

Ochoa Mine Project EIS Scoping Summary Report

List of Acronyms

BLM	Bureau of Land Management
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
EIS	environmental impact statement
EO	Executive Order
ICP	Intercontinental Potash Corporation (USA)
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NOI	Notice of Intent

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1.0 Introduction

Two primary principles of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) are full disclosure of potential environmental effects and open public participation throughout the decision-making process. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Ochoa Mine Project in southeast New Mexico. The BLM is the lead agency, and to date, two government agencies and two municipalities have expressed interest in participating as a cooperating agency. The Scoping Summary Report provides an overview of the public scoping process and a summary of scoping comments and the issues and concerns identified.

1.1 Description of the Proposed Project

Intercontinental Potash Corporation (USA) (ICP) is proposing to produce the fertilizer, sulfate of potash, from mine polyhalite ore. Sulfate of potash production involves two separate operations. The first operation is to mine raw polyhalite approximately 1,500 feet underground in the Rustler formation. Once mined, the polyhalite is hoisted to the surface, crushed, calcined, leached, and granulated to produce sulfate of potash, the saleable product. The final product will be moved by truck to a load-out facility near Jal, New Mexico, where it will be loaded on trains and shipped. The proposed Ochoa Mine Project is located in the southwestern portion of Lea County, New Mexico.

The proposed project is located on land managed by the BLM. The BLM Carlsbad Field Office has determined that an EIS is required to analyze the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project before the agency makes a decision on whether to allow the proposed project to proceed. The EIS will be prepared under the guidance of the BLM Carlsbad Field Office as the lead agency and decision-maker.

1.2 Purpose of Scoping

Scoping is the process of actively soliciting input from the public and other interested federal, state, tribal, and local agencies. Information received during scoping assists the BLM in identifying potential environmental issues, alternatives, and mitigation measures associated with development of the proposed project. The process provides a mechanism for determining the scope and the significant issues (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1501.7 and CFR 1508.25) so that the EIS can focus the analyses on areas of interest and concern. Therefore, public participation during the scoping period is a vital component to preparing a comprehensive and sound NEPA document. Scoping provides the public, tribes, and agencies opportunities for meaningful involvement in the decision-making process.

BLM's overall scoping goal for the Ochoa Mine Project is to engage a diverse group of public and agency participants in the NEPA process, solicit relevant input, and provide timely information through the duration of the project. Six specific key objectives were established in the project's Public Participation Plan and are provided below:

1. Develop a consistent, meaningful, and coordinated approach to external and internal communication themes and outreach strategies.
2. Educate the public and key stakeholders about the proposed Project.
3. Increase public awareness and understanding of the NEPA process.
4. Identify the public's concerns so they can be addressed in the EIS.
5. Effectively communicate, cooperate, and consult with Native American tribes, federal and state agencies, and local elected and appointed officials.
6. Evaluate the success of the communications and public participation activities to identify whether additional outreach activities are needed.

2.0 Summary of Scoping Meetings and Comments

2.1 Notification

The initial step in the NEPA process is to notify the public, other government agencies, and tribes of the lead agency's intent to prepare an EIS by publishing the Notice of intent (NOI) in the *Federal Register*. The NOI for the Ochoa Mine Project was published in the *Federal Register* on January 4, 2012, and included a project description and BLM contact information. In addition, the BLM published the first project Bulletin and distributed to approximately 300 interested parties including federal, state, and local agencies and governments on January 5, 2012 via U.S. Postal Service and email. A Public Service Announcement was prepared and submitted on January 13, 2012 to Carlsbad and Hobbs Community Television Channels as well as Carlsbad radio stations for broadcasting. Notification materials are provided in **Appendix A**.

Display advertisements were placed in local newspapers (**Table 2-1**) announcing the upcoming scoping meetings and information about meeting dates, times, and locations.

Table 2-1 Newspaper Notification

Newspaper	Dates Published
<i>Carlsbad Current-Argus</i>	January 13, January 20, 2012
<i>Hobbs News-Sun</i>	January 13, January 20, 2012

A project website was developed and available for public access on January 3, 2012. Scoping information was posted to the website on January 16, 2012 for public review.

2.1.1 Consultation and Coordination with Federal, State, and Local Governments

Specific regulations require BLM to coordinate and consult with federal, state, and local agencies about the potential of the proposed project and alternatives to affect sensitive resources. The coordination and consultation must occur in a timely manner and is required before any final decisions are made. Issues related to agency consultation may include biological resources, cultural resources, socioeconomics, and land and water management. Biological resource consultations apply to the potential for activities to disturb sensitive species or habitats. The BLM has initiated these coordination and consultation activities during the scoping process. To-date, two federal agencies and two municipalities have expressed interest in participating as a cooperating agency on the Ochoa Mine Project; no Memoranda of Understanding have been signed. A copy of the agency letter inviting participation in the Ochoa Mine Project EIS as a cooperating agency is provided in **Appendix A**.

2.1.2 Tribal Government-to-Government Consultation

Federal agencies are responsible for compliance with a host of laws, Executive Orders (EOs) and Memoranda, treaties, departmental policies, and other mandates regarding their legal relationships with and responsibilities to Native Americans. The government-to-government relationship that the U.S. has with federally recognized Indian Tribes started with the Commerce Clause of the U.S. Constitution where Tribes were recognized as sovereign nations, and has continued in federal laws and policies including but not limited to the National Historic Preservation Act, NEPA, Archaeological Resources Protection Act, American Indian Religious Freedom Act, Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act, and EOs 12875, 12898, 13077, and 13175. Compliance with this body of law requires consultation with Tribes on the effects of proposed actions. Under EO 13175, federal agencies are required to establish regular and meaningful consultation and collaboration with Native American tribal governments on the

issuance of permits that could significantly or uniquely affect their communities and/or their traditional territories.

The BLM –Carlsbad Field Office contacted the following tribes on November 16, 2011, notifying them about the proposed Ochoa Mine Project:

- Mescalero Apache Tribe
- Apache Tribe of Oklahoma
- Comanche Indian Tribe
- Pueblo of Isleta
- Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma
- Ysleta del Sur Pueblo
- Hopi Tribal Council

A copy of the tribal consultation letter for the Ochoa Mine Project EIS is provided in **Appendix A**.

To date, BLM has received a response from the Comanche Indian Tribe. The Tribe responded that “no properties” of prehistoric and historic cultural heritage to the Comanche Indian Tribe would be affected by the proposed Project.

2.2 Scoping Meetings

Public scoping meetings offer an opportunity for public involvement during the scoping period. The meetings are designed to promote information exchange about the proposed project and to gather public input. BLM hosted three public scoping meetings for the Ochoa Mine Project. The dates, times, location, and number of public attendees at the scoping meetings are provided in **Table 2-2**.

Table 2-2 Scoping Meetings

Meeting Location	Meeting Date/Time	Number of Attendees
Carlsbad, New Mexico	January 23/4:00 pm – 7:00 pm	42
Jal, New Mexico	January 24/10:00 am – 1:00 pm	31
Hobbs, New Mexico	January 24/4:00 pm – 7:00 pm	16

The scoping meetings were conducted in a semi-open house format. BLM’s NEPA Contractor provided an overview of the proposed project and a description of the NEPA process in a formal presentation to the public. The presentation was given to ensure meeting attendees were well informed about the project. Following the presentation, an informal open house was conducted to allow meeting attendees the opportunity to ask BLM representatives, the Project applicant, and the NEPA contractor questions. BLM representatives manned resource informational stations (e.g., biology, oil and gas, realty, cultural, etc.) to receive public input and answer questions about a specific resource. Display boards showing the NEPA process and maps of the proposed project were provided to facilitate discussion. BLM’s Bulletin, which provided information about the project, the schedule, scoping, and the NEPA process were available to hand out at the scoping meetings.

Attendees were encouraged to submit their comments in writing. Comment forms were available for the public to complete and submit to BLM at the meeting, or for mailing to the BLM at a later date. Informational materials presented to the public at the scoping meetings are provided in **Appendix B**.

2.3 Summary of Scoping Comments

BLM received a total of 21 comment submittals (e.g., letter, comment form, verbal comments) containing 125 individual comments during the public scoping period. Following the close of the 30-day public scoping period, comments were compiled and analyzed to identify issues and concerns. Each comment was identified, reviewed, and entered into an electronic database. As comments were entered, contact information for the commenter was added, or updated, to the project mailing list to ensure that all interested parties would receive information throughout the EIS process.

Once the individual comments were compiled in the database, reports were generated categorizing the issues by topic (e.g., NEPA process, alternatives, cumulative impacts, etc., and/or resource (e.g., biology, soils, visual, etc.). The summary reports were reviewed to identify data entry errors and eliminate duplication. A comprehensive list of scoping comments was sorted by category/topic and is presented in **Appendix C**. Some of the scoping comments were eliminated from consideration in the EIS because they addressed issues outside the scope of detailed analyses or the comment stated an opinion.

3.0 Identification of Issues

Information gained during scoping assists BLM in identifying the potential environmental issues, alternatives, and mitigation measures associated with developing the proposed project. The process provides a mechanism for narrowing the scope of issues so that the EIS can focus the analysis on areas of high interest and concern. A majority of the comments were related concerns about future access to potential development of fluid minerals (e.g. oil and gas) and potential drawdown effects to water resources and wells in the area. The public was supportive of the proposed project because development would bring economic benefits to the area. .

The number of comments by category is provided in **Table 3-1**. Some of the comments were assigned to more than one category, so they are counted more than once in the table total of 216 comments. A comprehensive list of the scoping comments is provided in **Appendix C**.

Table 3-1 Comments Received by Category

Category Name	Number of Comments
Air Quality	9
Cultural Resources	2
Cumulative Impacts	1
Environmental Justice	1
Geology	4
Health/Safety	10
Land Ownership/Adjustment	1
Leasing	5
Livestock Grazing/Range Management	4
Mitigation Measures	9
NEPA Process	13
Noise	1
Oil and Gas	32
Permits/Special Uses	2
Project Description	17
Project Support	14
Public Involvement	3
Realty/Land Use	13
Reclamation	2
Socioeconomics	20
Soils	2
Special Designations	1
Subsidence	9

Table 3-1 Comments Received by Category

Category Name	Number of Comments
Surface Disturbance	1
Threatened & Endangered Species	2
Travel Management	6
Vegetation/Botany	2
Visual/Scenic Resources	1
Water Resources	20
Wildlife	9
Total	216

After evaluating the comments received during the scoping period, a few key issues emerged. Following is a summary of the primary public concerns about the Ochoa Mine Project.

3.1 Air Quality

The majority of the comments were related the types and quantity of emissions would be generated by the project, and whether the emissions would pose any risk or create odors. Additional comments touched on the need for dust control and the use of low emissions equipment.

3.2 Health and Safety

Health and safety concerns included the potential for radiation in the mined substrate, water contamination, and the risk to existing gas pipelines. Noise from the plant, dust from the tailings pile, and concerns about safe compatibility with nearby multiple uses were also noted.

