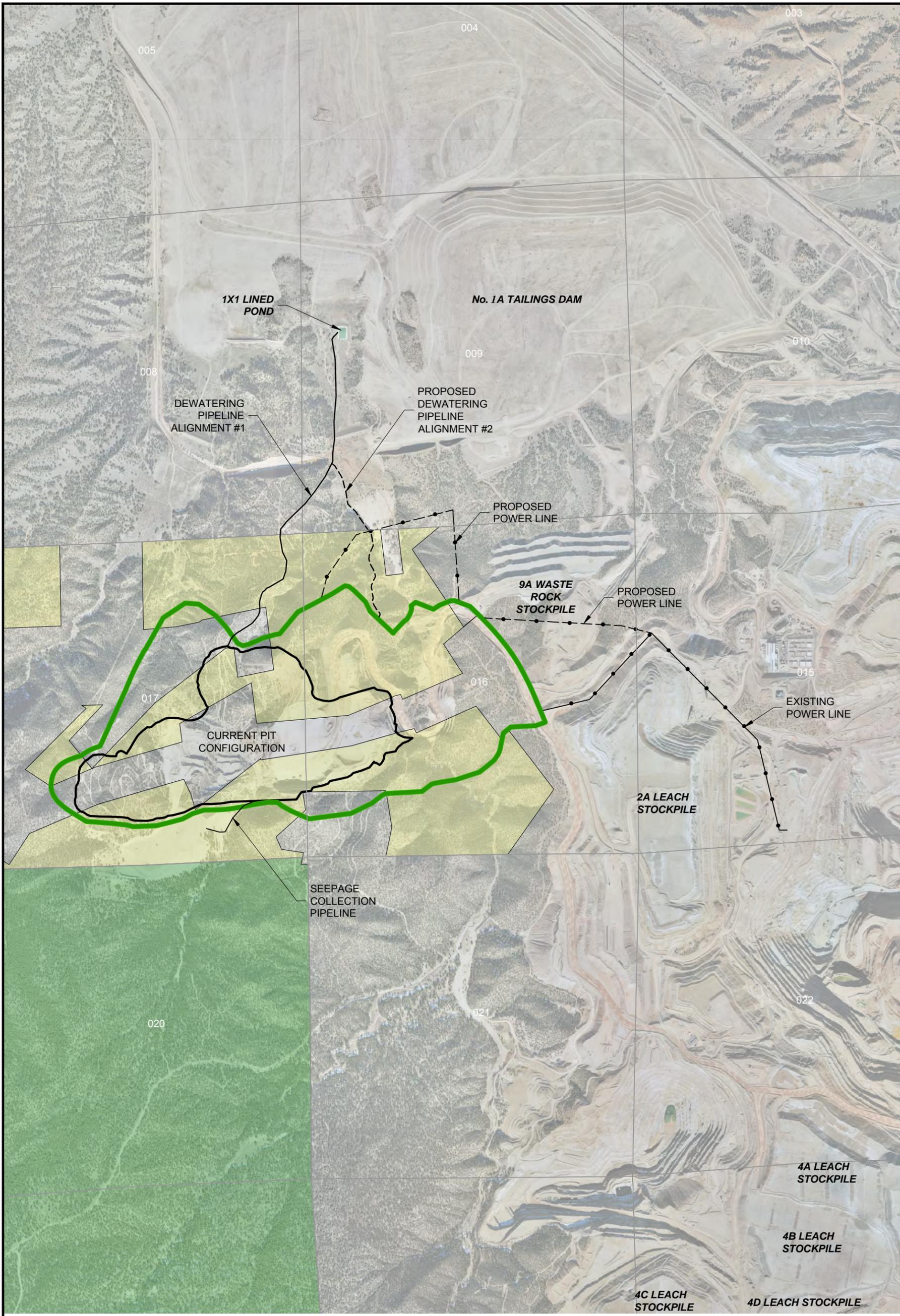
If you have any questions about this project, please contact Joseph Navarro, Project Lead, at (575) 525-4363. We appreciate your participation in this proposed project.

