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NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT:

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State Solicits Public Comment on Sampling and Analysis Plan for Proposed Roca Honda Uranium Mining Operation

Santa Fe - The Mining and Minerals Division is soliciting public comments on a sampling and analysis plan submitted by Roca Honda Resources, LLC for the proposed Roca Honda uranium mine. The plan will guide the collection of baseline data that can be used in a permit application for a new mine. The proposed Roca Honda Mine would be located on Cibola National Forest land and State trust land in McKinley County approximately 2 to 3 miles northwest of the village of San Mateo, and approximately 16 miles northeast of Grants, New Mexico.

“The sampling and analysis plan is the first step in the development of a permit application for a new mining application. The collection of baseline data is an essential component for a permit application,” stated Division Director Bill Brancard. “Any timely public comments on the plan will be provided to the applicant to assist in their preparation of a permit application.”

A sampling and analysis plan will guide the collection of baseline data on climate, air quality, vegetation, topsoil, topography, wildlife, cultural values, geology, surface and groundwater, and other environmental parameters related to the site. The baseline data must be included in any application for a new mining operation.

The plan may be reviewed or obtained at the address listed below or on the MMD website at <http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/MMD/index.htm>. On this page, under **Hot Topics**, located on the right side of the screen, click on *Mine Act Reclamation Program Pending Permit Applications*, then *Pending Mine Applications, Regular New*. Additionally, a copy of the plan is available for viewing at:

NMSU Branch Library
1500 N 3rd St
Grants, NM 87020

Anyone interested in providing comments on the plan should do so by **May 29, 2009**, by mailing written comments to the Mining and Minerals Division at:

Energy Minerals and Natural Resources Department
Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Dr.
Santa Fe, NM 87505
Attention: Division Director
Phone: 505.476.3400 Fax: 505.476.3402

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The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department provides resource protection and renewable energy resource development services to the public and other state agencies.

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