3.3 Oil and Gas

Some comment letters were submitted by oil and gas operators. Concerns about impacts from the mine development included the effects from subsidence, the potential for impacts to existing and future oil and gas operations as well as access to oil and gas leases in the project area, in addition to possible impacts on pipelines and roads.

3.4 Livestock Grazing and Range Management

Comments were focused on effects to grazing and range health from gypsum eroding off the tailings pile and onto nearby rangeland, as well as possible adverse impacts to water tanks for livestock use. The possibility of compensatory mitigation for the loss of high-quality rangeland was raised.

3.5 Water Resources

Comments regarding water resources ranged from the potential contamination of potable water from surface ponds at the plant facility site to the disruption of livestock watering distribution systems. Additional comments focused on the potential effects to the water table, disposal of waste water, and the location and depth of the water wells to serve the processing operations.

3.6 Wildlife

Wildlife comments focused on the need to perform the necessary wildlife surveys, limit trenching operations to October through March to minimize adverse impacts to wildlife, the effect of the plant facilities on lesser prairie-chicken habitat and migratory bird species, as well as the need to consult with the appropriate state and federal agencies.

3.7 Socioeconomics

Comments regarding socioeconomics included widespread support for the project in the community. Many comments identified a potentially beneficial impact to jobs and the local economy from project development. Some comments also touched on the possible decrease in value for ranches near the plant facilities, as well as the adverse economic impact that may result from the possible disruption of ranching activities.

4.0 Potential Alternatives

One of the objectives of scoping is to identify alternatives to the applicant's proposed project for evaluation in the EIS. In the NEPA process, the first step in developing alternatives to be analyzed in detail is to identify possible options that are different from the proponent's proposal, or Proposed Action, then to screen out actions that do not meet the decision-maker's purpose and need statement. Potential alternatives to the Proposed Action must be "feasible" and "reasonable" based on technical, economic, and environmental factors. Alternatives or options that were eliminated from detailed evaluation will be discussed in the EIS including the reasons for elimination.

Two alternatives were presented to BLM during the public scoping period for evaluation in the EIS.

- A landowner, whose ranching business and home could be affected by project development, proposed a new location for the plant processing facilities that is further away from his ranch headquarters. He expressed concerns about the visibility of the tailings pile and plant facilities, noise generated from mining construction and operations, as well as the loss of access to rangeland and water resources for livestock. The proposed alternative siting of the plant facilities would involve a land exchange of state and private lands to the BLM.
- A second alternative brought before BLM during public scoping was to convert the underground mine to a storage facility for hazardous or radioactive waste at the end of the mine's life.

5.0 Activities Following Scoping

The NEPA process provides numerous opportunities for public input. Following the scoping period, the Draft EIS will be prepared incorporating information received from the public during the scoping period. Once the Draft EIS is completed, BLM will publish and distribute the document for public review. During the review period, the public can comment on key issues and the adequacy of the purpose and need, alternatives analysis, and proposed mitigation presented in the Draft EIS. Public meetings will take place to allow the public to formally present their comments. **Figure 5-1** identifies additional opportunities and the anticipated schedule for the public to provide their input and participate in the EIS environmental review process.



Figure 5-1 Anticipated Project Schedule and Opportunities for Participation

Appendix A

Notification and Consultation

Ochoa Mine Project PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS



The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) invites the public to review a proposal from Intercontinental Potash Corporation (USA) to construct and operate a potash mine in Lea County, New Mexico. You are invited to attend open house meetings hosted by the BLM Carlsbad to learn more about the proposed project and to provide your comments.

When? Monday, January 23, 2012
4:00 to 7:00 PM (Carlsbad)

Tuesday, January 24, 2012
10:00 AM to 1:00 PM (Jal)

Tuesday, January 24, 2012
4:00 to 7:00 PM (Hobbs)

**Carlsbad
Location** Pecos River Village
Conference Center
711 Muscatel Drive
Carlsbad, NM

**Jal
Location** Jal Community Center
109 West Panther
Jal, NM

**Hobbs
Location** New Mexico Junior College
Training and Outreach
Facility, Room 122A-B
5317 North Lovington Hwy.
Hobbs, NM

Need more information? Contact:

Ochoa Mine EIS Project Lead
BLM Carlsbad Field Office
620 East Greene Street
Carlsbad, NM 88220
(575) 234-5972

Email: blm_nm_cfo_comments@blm.gov

Website: <http://www.nm.blm.gov/cfo/ochoaMine/>

Bureau of Land Management
620 East Greene Street
Carlsbad, NM 88220

Scoping Meetings

THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT IS HOSTING THREE PUBLIC MEETINGS IN YOUR AREA. INTERCONTINENTAL POTASH CORPORATION (USA) IS PROPOSING TO CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE A NEW POTASH MINING OPERATION 30 MILES SOUTHEAST OF CARLSBAD, 15 MILES NORTHWEST OF JAL IN LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO. THE BLM HAS DETERMINED THAT AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT IS NECESSARY.

YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND THE SCOPING MEETINGS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PROPOSED PROJECT AND PROVIDE YOUR COMMENTS.

THE FIRST PUBLIC MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, JANUARY 23th IN CARLSBAD AT THE PECOS RIVER VILLAGE CONFERENCE CENTER FROM 4:00 PM TO 7:00 P.M.

THE SECOND PUBLIC MEETING WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 24th IN JAL AT THE JAL COMMUNITY CENTER FROM 10:00 AM TO 1:00 P.M.

THE THIRD PUBLIC MEETING WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 24th IN HOBBS AT THE NEW MEXICO JUNIOR COLLEGE TRAINING AND OUTREACH FACILITY ROOM 122A-B FROM 4:00 PM TO 7:00 P.M.

FOR MORE INFORMATION YOU MAY CONTACT THE BLM CARLSBAD FIELD OFFICE AT (575) 234-5972.

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Please Join Us!

Public Scoping Meetings

Date/Time: January 23, 2012 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Location: Pecos River Village Conference Center, 711 Muscatel Drive, Carlsbad, NM

Date/Time: January 24, 2012 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Location: Jal Community Center, 109 W Panther Avenue, Jal, NM

Date/Time: January 24, 2012 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Location: Hobbs, NM (please check the project website or Hobbs News-Sun for location)

Need more information?

Ochoa Mine Project EIS Lead
BLM Carlsbad Field Office
620 East Greene St.
Carlsbad, NM 88220
(575) 234-5972
Email: blm_nm_cfo_comments@blm.gov
Website: <http://www.nm.blm.gov/cfo/ochoaMine/>



Return to:

BLM Carlsbad Field Office
620 East Greene Street
Carlsbad, NM 88220

Ochoa Mine Project Environmental Impact Statement



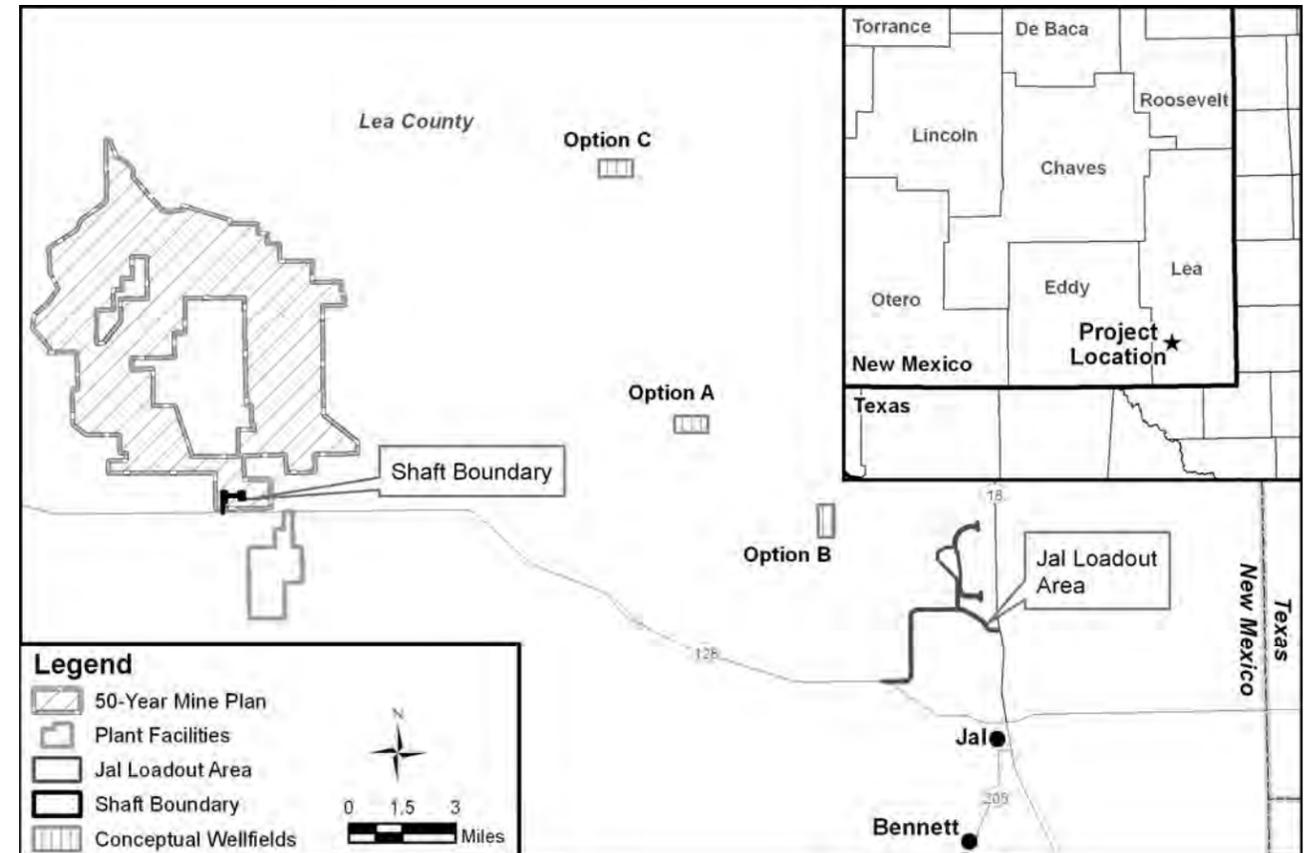
Bulletin #1

What is the Ochoa Potash Mine Project?

Intercontinental Potash Corporation (USA) (ICP) is proposing to develop a new mine in southern Lea County, New Mexico, to extract polyhalite ore for the production of the sulfate of potash (SOP) for use as fertilizer. The proposed project is located on land managed by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The BLM Carlsbad Field Office has determined that an environmental impact statement (EIS) is required to analyze the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project before the agency makes a decision on whether to allow the proposed project to proceed. The EIS will be prepared under the guidance of the BLM Carlsbad Field Office as the lead agency and decision-maker.

