

City of Bayard

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April 22, 2013

Pam Castaneda, Administrator
New Mexico Environment Department
1190 S. St. Francis Drive, N2153
PO Box 5469
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

Dear Ms. Castaneda,

The City of Bayard would like to submit this letter of support for the "Proposed Copper Rules" being proposed to the Water Quality Control Commission. We feel the proposed rule will provide a stable regulatory framework that will improve New Mexico's ability to attract new mining investments and create the crucial jobs that we depend on for our rural southwest New Mexico communities.

These new rules replace an inconsistent system for protecting ground water, which is subject to various interpretations by regulators, inspectors and the industry. The new criteria provide more clarity, transparency and accountability around ground water protection by operators of copper mines.

These new regulations have two critical benefits: First of all, they require new and expanded facilities equipped with technologies that will protect ground water, rigorous criteria for closing a mine to minimize ground water impacts, and revised engineering design requirements for waste rock, stockpiles, tanks, pipelines and impoundments, so the Proposed Copper Rules will be a great step forward in environmental protection, regulation and enforcement.

Secondly, New Mexico's copper mining industry is a significant contributor to the state's economy, creating \$326 million in economic impact in 2011 that supported 4c328 New Mexican jobs. The Proposed Copper Rules will allow mining companies to better plan and invest in future operations, a critical step for economic development and job creation in several southern New Mexico communities.

We thank you for your efforts with this endeavor.

Sincerely,


Charles L. Kelly
Mayor