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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **Mining and Minerals Division approves updated Closure Closeout Plan for Tyrone Mine**

**SANTA FE, NM** –The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD) Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) recently approved a major permit revision, the Closure Closeout Plan (CCP), for the Tyrone Mine in Grant County. The mine is a large open pit copper mining operation operated by Freeport-McMoRan Inc. (FMI). The CCP addresses actions FMI must take to address environmental impacts caused during mining and reclamation required after mining has ceased. While the mine has no plans to cease operations in the foreseeable future, updating the Closure Closeout Plan, in partnership with FMI and with public input, on a routine basis is an important part of EMNRD’s regulatory oversight responsibilities.

The approval of the Tyrone Mine permit revision marks the culmination of efforts to update, consolidate, and revise permits and financial assurance at the three mining operations in Grant County operated by FMI: The Continental Mine, Chino Mine, and Tyrone Mine. The mines are regulated under the permitting authority of the New Mexico Mining Act of 1993. All three mines received updated financial assurance for reclamation based on revised permits and closeout plans following 12 months of work in collaboration with the New Mexico Environment Department, other state, federal regulatory agencies, the public, and FMI. The permits regulate environment impacts and eventual reclamation at the mines.

“Approval of the updated Closure Closeout Plan for the Continental, Chino, and Tyrone Mines shows how collaboration and concentrated effort can result in a successful outcome for the community, regulatory agencies, and the mine operator,” said EMNRD Cabinet Secretary Sarah Cottrell Propst.

The total financial assurance held by New Mexico for these three mines is just over \$435 million. The Mining Act requires mine operators to put in place financial assurance to address the cost of reclamation once mining ceases and is an integral component of the revision approval. Financial assurance ensures that adequate funding is available to complete required reclamation while eliminating the state’s liability.

The recently passed Mining Act Forfeiture Fund Act provides the state with the necessary tools to accept and manage these funds in the event of forfeiture of financial assurance from a mine operator, which will protect New Mexico’s human health and environment.

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*The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department provides resource protection and renewable energy resource development services to the public and other state agencies.*

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