There are two primary operations to get the ore to a finished fertilizer product. The first operation is to mine raw polyhalite approximately 1,500 feet underground in the Rustler Formation. Once mined, the polyhalite is hoisted to the surface and transported to the processing facilities where it is crushed, calcined, leached, and granulated to produce SOP, the saleable product. The final product would be moved by truck to a load-out facility near Jal, New Mexico, to be loaded on trains and shipped to distributors selling to farmers.

ICP submitted a proposed Mine Plan of Operations to the BLM to extract polyhalite ore for the next 50 years. The total water demand for the Ochoa Project is projected to be approximately 2,000 gallons per minute supplied by deep, non-potable, brackish water from the Capitan Aquifer. The source of the water would be one of the three well fields shown in the map below.





How will the EIS be prepared?

Under the requirements of the federal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, an EIS is prepared for major federal actions that may have a significant effect on the environment. The federal lead agency with jurisdiction over the project (in this case, the BLM) is responsible for the preparation of the EIS. The EIS will assess and document the potential environmental, cultural, social, economic, and other effects of the proposed project.

The BLM has elected to use a contractor to prepare this EIS, a practice commonly used by the BLM and other federal agencies. Under this process, a private contractor is selected by the lead agency (BLM) to prepare the document under the direction of the lead agency and in compliance with agency policies and guidelines.

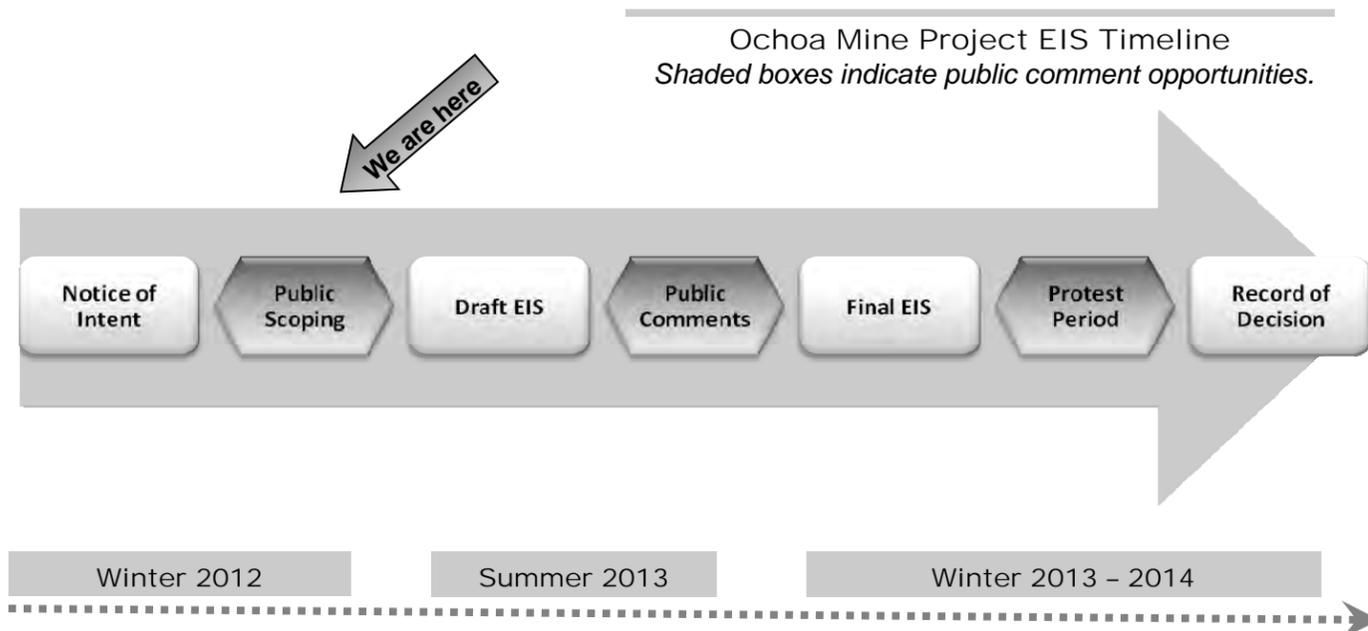
The BLM will directly supervise the contractor to ensure that the EIS is consistent with NEPA and its implementing regulations. Furthermore, the BLM is responsible for final acceptance of the Draft and Final EIS and the Record of Decision, which will be signed by the authorized BLM representative.

How can I be involved in the EIS process?

Public participation is a key component to preparing a sound NEPA document. Attend the scoping meetings scheduled for your area to learn more about the project. The meetings will provide the opportunity to ask questions, express any concerns, and submit your comments. At the meeting, be sure to sign in and request to have your contact information placed on the project mailing list. You may also **submit comments and request to be added to the mailing list using the comment form enclosed with this Bulletin**. This will ensure that you are kept up-to-date on project activities and will receive notices about future ways to provide input.

You are encouraged to participate and provide comments during the public review period of the Draft EIS. If you are on the mailing list, you will be notified when the Draft EIS is completed and available for review.

The EIS Timeline below identifies points in the NEPA process for providing your comments.



What is scoping?

The first step in preparing the EIS is to initiate scoping, a process of introducing the proposed project to the public and soliciting their concerns and comments.

The scoping process begins once a federal lead agency has decided to prepare an EIS and the Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS is published in the *Federal Register*. Scoping is the process of actively acquiring input from the public and other interested federal, state, tribal, and local agencies. Information gained during scoping assist the federal agency in identifying potential environmental issues, alternatives, and mitigation measures associated with development of the proposed project. The process provides a mechanism for narrowing the scope of issues, so that the EIS can focus the analysis on areas of high interest and concern. Therefore, public participation in the scoping process is a vital component to preparing a sound NEPA document. The scoping process provides the public and agencies opportunities for meaningful involvement in the decision-making process.

Tips for Providing Effective Comments

- Submit your comments on potential impacts and ideas for project alternatives.
- Review the BLM website, monitor local newspapers, attend public meetings, and become familiar with the proposed project.
- Provide substantive and concise written comments.
- Learn about the NEPA process and when in the process agencies will receive comments.
- Keep your comments focused on the specifics of the proposed project under consideration.
- Become familiar with the responsibilities of the federal agency decision-makers.
- Submit your comments within the timeframes announced. This helps the agency include all concerns in the EIS.
- Make sure that you are on the EIS mailing list to receive notification of public meetings and project information.

Your participation is an important part of the decision-making process!





United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Carlsbad Field Office
620 E. Greene St.
Carlsbad, NM 88220-6292



1610 (P0200)

January 20, 2012

Commissioners
Eddy County Commissioners
101 W. Greene Street
Carlsbad, NM 88220

Dear Commissioners,

The Bureau of Land Management's Carlsbad Field Office is initiating an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a new potash mine (the Ochoa Mine Project) proposed by Intercontinental Potash Corp. (USA) (ICP). The proposed Ochoa Mine Project is located about 40 miles east-southeast of Carlsbad, New Mexico, and 20 miles west of Jal, New Mexico (Figure 1). The project is located outside the Secretary's Potash Area (SPA) and SPA management directives will not apply.

ICP proposes to produce the fertilizer sulphate of potash (K_2SO_4) from mined polyhalite ore. K_2SO_4 production involves two separate operations. The first operation is to mine raw polyhalite approximately 1,500 feet underground in the Rustler Formation. Once mined, the polyhalite would be conveyed to the surface, crushed, calcined, leached, and granulated to produce sulphate of potash, the saleable product. The final product will be moved via truck to a load-out facility near Jal, New Mexico, where it will be loaded on trains and shipped. ICP's proposed mine plan includes an underground mine accessed by a shaft and a ramp, and processing facilities including the ore process plant, dry stack tailings pile, evaporation ponds, water wells, pipelines, power lines, and a railroad load out facility in Jal.

The polyhalite will be continuously mined using the conventional room and pillar retreat method. In order to mine in proximity to active oil and gas wells, ICP has elected to follow the rules and regulations of a category IV gassy mine.

Water for the Ochoa Project will be supplied by deep, non-potable, brackish water from the Capitan Aquifer. ICP has proposed three potential well field locations and associated rights-of-way for water-supply pipelines. Up to six production wells will be developed at one of the three sites. Eighteen miles of pipeline will transport the water from the well field to the surface facilities.

The proposed Ochoa Mine project includes approximately 3,117 acres of permanent surface disturbance. The project is expected to provide approximately 750 construction and 450 full time jobs to the local area.

The Notice of Intent for the ICP Ochoa Mine Project was published in the Federal Register in early January 3, 2012. Scoping meetings are scheduled for January 23 and January 24, 2012. The scoping period will run through February 7, 2012 and the EIS is scheduled to be completed in winter 2014.

I invite you and other representatives of the Eddy County Commissioners to become a Cooperating Agency on the EIS. Cooperating Agencies are federal, state, and local agencies and tribal governments that have jurisdiction or special expertise about the issues or the environmental impacts of the project. Your involvement would help us identify issues, design alternatives, and design mitigation measures for the project. Cooperating Agencies have the opportunity to provide input throughout the planning process. If you choose not to participate as a cooperating agency, you will still have the opportunity to provide input on the project during the public scoping and comment periods.

If the Eddy County Commissioners would like to be involved in the planning process as a Cooperating Agency, or if you have questions about the process, please contact David Alderman, the Ochoa Mine Project Manager, at (575) 234-6232, or by email at dalderma@blm.gov.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. We look forward to hearing from you and would like to have your representative participate in the process. If you elect not to become a Cooperating Agency or if you would like to collaborate with us informally, we will keep your name on the mailing list. You can access more information about the planning process at our website www.nm.blm.gov/cfo/ochoaMine.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Stovall", written in a cursive style.

James Stovall
Field Manager



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Carlsbad Field Office
620 E. Greene St.
Carlsbad, NM 88220-6292



1610 (P0200)

January 20, 2012

Commissioners
Chaves County Commission
Attn: Brenda Sanchez
#1 St. Mary's Place
Roswell, NM 88203

Dear Commissioners,

The Bureau of Land Management's Carlsbad Field Office is initiating an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a new potash mine (the Ochoa Mine Project) proposed by Intercontinental Potash Corp. (USA) (ICP). The proposed Ochoa Mine Project is located about 40 miles east-southeast of Carlsbad, New Mexico, and 20 miles west of Jal, New Mexico (Figure 1). The project is located outside the Secretary's Potash Area (SPA) and SPA management directives will not apply.

ICP proposes to produce the fertilizer sulphate of potash (K_2SO_4) from mined polyhalite ore. K_2SO_4 production involves two separate operations. The first operation is to mine raw polyhalite approximately 1,500 feet underground in the Rustler Formation. Once mined, the polyhalite would be conveyed to the surface, crushed, calcined, leached, and granulated to produce sulphate of potash, the saleable product. The final product will be moved via truck to a load-out facility near Jal, New Mexico, where it will be loaded on trains and shipped. ICP's proposed mine plan includes an underground mine accessed by a shaft and a ramp, and processing facilities including the ore process plant, dry stack tailings pile, evaporation ponds, water wells, pipelines, power lines, and a railroad load out facility in Jal.

