



New Mexico Wilderness Alliance

June 11, 2019

Mr. Fernando Martinez
New Mexico Energy, Mineral, and Natural Resources Department
Mining and Minerals Division
1220 St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Sent via certified mail and electronic mail

Mr. Martinez:

I write to formally request a public hearing on the application to conduct exploratory drilling operations southwest of Tererro, New Mexico, submitted June 3, 2019, by Comexico, a wholly owned subsidiary of New World Cobalt Ltd. The people of New Mexico have an interest in protecting this area from mining operations and deserve to be a part of the process.

The New Mexico Wilderness Alliance is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection, restoration, and continued enjoyment of New Mexico's wildlands and wilderness areas, with members who live and/or recreate in the area proposed for exploratory drilling. We have been heavily involved in efforts to protect the roadless areas surrounding the Pecos Wilderness for many years.

New World Cobalt Ltd.'s website states that the intended trajectory of this project is to conduct mining operations across 4,300 acres of land, should their claims prove to be economically viable. Development of a project this large could have disastrous impacts on the area's water, endangered species, recreational opportunities, roadless character, and more.

The Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD) must conduct a public hearing on this permit application prior to making its decision. 19.10.9.904 NMAC ("If a hearing is timely requested, the Director shall set a hearing unless the request is clearly frivolous."). This must be done to ensure that the public is heard, their concerns are incorporated into any conditions placed upon Comexico by EMNRD, and safeguards are in place to protect the people, wildlife, plants, and land under threat from even minimal surface disturbing activities like exploratory drilling.



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Respectfully submitted,

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