

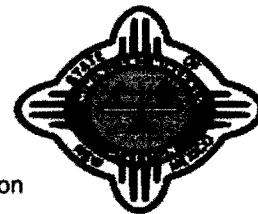
New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

Susana Martinez
Governor

John H. Bemis
Cabinet Secretary-Designate

Brett F. Woods, Ph.D.
Deputy Cabinet Secretary

Fernando Martinez
Division Director
Mining and Minerals Division



December 12, 2011

Governor Randall Vicente
Pueblo of Acoma
P.O. Box 309
Acoma, NM 87034

**RE: Notice of Intent to Approve Permit Revision 10-1, Standby Status Renewal,
Mount Taylor Mine, Permit No. CI002RE**

Dear Governor Vicente,

On July 22, 2010, the Mining and Minerals Division ("MMD") of the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department notified the Pueblo of Acoma about an application from Rio Grande Resources Corporation ("RGR") for renewal of standby status for the Mount Taylor Mine under 19.10.7 of the New Mexico Mining Act (NMSA 1978, §69-36-1 et seq.).

The application and supporting documents for renewal of standby status for the Mount Taylor Mine may be viewed by visiting the MMD web site at the following location:

<http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/MMD/MARP/permits/CI002RE.htm>

MMD is notifying all relevant tribes and pueblos that RGR has satisfied all of our regulatory requirements and that we are prepared to approve the renewal of standby status. MMD is providing another opportunity for tribal input, however, before taking final action.

Governor Vicente, we received your letter, dated August 17, 2011, wherein you provided comments as part of the record of the public hearing that was held by MMD in Grants, NM. During the public hearing, MMD heard testimony given by Mr. Gilbert Petuche of your staff. However, we would like to provide you with a final opportunity to provide us with comments on the Mount Taylor Mine standby status renewal. Please contact me within the next 10 days with any questions or comments on this permitting action. We are also aware that you have recently expressed concern regarding the permitting of other uranium exploration and mining operations in your area. Please



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Taylor Mine, Permit No. CI002RE

December 12, 2011

Page 2

contact me, and I will be most willing to arrange a meeting or teleconference with you, as you prefer, to discuss these issues. It is important that we have your input on matters that are of concern to you and to the Pueblo of Acoma. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fernando Martinez", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Fernando Martinez, Director
Mining and Minerals Division

cc: Holland Shepherd, Manager, Mining Act Reclamation Program ("MARF")
David Otori, Permit Lead, MARF
Mine File (CI002RE)