The polyhalite will be continuously mined using the conventional room and pillar retreat method. In order to mine in proximity to active oil and gas wells, ICP has elected to follow the rules and regulations of a category IV gassy mine.

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The proposed Ochoa Mine project includes approximately 3,117 acres of permanent surface disturbance. The project is expected to provide approximately 750 construction and 450 full time jobs to the local area.

The Notice of Intent for the ICP Ochoa Mine Project was published in the Federal Register in early January 3, 2012. Scoping meetings are scheduled for January 23 and January 24, 2012. The scoping period will run through February 7, 2012 and the EIS is scheduled to be completed in winter 2014.

I invite you and other representatives of the Chaves County Commission to become a Cooperating Agency on the EIS. Cooperating Agencies are federal, state, and local agencies and tribal governments that have jurisdiction or special expertise about the issues or the environmental impacts of the project. Your involvement would help us identify issues, design alternatives, and design mitigation measures for the project. Cooperating Agencies have the opportunity to provide input throughout the planning process. If you choose not to participate as a cooperating agency, you will still have the opportunity to provide input on the project during the public scoping and comment periods.

If the Chaves County Commission would like to be involved in the planning process as a Cooperating Agency, or if you have questions about the process, please contact David Alderman, the Ochoa Mine Project Manager, at (575) 234-6232, or by email at dalderma@blm.gov.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. We look forward to hearing from you and would like to have your representative participate in the process. If you elect not to become a Cooperating Agency or if you would like to collaborate with us informally, we will keep your name on the mailing list. You can access more information about the planning process at our website www.nm.blm.gov/cfo/ochoaMine.

Sincerely,



James Stovall
Field Manager



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Carlsbad Field Office
620 E. Greene St.
Carlsbad, NM 88220-6292



1610 (P0200)

January 20, 2012

Mr. Randy Updike
U.S. Geologic Survey
Rocky Mountain Region
Box 25046
Denver Federal Center, MS 911
Denver, CO 80225

Dear Regional Executive Updike,

The Bureau of Land Management's Carlsbad Field Office is initiating an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a new potash mine (the Ochoa Mine Project) proposed by Intercontinental Potash Corp. (USA) (ICP). The proposed Ochoa Mine Project is located about 40 miles east-southeast of Carlsbad, New Mexico, and 20 miles west of Jal, New Mexico (Figure 1). The project is located outside the Secretary's Potash Area (SPA) and SPA management directives will not apply.

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The proposed Ochoa Mine project includes approximately 3,117 acres of permanent surface disturbance. The project is expected to provide approximately 750 construction and 450 full time jobs to the local area.

The Notice of Intent for the ICP Ochoa Mine Project was published in the Federal Register in early January 3, 2012. Scoping meetings are scheduled for January 23 and January 24, 2012. The scoping period will run through February 7, 2012 and the EIS is scheduled to be completed in winter 2014.

I invite you and other representatives of the U.S. Geologic Survey, Rocky Mountain Region to become a Cooperating Agency on the EIS. Cooperating Agencies are federal, state, and local agencies and tribal governments that have jurisdiction or special expertise about the issues or the environmental impacts of the project. Your involvement would help us identify issues, design alternatives, and design mitigation measures for the project. Cooperating Agencies have the opportunity to provide input throughout the planning process. If you choose not to participate as a cooperating agency, you will still have the opportunity to provide input on the project during the public scoping and comment periods.

If the U.S. Geologic Survey, Rocky Mountain Region would like to be involved in the planning process as a Cooperating Agency, or if you have questions about the process, please contact David Alderman, the Ochoa Mine Project Manager, at (575) 234-6232, or by email at dalderma@blm.gov.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. We look forward to hearing from you and would like to have your representative participate in the process. If you elect not to become a Cooperating Agency or if you would like to collaborate with us informally, we will keep your name on the mailing list. You can access more information about the planning process at our website www.nm.blm.gov/cfo/ochoaMine.

Sincerely,



James Stovall
Field Manager



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Carlsbad Field Office
620 E. Greene St.
Carlsbad, NM 88220-6292



1610 (P0200)

January 20, 2012

Ms. Terra Manasco
New Mexico Department of Game & Fish
Conservation Services Division
P.O. Box 25112
Santa Fe, NM 87504

Dear Assistant Chief Manasco,

The Bureau of Land Management's Carlsbad Field Office is initiating an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a new potash mine (the Ochoa Mine Project) proposed by Intercontinental Potash Corp. (USA) (ICP). The proposed Ochoa Mine Project is located about 40 miles east-southeast of Carlsbad, New Mexico, and 20 miles west of Jal, New Mexico (Figure 1). The project is located outside the Secretary's Potash Area (SPA) and SPA management directives will not apply.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Stovall".

James Stovall
Field Manager



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Carlsbad Field Office
620 E. Greene St.
Carlsbad, NM 88220-6292



1610 (P0200)

January 20, 2012

Mr. Don Martinez
Federal Highway Administration
New Mexico Division
4001 Office Court Drive
Suite #801
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Dear Division Administrator Martinez,

The Bureau of Land Management's Carlsbad Field Office is initiating an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a new potash mine (the Ochoa Mine Project) proposed by Intercontinental Potash Corp. (USA) (ICP). The proposed Ochoa Mine Project is located about 40 miles east-southeast of Carlsbad, New Mexico, and 20 miles west of Jal, New Mexico (Figure 1). The project is located outside the Secretary's Potash Area (SPA) and SPA management directives will not apply.

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If the Federal Highway Administration, New Mexico Division would like to be involved in the planning process as a Cooperating Agency, or if you have questions about the process, please contact David Alderman, the Ochoa Mine Project Manager, at (575) 234-6232, or by email at dalderma@blm.gov.

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Sincerely,



James Stovall
Field Manager



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Carlsbad Field Office
620 E. Greene St.
Carlsbad, NM 88220-6292



1610 (P0200)

January 20, 2012

Mr. John Benjamin
National Park Service
Carlsbad Caverns National Park
3225 National Parks Highway
Carlsbad, NM 88220

Dear Superintendent Benjamin,

The Bureau of Land Management's Carlsbad Field Office is initiating an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a new potash mine (the Ochoa Mine Project) proposed by Intercontinental Potash Corp. (USA) (ICP). The proposed Ochoa Mine Project is located about 40 miles east-southeast of Carlsbad, New Mexico, and 20 miles west of Jal, New Mexico (Figure 1). The project is located outside the Secretary's Potash Area (SPA) and SPA management directives will not apply.

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I invite you and other representatives of the National Park Service, Carlsbad Caverns National Park to become a Cooperating Agency on the EIS. Cooperating Agencies are federal, state, and local agencies and tribal governments that have jurisdiction or special expertise about the issues or the environmental impacts of the project. Your involvement would help us identify issues, design alternatives, and design mitigation measures for the project. Cooperating Agencies have the opportunity to provide input throughout the planning process. If you choose not to participate as a cooperating agency, you will still have the opportunity to provide input on the project during the public scoping and comment periods.

If the National Park Service, Carlsbad Caverns National Park would like to be involved in the planning process as a Cooperating Agency, or if you have questions about the process, please contact David Alderman, the Ochoa Mine Project Manager, at (575) 234-6232, or by email at dalderma@blm.gov.

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Sincerely,

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James Stovall
Field Manager



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Carlsbad Field Office
620 E. Greene St.
Carlsbad, NM 88220-6292



1610 (P0200)

January 20, 2012

Mr. Sam Cata
New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs
Historic Preservation Division
Bataan Memorial Building
407 Galisteo Street, Suite 236
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Director Cata,

The Bureau of Land Management's Carlsbad Field Office is initiating an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a new potash mine (the Ochoa Mine Project) proposed by Intercontinental Potash Corp. (USA) (ICP). The proposed Ochoa Mine Project is located about 40 miles east-southeast of Carlsbad, New Mexico, and 20 miles west of Jal, New Mexico (Figure 1). The project is located outside the Secretary's Potash Area (SPA) and SPA management directives will not apply.

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Sincerely,



James Stovall
Field Manager



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Carlsbad Field Office
620 E. Greene St.
Carlsbad, NM 88220-6292



1610 (P0200)

January 20, 2012

Secretary Ron Curry
New Mexico Environment Department
P.O. Box 5469
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Dear Cabinet Secretary Curry,

The Bureau of Land Management's Carlsbad Field Office is initiating an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a new potash mine (the Ochoa Mine Project) proposed by Intercontinental Potash Corp. (USA) (ICP). The proposed Ochoa Mine Project is located about 40 miles east-southeast of Carlsbad, New Mexico, and 20 miles west of Jal, New Mexico (Figure 1). The project is located outside the Secretary's Potash Area (SPA) and SPA management directives will not apply.

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If the New Mexico Environment Department would like to be involved in the planning process as a Cooperating Agency, or if you have questions about the process, please contact David Alderman, the Ochoa Mine Project Manager, at (575) 234-6232, or by email at dalderma@blm.gov.

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Sincerely,



James Stovall
Field Manager



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Carlsbad Field Office
620 E. Greene St.
Carlsbad, NM 88220-6292



1610 (P0200)

January 20, 2012

Secretary Jim Noel
New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Dear Cabinet Secretary Noel,

The Bureau of Land Management's Carlsbad Field Office is initiating an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a new potash mine (the Ochoa Mine Project) proposed by Intercontinental Potash Corp. (USA) (ICP). The proposed Ochoa Mine Project is located about 40 miles east-southeast of Carlsbad, New Mexico, and 20 miles west of Jal, New Mexico (Figure 1). The project is located outside the Secretary's Potash Area (SPA) and SPA management directives will not apply.

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If the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department would like to be involved in the planning process as a Cooperating Agency, or if you have questions about the process, please contact David Alderman, the Ochoa Mine Project Manager, at (575) 234-6232, or by email at dalderma@blm.gov.

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Sincerely,

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James Stovall
Field Manager



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Carlsbad Field Office
620 E. Greene St.
Carlsbad, NM 88220-6292



1610 (P0200)

January 20, 2012

Mr. Gary Shubert
New Mexico Department of Transportation
District 2
P.O. Box 1457
Roswell, NM 88202

Dear District Engineer Shubert,

The Bureau of Land Management's Carlsbad Field Office is initiating an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a new potash mine (the Ochoa Mine Project) proposed by Intercontinental Potash Corp. (USA) (ICP). The proposed Ochoa Mine Project is located about 40 miles east-southeast of Carlsbad, New Mexico, and 20 miles west of Jal, New Mexico (Figure 1). The project is located outside the Secretary's Potash Area (SPA) and SPA management directives will not apply.

