

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 6
Public Notice of Draft Permit, Public Meeting and Public Hearing**

June 29, 2013

This is to give notice that the EPA, Region 6, has formulated a Draft Permit for the following facility under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). Development of the draft permit was based on a preliminary staff review by EPA, Region 6, and consultation with the State of New Mexico. The State of New Mexico is currently reviewing the draft permit. The permit will become effective no sooner than 30 days after the close of the comment period unless:

- A. The State of New Mexico denies certification, or requests an extension for certification prior to that date.
- B. Comments received by August 13, 2013, in accordance with §124.20, warrant a public notice of EPA's final permit decision.
- C. A public hearing is held requiring delay of the effective date.

EPA contact person for submitting written comments, requesting information regarding the draft permit, public hearing, and/or obtaining copies of the draft permit and fact sheet is:

**Ms. Diane Smith
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
Planning and Analysis Branch (6WQ-NP)
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, TX 75202-2733
(214) 665-2145
smith.diane@epa.gov**

EPA comments and public hearing procedures may be found at 40 CFR Parts 124.10 and 124.12 (48 Federal Register 1426, April 1, 1983, as amended at 49 Federal Register 38051, September 26, 1984).

EPA will notify the applicant and each person who has submitted comments or requested notice of the final permit decision. A final permit decision means a final decision to issue, deny, modify, revoke or reissue, or terminate a permit. Any person who filed comments on or participated in a public hearing on the draft permit may appeal the Agency's final permit decision. However, the request must be submitted within 30 days of the date of the final permit decision and be in accordance with the requirements of 40 CFR 124.19.

The administrative record, containing all documents relating to the permit may be viewed at the above address between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through

Friday, except holidays. It is recommended that you write or call to the contact above for an appointment, so the record(s) will be available at your convenience.

The draft permit is available on the New Mexico NPDES Public Notices website at: <http://www.epa.gov/region6/water/npdes/publicnotices/nm/nmdraft.htm>

**AUTHORIZATION TO DISCHARGE TO WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES,
NPDES PERMIT NO. NM0022306.**

The applicant's mailing address is:

Chevron Mining Inc. – Questa Mine
P.O. Box 469
Questa, NM 87556

Under the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) Code(s) 1061, the applicant currently operates a mine and mill producing molybdenum disulfide. Operations at this molybdenum mine located near Questa, in Taos County, New Mexico. The discharge(s) are to receiving water(s) named the Red River, in Waterbody Segment Code No. 20.6.4.122 of the Rio Grande Basin.

Significant changes from the permit previously issued August 29, 2006, with an effective date of October 1, 2006, and an expiration date of September 30, 2011, are:

- A. Eliminated previous Outfall 001;
- B. Revised water quality-based limits at Outfalls 002, 004 and 005 to be consistent with the current NMWQS; and
- C. Added new Outfall 001 to authorize discharges of treated milling waste stream, mine drainage, and captured mine seepages.

PUBLIC HEARING INFORMATION: This is to give notice that the Regional Administrator of the EPA, Region 6, or Presiding Officer designated by him, will conduct a public hearing on the draft NPDES permit. There will be an informal public meeting which will include a presentation on the proposed permit and a question and answer session starting at 6:00 p.m. and the public hearing for public comments (written comments also accepted through end of comment period) will be starting at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, July 31, 2013, at the location below:

Questa VFW Post 7688
2597 Highway 522
Questa, NM 87556

Registration for the hearing will be thirty (30) minutes before the start of the hearing. Any person requiring special arrangements should notify EPA through the contact person listed above within ten (10) days of receipt of this notice so arrangements can be made to provide assistance to them.

State Certification

This Notice also serves as Public Notice of the intent of the New Mexico Environment Department, Surface Water Quality Bureau to consider issuing Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 401 Certification. The purpose of such certification is to reasonably ensure that the permitted activities will be conducted in a manner that will comply with applicable New Mexico water quality standards, including the antidegradation policy, and the statewide water quality management plan. The NPDES permit will not be issued until the certification requirements of Section 401 have been met.

If you want to comment on State Certification submit written comments within the 45 day period to:

**Bruce Yurdin
Manager, Point Source Regulation Section
Surface Water Quality Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
P.O. Box 5469
1190 Saint Francis Drive
Santa Fe, NM 87502-5469
Phone (505) 827-2795
Fax (505) 827-0160
bruce.yurdin@state.nm.us**