



Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1028, Silver City, NM 88062

3130 Hwy 180 E, Suite C, Silver City, NM 88061

575-538-3785

[www.silvercity.org](http://www.silvercity.org)

April 22, 2013

Pam Castaneda, Administrator  
New Mexico Environment Department  
1190 S. St. Francis Drive, N2153  
P.O. Box 5469 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502  
E-mail: [Pam.Castaneda@state.nm.us](mailto:Pam.Castaneda@state.nm.us)  
Fax Number: (505) 827-0310

RE: In the Matter of Proposed Amendment to 20.6.2 NMAC (Copper Rule),

WQCC No. 12-01 (R)

Dear Ms. Castaneda:

The Silver City - Grant County Chamber of Commerce submits this written public comment on the proposed copper rules in accordance with 303.B of the Procedural Order in this matter. This public comment is based upon a review of the proposed copper rules and discussions with members involved with and impacted by the copper mining industry.

The Silver City - Grant County Chamber of Commerce has a vested interest in rules and regulations that effect industries in our surrounding communities. Since copper mining is the economic engine in Grant County, we have a keen interest in the proposed rules and their impacts on our community.

It is our understanding that Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold, Inc. will introduce specific numbers during the hearing process setting forth the economic impacts of copper mining in Grant County; therefore, we will not reiterate this information. Nevertheless, the Chamber of Commerce cannot stress enough that copper mining is critical to the economic welfare of our communities, businesses, and citizens.

Copper mining has a long history in our part of the state, as it has been a part of our culture and communities for more than a century. Consequently, many of us are proud of the economic development opportunities created by those companies that mine copper. The employees of the copper mining industry are our neighbors, friends, relatives, colleagues, and customers. We drink the same water, appreciate the same scenery, and enjoy the same benefits of our natural resources.

In our opinion, the proposed copper rules represent an important step to retaining and hopefully promoting investments in the copper mining industry. The proposed rules do so by specifying measures to be taken to prevent water pollution and monitor water quality, and they provide copper mining companies with the necessary regulatory stability to keep their operations going in our communities. As a result of a predictable and fair regulatory framework, the employees of mining companies and the businesses relying on such economic activity greatly benefit.

For these reasons and many more, we support the proposed rules as developed by the New Mexico Environment Department and as supported by the copper mining industry. When

all of the rhetoric is set aside, the proposed copper rules represent the future of our communities. Therefore, the Silver City - Grant County Chamber of Commerce encourages the Water Quality Control Commission to carefully consider the proposed copper rules and weigh the importance of the economic activity to Grant County.

Sincerely,

Trent Petty, President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Trent Petty', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive.

Grant County Chamber of Commerce