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I invite you and other representatives of the New Mexico Department of Transportation, District 2 to become a Cooperating Agency on the EIS. Cooperating Agencies are federal, state, and local agencies and tribal governments that have jurisdiction or special expertise about the issues or the environmental impacts of the project. Your involvement would help us identify issues, design alternatives, and design mitigation measures for the project. Cooperating Agencies have the opportunity to provide input throughout the planning process. If you choose not to participate as a cooperating agency, you will still have the opportunity to provide input on the project during the public scoping and comment periods.

If the New Mexico Department of Transportation, District 2 would like to be involved in the planning process as a Cooperating Agency, or if you have questions about the process, please contact David Alderman, the Ochoa Mine Project Manager, at (575) 234-6232, or by email at dalderma@blm.gov.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. We look forward to hearing from you and would like to have your representative participate in the process. If you elect not to become a Cooperating Agency or if you would like to collaborate with us informally, we will keep your name on the mailing list. You can access more information about the planning process at our website www.nm.blm.gov/cfo/ochoaMine.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Stovall".

James Stovall
Field Manager



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Carlsbad Field Office
620 E. Greene St.
Carlsbad, NM 88220-6292



1610 (P0200)

January 20, 2012

Ms. Bonnie Rabe
New Mexico Department of Agriculture
Agricultural and Environmental Services
MSC 3AQ, Box 30005
Las Cruces, NM 88003

Dear Division Director Rabe,

The Bureau of Land Management's Carlsbad Field Office is initiating an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a new potash mine (the Ochoa Mine Project) proposed by Intercontinental Potash Corp. (USA) (ICP). The proposed Ochoa Mine Project is located about 40 miles east-southeast of Carlsbad, New Mexico, and 20 miles west of Jal, New Mexico (Figure 1). The project is located outside the Secretary's Potash Area (SPA) and SPA management directives will not apply.

ICP proposes to produce the fertilizer sulphate of potash (K_2SO_4) from mined polyhalite ore. K_2SO_4 production involves two separate operations. The first operation is to mine raw polyhalite approximately 1,500 feet underground in the Rustler Formation. Once mined, the polyhalite would be conveyed to the surface, crushed, calcined, leached, and granulated to produce sulphate of potash, the saleable product. The final product will be moved via truck to a load-out facility near Jal, New Mexico, where it will be loaded on trains and shipped. ICP's proposed mine plan includes an underground mine accessed by a shaft and a ramp, and processing facilities including the ore process plant, dry stack tailings pile, evaporation ponds, water wells, pipelines, power lines, and a railroad load out facility in Jal.

The polyhalite will be continuously mined using the conventional room and pillar retreat method. In order to mine in proximity to active oil and gas wells, ICP has elected to follow the rules and regulations of a category IV gassy mine.

Water for the Ochoa Project will be supplied by deep, non-potable, brackish water from the Capitan Aquifer. ICP has proposed three potential well field locations and associated rights-of-way for water-supply pipelines. Up to six production wells will be developed at one of the three sites. Eighteen miles of pipeline will transport the water from the well field to the surface facilities.

The proposed Ochoa Mine project includes approximately 3,117 acres of permanent surface disturbance. The project is expected to provide approximately 750 construction and 450 full time jobs to the local area.

The Notice of Intent for the ICP Ochoa Mine Project was published in the Federal Register in early January 3, 2012. Scoping meetings are scheduled for January 23 and January 24, 2012. The scoping period will run through February 7, 2012 and the EIS is scheduled to be completed in winter 2014.

I invite you and other representatives of the New Mexico Department of Agriculture, Agricultural and Environmental Services to become a Cooperating Agency on the EIS. Cooperating Agencies are federal, state, and local agencies and tribal governments that have jurisdiction or special expertise about the issues or the environmental impacts of the project. Your involvement would help us identify issues, design alternatives, and design mitigation measures for the project. Cooperating Agencies have the opportunity to provide input throughout the planning process. If you choose not to participate as a cooperating agency, you will still have the opportunity to provide input on the project during the public scoping and comment periods.

If the New Mexico Department of Agriculture, Agricultural and Environmental Services would like to be involved in the planning process as a Cooperating Agency, or if you have questions about the process, please contact David Alderman, the Ochoa Mine Project Manager, at (575) 234-6232, or by email at dalderma@blm.gov.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. We look forward to hearing from you and would like to have your representative participate in the process. If you elect not to become a Cooperating Agency or if you would like to collaborate with us informally, we will keep your name on the mailing list. You can access more information about the planning process at our website www.nm.blm.gov/cfo/ochoaMine.

Sincerely,



James Stovall
Field Manager



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Carlsbad Field Office
620 E. Greene St.
Carlsbad, NM 88220-6292



1610 (P0200)

January 20, 2012

Ms. Laura Offutt
Lea Soil and Water Conservation District
401 Tatum Hwy.
Lovington, NM 88267

Dear Laura Offutt,

The Bureau of Land Management's Carlsbad Field Office is initiating an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a new potash mine (the Ochoa Mine Project) proposed by Intercontinental Potash Corp. (USA) (ICP). The proposed Ochoa Mine Project is located about 40 miles east-southeast of Carlsbad, New Mexico, and 20 miles west of Jal, New Mexico (Figure 1). The project is located outside the Secretary's Potash Area (SPA) and SPA management directives will not apply.

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I invite you and other representatives of the Lea Soil and Water Conservation District to become a Cooperating Agency on the EIS. Cooperating Agencies are federal, state, and local agencies and tribal governments that have jurisdiction or special expertise about the issues or the environmental impacts of the project. Your involvement would help us identify issues, design alternatives, and design mitigation measures for the project. Cooperating Agencies have the opportunity to provide input throughout the planning process. If you choose not to participate as a cooperating agency, you will still have the opportunity to provide input on the project during the public scoping and comment periods.

If the Lea Soil and Water Conservation District would like to be involved in the planning process as a Cooperating Agency, or if you have questions about the process, please contact David Alderman, the Ochoa Mine Project Manager, at (575) 234-6232, or by email at dalderma@blm.gov.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. We look forward to hearing from you and would like to have your representative participate in the process. If you elect not to become a Cooperating Agency or if you would like to collaborate with us informally, we will keep your name on the mailing list. You can access more information about the planning process at our website www.nm.blm.gov/cfo/ochoaMine.

Sincerely,



James Stovall
Field Manager



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Carlsbad Field Office
620 E. Greene St.
Carlsbad, NM 88220-6292



1610 (P0200)

January 20, 2012

Mr. Bill Walker
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Southwest Regional Office
P.O. Box 26567
Albuquerque, NM 87125

Dear Regional Director Walker,

The Bureau of Land Management's Carlsbad Field Office is initiating an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a new potash mine (the Ochoa Mine Project) proposed by Intercontinental Potash Corp. (USA) (ICP). The proposed Ochoa Mine Project is located about 40 miles east-southeast of Carlsbad, New Mexico, and 20 miles west of Jal, New Mexico (Figure 1). The project is located outside the Secretary's Potash Area (SPA) and SPA management directives will not apply.

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I invite you and other representatives of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Southwest Regional Office to become a Cooperating Agency on the EIS. Cooperating Agencies are federal, state, and local agencies and tribal governments that have jurisdiction or special expertise about the issues or the environmental impacts of the project. Your involvement would help us identify issues, design alternatives, and design mitigation measures for the project. Cooperating Agencies have the opportunity to provide input throughout the planning process. If you choose not to participate as a cooperating agency, you will still have the opportunity to provide input on the project during the public scoping and comment periods.

If the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Southwest Regional Office would like to be involved in the planning process as a Cooperating Agency, or if you have questions about the process, please contact David Alderman, the Ochoa Mine Project Manager, at (575) 234-6232, or by email at dalderma@blm.gov.

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Sincerely,



James Stovall
Field Manager



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Carlsbad Field Office
620 E. Greene St.
Carlsbad, NM 88220-6292



1610 (P0200)

January 20, 2012

Mr. Mark Chino
Mescalero Apache Tribe
Attn: Holly Houghton, THPO
P.O. Box 227
Mescalero, NM 88340

Dear President Chino,

The Bureau of Land Management's Carlsbad Field Office is initiating an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a new potash mine (the Ochoa Mine Project) proposed by Intercontinental Potash Corp. (USA) (ICP). The proposed Ochoa Mine Project is located about 40 miles east-southeast of Carlsbad, New Mexico, and 20 miles west of Jal, New Mexico (Figure 1). The project is located outside the Secretary's Potash Area (SPA) and SPA management directives will not apply.

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I invite you and other representatives of the Mescalero Apache Tribe to become a Cooperating Agency on the EIS. Cooperating Agencies are federal, state, and local agencies and tribal governments that have jurisdiction or special expertise about the issues or the environmental impacts of the project. Your involvement would help us identify issues, design alternatives, and design mitigation measures for the project. Cooperating Agencies have the opportunity to provide input throughout the planning process. If you choose not to participate as a cooperating agency, you will still have the opportunity to provide input on the project during the public scoping and comment periods.

If the Mescalero Apache Tribe would like to be involved in the planning process as a Cooperating Agency, or if you have questions about the process, please contact David Alderman, the Ochoa Mine Project Manager, at (575) 234-6232, or by email at dalderma@blm.gov.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. We look forward to hearing from you and would like to have your representative participate in the process. If you elect not to become a Cooperating Agency or if you would like to collaborate with us informally, we will keep your name on the mailing list. You can access more information about the planning process at our website www.nm.blm.gov/cfo/ochoaMine.

Sincerely,



James Stovall
Field Manager



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Carlsbad Field Office
620 E. Greene St.
Carlsbad, NM 88220-6292



1610 (P0200)

January 20, 2012

Mr. Henry Kostzuta
Apache Tribe of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 1220
Anadarko, OK 73005

Dear Chairman Kostzuta,

The Bureau of Land Management's Carlsbad Field Office is initiating an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a new potash mine (the Ochoa Mine Project) proposed by Intercontinental Potash Corp. (USA) (ICP). The proposed Ochoa Mine Project is located about 40 miles east-southeast of Carlsbad, New Mexico, and 20 miles west of Jal, New Mexico (Figure 1). The project is located outside the Secretary's Potash Area (SPA) and SPA management directives will not apply.

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If the Apache Tribe of Oklahoma would like to be involved in the planning process as a Cooperating Agency, or if you have questions about the process, please contact David Alderman, the Ochoa Mine Project Manager, at (575) 234-6232, or by email at dalderma@blm.gov.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. We look forward to hearing from you and would like to have your representative participate in the process. If you elect not to become a Cooperating Agency or if you would like to collaborate with us informally, we will keep your name on the mailing list. You can access more information about the planning process at our website www.nm.blm.gov/cfo/ochoaMine.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Stovall".

