

NPDES authorization to discharge to waters of the United States, Permit No. NM0031101

The applicant's mailing address is:

New Mexico Copper Corporation
Copper Flat Production Well Field
2425 San Pedro NE, Suite 100
Albuquerque, NM 87110

Under the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) Code 1021, this category includes establishments primarily engaged in mining, milling, or otherwise preparing copper ores including operations primarily engaged in the recovery of copper concentrates by precipitation and leaching of copper ore. The New Mexico Copper Corporation is planning on discharging groundwater to evaluate the impact of water well withdrawals on existing wells and to evaluate the feasibility of appropriate water volume for a planned copper mine. The draft permit is not for any operation relating to the actual operation of a copper mine. Based on information in the NPDES application, the discharge will be for approximately 12 days and will pump at a daily rate up to 3.0 million gallons per day for a total withdrawal of approximately 48 million gallons total.

The discharge from the well tests will be to Greyback Arroyo, thence to Greenhorn Arroyo thence to Caballo Reservoir in stream segment 20.6.4.98. The designated uses for Rio Grande Basin Segment No. 20.6.5.98, New Mexico Administrative Code (NMAC) are livestock watering, wildlife habitat, primary contact and marginal warmwater aquatic life.

Outfall 001 Latitude 32° 57' 42" North, Longitude 107° 22' 22" West

This is a first time permit.

A fact sheet is available.

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 30 day period to:

Bureau Chief
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
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