Sincerely,



David L. Wallace
Assistant District Manager
Division of Multi-Resources

3 Enclosures



LEGEND

- BLM MANAGED LAND
- USFS MANAGED LAND
- PROPOSED LIMIT OF DISTURBANCE
- TYRONE FACILITIES

0 1,500
 SCALE IN FEET
 COORDINATE SYSTEM
 TYRONE LOCAL MINE

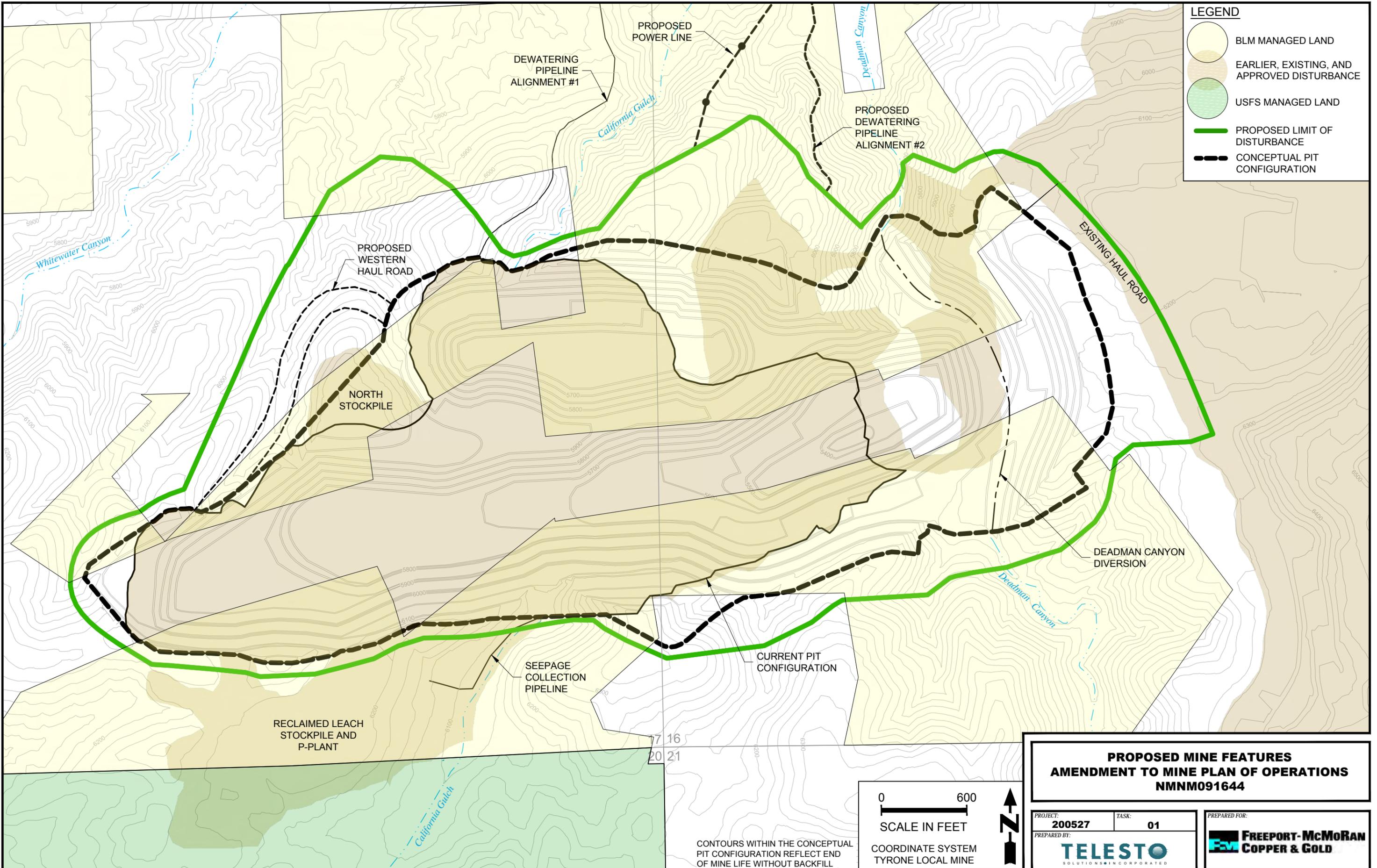
PROJECT: **200527** TASK: **01**
 PREPARED BY:
TELESTO
 SOLUTIONS INCORPORATED

**PROJECT VICINITY
 AMENDMENT TO MINE PLAN OF OPERATIONS NMNM091644**

PREPARED FOR:
**FREEPORT-McMORAN
 COPPER & GOLD**

12/5/2013 W:\Tyronelittle_Rock\2013-2015_NEPA_Analysis\Calculations\GIS\MPO_Figures\Project Vicinity.dwg

12/5/2013 W:\Tyrone\littl..._Rock\2013-2015_NEPA_Analysis\Calculations\GIS\MPO_Figures\Proposed Mine_Features.dwg



LEGEND

-  BLM MANAGED LAND
-  EARLIER, EXISTING, AND APPROVED DISTURBANCE
-  USFS MANAGED LAND
-  PROPOSED LIMIT OF DISTURBANCE
-  CONCEPTUAL PIT CONFIGURATION

0 600
SCALE IN FEET

COORDINATE SYSTEM
TYRONE LOCAL MINE



**PROPOSED MINE FEATURES
AMENDMENT TO MINE PLAN OF OPERATIONS
NMNM091644**

PROJECT: 200527	TASK: 01	PREPARED FOR: 
PREPARED BY: 		

CONTOURS WITHIN THE CONCEPTUAL PIT CONFIGURATION REFLECT END OF MINE LIFE WITHOUT BACKFILL



Little Rock Mine Environmental Assessment

Amendment to Mine Plan of Operations (MPO) NMNM091644
Freeport-McMoRan Tyrone Inc.
Grant County, New Mexico

BLM WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU! SCOPING COMMENT FORM

The Las Cruces District Office of the Bureau of Land Management has received an Amendment to Mine Plan of Operations (MPO) NMNM091644 for the Little Rock Mine from Freeport-McMoRan Tyrone Inc. (Tyrone). Upon approval, the MPO Amendment would authorize an expanded limit of surface disturbance at the Little Rock Mine for a larger open pit and the disturbances needed for construction, operation, monitoring, closure, and post-closure of the mine and two linear alignments for pipeline and power line corridors across lands managed by the BLM.

Please return this form by **JANUARY 16, 2014**. Additional sheets may be attached if more space is needed. Fold the form so the address is showing and tape or staple the edges together to mail. NO POSTAGE is required.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____ ADD TO MAILING LIST: YES NO

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment -- including your personal identifying information -- may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

PLEASE PRINT COMMENTS: _____