James Stovall
Field Manager



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Carlsbad Field Office
620 E. Greene St.
Carlsbad, NM 88220-6292



1610 (P0200)

January 20, 2012

Mr. Michael Burgess
Comanche Indian Tribe
P.O. Box 908
Lawton, OK 73502

Dear Chairman Burgess,

The Bureau of Land Management's Carlsbad Field Office is initiating an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a new potash mine (the Ochoa Mine Project) proposed by Intercontinental Potash Corp. (USA) (ICP). The proposed Ochoa Mine Project is located about 40 miles east-southeast of Carlsbad, New Mexico, and 20 miles west of Jal, New Mexico (Figure 1). The project is located outside the Secretary's Potash Area (SPA) and SPA management directives will not apply.

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I invite you and other representatives of the Comanche Indian Tribe to become a Cooperating Agency on the EIS. Cooperating Agencies are federal, state, and local agencies and tribal governments that have jurisdiction or special expertise about the issues or the environmental impacts of the project. Your involvement would help us identify issues, design alternatives, and design mitigation measures for the project. Cooperating Agencies have the opportunity to provide input throughout the planning process. If you choose not to participate as a cooperating agency, you will still have the opportunity to provide input on the project during the public scoping and comment periods.

If the Comanche Indian Tribe would like to be involved in the planning process as a Cooperating Agency, or if you have questions about the process, please contact David Alderman, the Ochoa Mine Project Manager, at (575) 234-6232, or by email at dalderma@blm.gov.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. We look forward to hearing from you and would like to have your representative participate in the process. If you elect not to become a Cooperating Agency or if you would like to collaborate with us informally, we will keep your name on the mailing list. You can access more information about the planning process at our website www.nm.blm.gov/cfo/ochoaMine.

Sincerely,



James Stovall
Field Manager



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Carlsbad Field Office
620 E. Greene St.
Carlsbad, NM 88220-6292



1610 (P0200)

January 20, 2012

Governor Robert Benavides
Pueblo of Isleta
P.O. Box 1271
Isleta Pueblo, NM 87022

Dear Governor Benavides,

The Bureau of Land Management's Carlsbad Field Office is initiating an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a new potash mine (the Ochoa Mine Project) proposed by Intercontinental Potash Corp. (USA) (ICP). The proposed Ochoa Mine Project is located about 40 miles east-southeast of Carlsbad, New Mexico, and 20 miles west of Jal, New Mexico (Figure 1). The project is located outside the Secretary's Potash Area (SPA) and SPA management directives will not apply.

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I invite you and other representatives of the Pueblo of Isleta to become a Cooperating Agency on the EIS. Cooperating Agencies are federal, state, and local agencies and tribal governments that have jurisdiction or special expertise about the issues or the environmental impacts of the project. Your involvement would help us identify issues, design alternatives, and design mitigation measures for the project. Cooperating Agencies have the opportunity to provide input throughout the planning process. If you choose not to participate as a cooperating agency, you will still have the opportunity to provide input on the project during the public scoping and comment periods.

If the Pueblo of Isleta would like to be involved in the planning process as a Cooperating Agency, or if you have questions about the process, please contact David Alderman, the Ochoa Mine Project Manager, at (575) 234-6232, or by email at dalderma@blm.gov.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Stovall".

James Stovall
Field Manager



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Carlsbad Field Office
620 E. Greene St.
Carlsbad, NM 88220-6292



1610 (P0200)

January 20, 2012

Mr. Ron Twohatchet
Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 369
Carnegie, OK 73015

Dear Chairman Twohatchet,

The Bureau of Land Management's Carlsbad Field Office is initiating an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a new potash mine (the Ochoa Mine Project) proposed by Intercontinental Potash Corp. (USA) (ICP). The proposed Ochoa Mine Project is located about 40 miles east-southeast of Carlsbad, New Mexico, and 20 miles west of Jal, New Mexico (Figure 1). The project is located outside the Secretary's Potash Area (SPA) and SPA management directives will not apply.

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If the Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma would like to be involved in the planning process as a Cooperating Agency, or if you have questions about the process, please contact David Alderman, the Ochoa Mine Project Manager, at (575) 234-6232, or by email at dalderma@blm.gov.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. We look forward to hearing from you and would like to have your representative participate in the process. If you elect not to become a Cooperating Agency or if you would like to collaborate with us informally, we will keep your name on the mailing list. You can access more information about the planning process at our website www.nm.blm.gov/cfo/ochoaMine.

Sincerely,



James Stovall
Field Manager



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Carlsbad Field Office
620 E. Greene St.
Carlsbad, NM 88220-6292



1610 (P0200)

January 20, 2012

Governor Frank Paiz
Ysleta del Sur Pueblo
P.O. Box 17579
119 S Old Pueblo Rd
El Paso, TX 79917

Dear Governor Paiz,

The Bureau of Land Management's Carlsbad Field Office is initiating an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a new potash mine (the Ochoa Mine Project) proposed by Intercontinental Potash Corp. (USA) (ICP). The proposed Ochoa Mine Project is located about 40 miles east-southeast of Carlsbad, New Mexico, and 20 miles west of Jal, New Mexico (Figure 1). The project is located outside the Secretary's Potash Area (SPA) and SPA management directives will not apply.

ICP proposes to produce the fertilizer sulphate of potash (K_2SO_4) from mined polyhalite ore. K_2SO_4 production involves two separate operations. The first operation is to mine raw polyhalite approximately 1,500 feet underground in the Rustler Formation. Once mined, the polyhalite would be conveyed to the surface, crushed, calcined, leached, and granulated to produce sulphate of potash, the saleable product. The final product will be moved via truck to a load-out facility near Jal, New Mexico, where it will be loaded on trains and shipped. ICP's proposed mine plan includes an underground mine accessed by a shaft and a ramp, and processing facilities including the ore process plant, dry stack tailings pile, evaporation ponds, water wells, pipelines, power lines, and a railroad load out facility in Jal.

The polyhalite will be continuously mined using the conventional room and pillar retreat method. In order to mine in proximity to active oil and gas wells, ICP has elected to follow the rules and regulations of a category IV gassy mine.

Water for the Ochoa Project will be supplied by deep, non-potable, brackish water from the Capitan Aquifer. ICP has proposed three potential well field locations and associated rights-of-way for water-supply pipelines. Up to six production wells will be developed at one of the three sites. Eighteen miles of pipeline will transport the water from the well field to the surface facilities.

The proposed Ochoa Mine project includes approximately 3,117 acres of permanent surface disturbance. The project is expected to provide approximately 750 construction and 450 full time jobs to the local area.

The Notice of Intent for the ICP Ochoa Mine Project was published in the Federal Register in early January 3, 2012. Scoping meetings are scheduled for January 23 and January 24, 2012. The scoping period will run through February 7, 2012 and the EIS is scheduled to be completed in winter 2014.

I invite you and other representatives of the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo to become a Cooperating Agency on the EIS. Cooperating Agencies are federal, state, and local agencies and tribal governments that have jurisdiction or special expertise about the issues or the environmental impacts of the project. Your involvement would help us identify issues, design alternatives, and design mitigation measures for the project. Cooperating Agencies have the opportunity to provide input throughout the planning process. If you choose not to participate as a cooperating agency, you will still have the opportunity to provide input on the project during the public scoping and comment periods.

If the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo would like to be involved in the planning process as a Cooperating Agency, or if you have questions about the process, please contact David Alderman, the Ochoa Mine Project Manager, at (575) 234-6232, or by email at dalderma@blm.gov.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. We look forward to hearing from you and would like to have your representative participate in the process. If you elect not to become a Cooperating Agency or if you would like to collaborate with us informally, we will keep your name on the mailing list. You can access more information about the planning process at our website www.nm.blm.gov/cfo/ochoaMine.

Sincerely,



James Stovall
Field Manager



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Carlsbad Field Office
620 E. Greene St.
Carlsbad, NM 88220-6292



1610 (P0200)

January 20, 2012

Mr. Leroy Ned Shigoitewa
Hopi Tribal Council
P.O. Box 123
Kykotsmovi, AZ 86039

Dear Chairman Shigoitewa,

The Bureau of Land Management's Carlsbad Field Office is initiating an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a new potash mine (the Ochoa Mine Project) proposed by Intercontinental Potash Corp. (USA) (ICP). The proposed Ochoa Mine Project is located about 40 miles east-southeast of Carlsbad, New Mexico, and 20 miles west of Jal, New Mexico (Figure 1). The project is located outside the Secretary's Potash Area (SPA) and SPA management directives will not apply.

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I invite you and other representatives of the Hopi Tribal Council to become a Cooperating Agency on the EIS. Cooperating Agencies are federal, state, and local agencies and tribal governments that have jurisdiction or special expertise about the issues or the environmental impacts of the project. Your involvement would help us identify issues, design alternatives, and design mitigation measures for the project. Cooperating Agencies have the opportunity to provide input throughout the planning process. If you choose not to participate as a cooperating agency, you will still have the opportunity to provide input on the project during the public scoping and comment periods.

If the Hopi Tribal Council would like to be involved in the planning process as a Cooperating Agency, or if you have questions about the process, please contact David Alderman, the Ochoa Mine Project Manager, at (575) 234-6232, or by email at dalderma@blm.gov.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. We look forward to hearing from you and would like to have your representative participate in the process. If you elect not to become a Cooperating Agency or if you would like to collaborate with us informally, we will keep your name on the mailing list. You can access more information about the planning process at our website www.nm.blm.gov/cfo/ochoaMine.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Stovall".

James Stovall
Field Manager



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Carlsbad Field Office
620 E. Greene St.
Carlsbad, NM 88220-6292



1610 (P0200)

January 20, 2012

Mr. Ed Armenta
U.S. Forest Service
Lincoln National Forest
3463 Las Palomas Rd.
Alamogordo, NM 88310

Dear Forest Supervisor Armenta,

The Bureau of Land Management's Carlsbad Field Office is initiating an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a new potash mine (the Ochoa Mine Project) proposed by Intercontinental Potash Corp. (USA) (ICP). The proposed Ochoa Mine Project is located about 40 miles east-southeast of Carlsbad, New Mexico, and 20 miles west of Jal, New Mexico (Figure 1). The project is located outside the Secretary's Potash Area (SPA) and SPA management directives will not apply.

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I invite you and other representatives of the U.S. Forest Service, Lincoln National Forest to become a Cooperating Agency on the EIS. Cooperating Agencies are federal, state, and local agencies and tribal governments that have jurisdiction or special expertise about the issues or the environmental impacts of the project. Your involvement would help us identify issues, design alternatives, and design mitigation measures for the project. Cooperating Agencies have the opportunity to provide input throughout the planning process. If you choose not to participate as a cooperating agency, you will still have the opportunity to provide input on the project during the public scoping and comment periods.

If the U.S. Forest Service, Lincoln National Forest would like to be involved in the planning process as a Cooperating Agency, or if you have questions about the process, please contact David Alderman, the Ochoa Mine Project Manager, at (575) 234-6232, or by email at dalderma@blm.gov.

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Sincerely,



James Stovall
Field Manager



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Carlsbad Field Office
620 E. Greene St.
Carlsbad, NM 88220-6292



1610 (P0200)

January 20, 2012

Dr. Benjamin Tuggle
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Southwest Region
P.O. Box 1306
Albuquerque, NM 87103-1306

Dear Regional Director Tuggle,

The Bureau of Land Management's Carlsbad Field Office is initiating an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a new potash mine (the Ochoa Mine Project) proposed by Intercontinental Potash Corp. (USA) (ICP). The proposed Ochoa Mine Project is located about 40 miles east-southeast of Carlsbad, New Mexico, and 20 miles west of Jal, New Mexico (Figure 1). The project is located outside the Secretary's Potash Area (SPA) and SPA management directives will not apply.

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I invite you and other representatives of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Southwest Region to become a Cooperating Agency on the EIS. Cooperating Agencies are federal, state, and local agencies and tribal governments that have jurisdiction or special expertise about the issues or the environmental impacts of the project. Your involvement would help us identify issues, design alternatives, and design mitigation measures for the project. Cooperating Agencies have the opportunity to provide input throughout the planning process. If you choose not to participate as a cooperating agency, you will still have the opportunity to provide input on the project during the public scoping and comment periods.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Stovall', written in a cursive style.

James Stovall
Field Manager



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Carlsbad Field Office
620 E. Greene St.
Carlsbad, NM 88220-6292



1610 (P0200)

January 20, 2012

Mr. Mike Hamman
Bureau of Reclamation
Albuquerque Area Office
555 Broadway Blvd., NE
Suite 100 (ALB-100)
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Dear Area Manager Hamman,

The Bureau of Land Management's Carlsbad Field Office is initiating an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a new potash mine (the Ochoa Mine Project) proposed by Intercontinental Potash Corp. (USA) (ICP). The proposed Ochoa Mine Project is located about 40 miles east-southeast of Carlsbad, New Mexico, and 20 miles west of Jal, New Mexico (Figure 1). The project is located outside the Secretary's Potash Area (SPA) and SPA management directives will not apply.

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If the Bureau of Reclamation, Albuquerque Area Office would like to be involved in the planning process as a Cooperating Agency, or if you have questions about the process, please contact David Alderman, the Ochoa Mine Project Manager, at (575) 234-6232, or by email at dalderma@blm.gov.

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Sincerely,



James Stovall
Field Manager



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Carlsbad Field Office
620 E. Greene St.
Carlsbad, NM 88220-6292



1610 (P0200)

January 20, 2012

Commissioners
Lea County Commission
100 North Main
Lovington, NM 88260

Dear Commissioners,

The Bureau of Land Management's Carlsbad Field Office is initiating an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a new potash mine (the Ochoa Mine Project) proposed by Intercontinental Potash Corp. (USA) (ICP). The proposed Ochoa Mine Project is located about 40 miles east-southeast of Carlsbad, New Mexico, and 20 miles west of Jal, New Mexico (Figure 1). The project is located outside the Secretary's Potash Area (SPA) and SPA management directives will not apply.

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I invite you and other representatives of the Lea County Commission to become a Cooperating Agency on the EIS. Cooperating Agencies are federal, state, and local agencies and tribal governments that have jurisdiction or special expertise about the issues or the environmental impacts of the project. Your involvement would help us identify issues, design alternatives, and design mitigation measures for the project. Cooperating Agencies have the opportunity to provide input throughout the planning process. If you choose not to participate as a cooperating agency, you will still have the opportunity to provide input on the project during the public scoping and comment periods.

If the Lea County Commission would like to be involved in the planning process as a Cooperating Agency, or if you have questions about the process, please contact David Alderman, the Ochoa Mine Project Manager, at (575) 234-6232, or by email at dalderma@blm.gov.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. We look forward to hearing from you and would like to have your representative participate in the process. If you elect not to become a Cooperating Agency or if you would like to collaborate with us informally, we will keep your name on the mailing list. You can access more information about the planning process at our website www.nm.blm.gov/cfo/ochoaMine.

Sincerely,



James Stovall
Field Manager



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Carlsbad Field Office
620 E. Greene St.
Carlsbad, NM 88220-6292



1610 (P0200)

January 20, 2012

Mayor Gary Don Reagan
City of Hobbs
200 E. Broadway
Hobbs, NM 88240

Dear Mayor Reagan,

The Bureau of Land Management's Carlsbad Field Office is initiating an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a new potash mine (the Ochoa Mine Project) proposed by Intercontinental Potash Corp. (USA) (ICP). The proposed Ochoa Mine Project is located about 40 miles east-southeast of Carlsbad, New Mexico, and 20 miles west of Jal, New Mexico (Figure 1). The project is located outside the Secretary's Potash Area (SPA) and SPA management directives will not apply.

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I invite you and other representatives of the City of Hobbs to become a Cooperating Agency on the EIS. Cooperating Agencies are federal, state, and local agencies and tribal governments that have jurisdiction or special expertise about the issues or the environmental impacts of the project. Your involvement would help us identify issues, design alternatives, and design mitigation measures for the project. Cooperating Agencies have the opportunity to provide input throughout the planning process. If you choose not to participate as a cooperating agency, you will still have the opportunity to provide input on the project during the public scoping and comment periods.

If the City of Hobbs would like to be involved in the planning process as a Cooperating Agency, or if you have questions about the process, please contact David Alderman, the Ochoa Mine Project Manager, at (575) 234-6232, or by email at dalderma@blm.gov.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Stovall".

James Stovall
Field Manager



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Carlsbad Field Office
620 E. Greene St.
Carlsbad, NM 88220-6292



1610 (P0200)

January 20, 2012

Mayor Dixie Drummond
City of Lovington
P.O. Box 1268
Lovington, NM 88260

Dear Mayor Drummond,

The Bureau of Land Management's Carlsbad Field Office is initiating an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a new potash mine (the Ochoa Mine Project) proposed by Intercontinental Potash Corp. (USA) (ICP). The proposed Ochoa Mine Project is located about 40 miles east-southeast of Carlsbad, New Mexico, and 20 miles west of Jal, New Mexico (Figure 1). The project is located outside the Secretary's Potash Area (SPA) and SPA management directives will not apply.

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If the City of Lovington would like to be involved in the planning process as a Cooperating Agency, or if you have questions about the process, please contact David Alderman, the Ochoa Mine Project Manager, at (575) 234-6232, or by email at dalderma@blm.gov.

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Sincerely,

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James Stovall
Field Manager



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Carlsbad Field Office
620 E. Greene St.
Carlsbad, NM 88220-6292



1610 (P0200)

January 20, 2012

Mr. John Lujan
National Park Service
Guadalupe Mountains National Park
400 Pine Canyon Road
Salt Flat, TX 79847

Dear Superintendent Lujan,

The Bureau of Land Management's Carlsbad Field Office is initiating an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a new potash mine (the Ochoa Mine Project) proposed by Intercontinental Potash Corp. (USA) (ICP). The proposed Ochoa Mine Project is located about 40 miles east-southeast of Carlsbad, New Mexico, and 20 miles west of Jal, New Mexico (Figure 1). The project is located outside the Secretary's Potash Area (SPA) and SPA management directives will not apply.

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The proposed Ochoa Mine project includes approximately 3,117 acres of permanent surface disturbance. The project is expected to provide approximately 750 construction and 450 full time jobs to the local area.

The Notice of Intent for the ICP Ochoa Mine Project was published in the Federal Register in early January 3, 2012. Scoping meetings are scheduled for January 23 and January 24, 2012. The scoping period will run through February 7, 2012 and the EIS is scheduled to be completed in winter 2014.

I invite you and other representatives of the National Park Service, Guadalupe Mountains National Park to become a Cooperating Agency on the EIS. Cooperating Agencies are federal, state, and local agencies and tribal governments that have jurisdiction or special expertise about the issues or the environmental impacts of the project. Your involvement would help us identify issues, design alternatives, and design mitigation measures for the project. Cooperating Agencies have the opportunity to provide input throughout the planning process. If you choose not to participate as a cooperating agency, you will still have the opportunity to provide input on the project during the public scoping and comment periods.

If the National Park Service, Guadalupe Mountains National Park would like to be involved in the planning process as a Cooperating Agency, or if you have questions about the process, please contact David Alderman, the Ochoa Mine Project Manager, at (575) 234-6232, or by email at dalderma@blm.gov.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. We look forward to hearing from you and would like to have your representative participate in the process. If you elect not to become a Cooperating Agency or if you would like to collaborate with us informally, we will keep your name on the mailing list. You can access more information about the planning process at our website www.nm.blm.gov/cfo/ochoaMine.

Sincerely,



James Stovall
Field Manager



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Carlsbad Field Office
620 E. Greene St.
Carlsbad, NM 88220-6292



1610 (P0200)

January 20, 2012

Mr. Dudley Jones
Carlsbad Irrigation District
5117 Grandi Road
Carlsbad, NM 88220

Dear Manager Jones,

The Bureau of Land Management's Carlsbad Field Office is initiating an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a new potash mine (the Ochoa Mine Project) proposed by Intercontinental Potash Corp. (USA) (ICP). The proposed Ochoa Mine Project is located about 40 miles east-southeast of Carlsbad, New Mexico, and 20 miles west of Jal, New Mexico (Figure 1). The project is located outside the Secretary's Potash Area (SPA) and SPA management directives will not apply.

ICP proposes to produce the fertilizer sulphate of potash (K_2SO_4) from mined polyhalite ore. K_2SO_4 production involves two separate operations. The first operation is to mine raw polyhalite approximately 1,500 feet underground in the Rustler Formation. Once mined, the polyhalite would be conveyed to the surface, crushed, calcined, leached, and granulated to produce sulphate of potash, the saleable product. The final product will be moved via truck to a load-out facility near Jal, New Mexico, where it will be loaded on trains and shipped. ICP's proposed mine plan includes an underground mine accessed by a shaft and a ramp, and processing facilities including the ore process plant, dry stack tailings pile, evaporation ponds, water wells, pipelines, power lines, and a railroad load out facility in Jal.

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The proposed Ochoa Mine project includes approximately 3,117 acres of permanent surface disturbance. The project is expected to provide approximately 750 construction and 450 full time jobs to the local area.

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I invite you and other representatives of the Carlsbad Irrigation District to become a Cooperating Agency on the EIS. Cooperating Agencies are federal, state, and local agencies and tribal governments that have jurisdiction or special expertise about the issues or the environmental impacts of the project. Your involvement would help us identify issues, design alternatives, and design mitigation measures for the project. Cooperating Agencies have the opportunity to provide input throughout the planning process. If you choose not to participate as a cooperating agency, you will still have the opportunity to provide input on the project during the public scoping and comment periods.

If the Carlsbad Irrigation District would like to be involved in the planning process as a Cooperating Agency, or if you have questions about the process, please contact David Alderman, the Ochoa Mine Project Manager, at (575) 234-6232, or by email at dalderma@blm.gov.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. We look forward to hearing from you and would like to have your representative participate in the process. If you elect not to become a Cooperating Agency or if you would like to collaborate with us informally, we will keep your name on the mailing list. You can access more information about the planning process at our website www.nm.blm.gov/cfo/ochoaMine.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Stovall", written in a cursive style.

James Stovall
Field Manager



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Carlsbad Field Office
620 E. Greene St.
Carlsbad, NM 88220-6292



1610 (P0200)

January 20, 2012

Ms. Judy Bock
Carlsbad Soil and Water Conservation District
3219 S. Canal
Carlsbad, NM 88220

Dear District Manager Bock,

The Bureau of Land Management's Carlsbad Field Office is initiating an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a new potash mine (the Ochoa Mine Project) proposed by Intercontinental Potash Corp. (USA) (ICP). The proposed Ochoa Mine Project is located about 40 miles east-southeast of Carlsbad, New Mexico, and 20 miles west of Jal, New Mexico (Figure 1). The project is located outside the Secretary's Potash Area (SPA) and SPA management directives will not apply.

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I invite you and other representatives of the Carlsbad Soil and Water Conservation District to become a Cooperating Agency on the EIS. Cooperating Agencies are federal, state, and local agencies and tribal governments that have jurisdiction or special expertise about the issues or the environmental impacts of the project. Your involvement would help us identify issues, design alternatives, and design mitigation measures for the project. Cooperating Agencies have the opportunity to provide input throughout the planning process. If you choose not to participate as a cooperating agency, you will still have the opportunity to provide input on the project during the public scoping and comment periods.

If the Carlsbad Soil and Water Conservation District would like to be involved in the planning process as a Cooperating Agency, or if you have questions about the process, please contact David Alderman, the Ochoa Mine Project Manager, at (575) 234-6232, or by email at dalderma@blm.gov.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Stovall".

James Stovall
Field Manager



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Carlsbad Field Office
620 E. Greene St.
Carlsbad, NM 88220-6292



1610 (P0200)

January 20, 2012

Mayor Phillip Burch
City of Artesia
P.O. Box 1310
Artesia, NM 88211-1310

Dear Mayor Burch,

The Bureau of Land Management's Carlsbad Field Office is initiating an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a new potash mine (the Ochoa Mine Project) proposed by Intercontinental Potash Corp. (USA) (ICP). The proposed Ochoa Mine Project is located about 40 miles east-southeast of Carlsbad, New Mexico, and 20 miles west of Jal, New Mexico (Figure 1). The project is located outside the Secretary's Potash Area (SPA) and SPA management directives will not apply.

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If the City of Artesia would like to be involved in the planning process as a Cooperating Agency, or if you have questions about the process, please contact David Alderman, the Ochoa Mine Project Manager, at (575) 234-6232, or by email at dalderma@blm.gov.

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Sincerely,

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James Stovall
Field Manager



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Carlsbad Field Office
620 E. Greene St.
Carlsbad, NM 88220-6292



1610 (P0200)

January 20, 2012

Mayor Dale Janway
City of Carlsbad
101 N. Halagueno
Carlsbad, NM 88220

Dear Mayor Janway,

The Bureau of Land Management's Carlsbad Field Office is initiating an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a new potash mine (the Ochoa Mine Project) proposed by Intercontinental Potash Corp. (USA) (ICP). The proposed Ochoa Mine Project is located about 40 miles east-southeast of Carlsbad, New Mexico, and 20 miles west of Jal, New Mexico (Figure 1). The project is located outside the Secretary's Potash Area (SPA) and SPA management directives will not apply.

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Sincerely,

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James Stovall
Field Manager



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Carlsbad Field Office
620 E. Greene St.
Carlsbad, NM 88220-6292



1610 (P0200)

January 20, 2012

Mr. Oba Vincent
Department of Energy
Carlsbad Field Office
4021 National Parks Highway
Carlsbad, NM 88220

Dear Acting Deputy Manager Vincent,

The Bureau of Land Management's Carlsbad Field Office is initiating an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a new potash mine (the Ochoa Mine Project) proposed by Intercontinental Potash Corp. (USA) (ICP). The proposed Ochoa Mine Project is located about 40 miles east-southeast of Carlsbad, New Mexico, and 20 miles west of Jal, New Mexico (Figure 1). The project is located outside the Secretary's Potash Area (SPA) and SPA management directives will not apply.

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If the Department of Energy, Carlsbad Field Office would like to be involved in the planning process as a Cooperating Agency, or if you have questions about the process, please contact David Alderman, the Ochoa Mine Project Manager, at (575) 234-6232, or by email at dalderma@blm.gov.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. We look forward to hearing from you and would like to have your representative participate in the process. If you elect not to become a Cooperating Agency or if you would like to collaborate with us informally, we will keep your name on the mailing list. You can access more information about the planning process at our website www.nm.blm.gov/cfo/ochoaMine.

Sincerely,



James Stovall
Field Manager



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Carlsbad Field Office
620 E. Greene St.
Carlsbad, NM 88220-6292



1610 (P0200)

January 20, 2012

Commissioner Ray Powell
New Mexico State Land Office
P.O. Box 1148
Santa Fe, NM 87504-1148

Dear Commissioner of Public Lands Powell,

The Bureau of Land Management's Carlsbad Field Office is initiating an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a new potash mine (the Ochoa Mine Project) proposed by Intercontinental Potash Corp. (USA) (ICP). The proposed Ochoa Mine Project is located about 40 miles east-southeast of Carlsbad, New Mexico, and 20 miles west of Jal, New Mexico (Figure 1). The project is located outside the Secretary's Potash Area (SPA) and SPA management directives will not apply.

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If the New Mexico State Land Office would like to be involved in the planning process as a Cooperating Agency, or if you have questions about the process, please contact David Alderman, the Ochoa Mine Project Manager, at (575) 234-6232, or by email at dalderma@blm.gov.

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Sincerely,



James Stovall
Field Manager



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Carlsbad Field Office
620 E. Greene St.
Carlsbad, NM 88220-6292



1610 (P0200)

January 20, 2012

Mr. Bill Duemling
Office of the State Engineer
District II - Roswell
1900 West Second Street
Roswell, NM 88201-1712

Dear Carlsbad Basin Supervisor Duemling,

The Bureau of Land Management's Carlsbad Field Office is initiating an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a new potash mine (the Ochoa Mine Project) proposed by Intercontinental Potash Corp. (USA) (ICP). The proposed Ochoa Mine Project is located about 40 miles east-southeast of Carlsbad, New Mexico, and 20 miles west of Jal, New Mexico (Figure 1). The project is located outside the Secretary's Potash Area (SPA) and SPA management directives will not apply.

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If the Office of the State Engineer, District II - Roswell would like to be involved in the planning process as a Cooperating Agency, or if you have questions about the process, please contact David Alderman, the Ochoa Mine Project Manager, at (575) 234-6232, or by email at dalderma@blm.gov.

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Sincerely,



James Stovall
Field Manager



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Carlsbad Field Office
620 E. Greene St.
Carlsbad, NM 88220-6292



1610 (P0200)

January 20, 2012

Mayor Matt White
City of Eunice
P.O. Box 147
Eunice, NM 88231

Dear Mayor White,

The Bureau of Land Management's Carlsbad Field Office is initiating an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a new potash mine (the Ochoa Mine Project) proposed by Intercontinental Potash Corp. (USA) (ICP). The proposed Ochoa Mine Project is located about 40 miles east-southeast of Carlsbad, New Mexico, and 20 miles west of Jal, New Mexico (Figure 1). The project is located outside the Secretary's Potash Area (SPA) and SPA management directives will not apply.

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I invite you and other representatives of the City of Eunice to become a Cooperating Agency on the EIS. Cooperating Agencies are federal, state, and local agencies and tribal governments that have jurisdiction or special expertise about the issues or the environmental impacts of the project. Your involvement would help us identify issues, design alternatives, and design mitigation measures for the project. Cooperating Agencies have the opportunity to provide input throughout the planning process. If you choose not to participate as a cooperating agency, you will still have the opportunity to provide input on the project during the public scoping and comment periods.

If the City of Eunice would like to be involved in the planning process as a Cooperating Agency, or if you have questions about the process, please contact David Alderman, the Ochoa Mine Project Manager, at (575) 234-6232, or by email at dalderma@blm.gov.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. We look forward to hearing from you and would like to have your representative participate in the process. If you elect not to become a Cooperating Agency or if you would like to collaborate with us informally, we will keep your name on the mailing list. You can access more information about the planning process at our website www.nm.blm.gov/cfo/ochoaMine.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Stovall".

James Stovall
Field Manager



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Carlsbad Field Office
620 E. Greene St.
Carlsbad, NM 88220-6292



1610 (P0200)

January 20, 2012

Mayor Alton Dunn
City of Jal
P.O. Drawer 340
Jal, NM 88252

Dear Mayor Dunn,

The Bureau of Land Management's Carlsbad Field Office is initiating an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a new potash mine (the Ochoa Mine Project) proposed by Intercontinental Potash Corp. (USA) (ICP). The proposed Ochoa Mine Project is located about 40 miles east-southeast of Carlsbad, New Mexico, and 20 miles west of Jal, New Mexico (Figure 1). The project is located outside the Secretary's Potash Area (SPA) and SPA management directives will not apply.

ICP proposes to produce the fertilizer sulphate of potash (K_2SO_4) from mined polyhalite ore. K_2SO_4 production involves two separate operations. The first operation is to mine raw polyhalite approximately 1,500 feet underground in the Rustler Formation. Once mined, the polyhalite would be conveyed to the surface, crushed, calcined, leached, and granulated to produce sulphate of potash, the saleable product. The final product will be moved via truck to a load-out facility near Jal, New Mexico, where it will be loaded on trains and shipped. ICP's proposed mine plan includes an underground mine accessed by a shaft and a ramp, and processing facilities including the ore process plant, dry stack tailings pile, evaporation ponds, water wells, pipelines, power lines, and a railroad load out facility in Jal.

The polyhalite will be continuously mined using the conventional room and pillar retreat method. In order to mine in proximity to active oil and gas wells, ICP has elected to follow the rules and regulations of a category IV gassy mine.

Water for the Ochoa Project will be supplied by deep, non-potable, brackish water from the Capitan Aquifer. ICP has proposed three potential well field locations and associated rights-of-way for water-supply pipelines. Up to six production wells will be developed at one of the three sites. Eighteen miles of pipeline will transport the water from the well field to the surface facilities.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Stovall", written in a cursive style.

James Stovall
Field Manager



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Carlsbad Field Office
620 E. Greene St.
Carlsbad, NM 88220-6292



1610 (P0200)

January 20, 2012

Mr. George Chavez
National Resource Conservation Service
New Mexico State Office
6200 Jefferson NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109

Dear State Resource Conservationist Chavez,

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James Stovall
Field Manager



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Carlsbad Field Office
620 E. Greene St.
Carlsbad, NM 88220-6292



1610 (P0200)

January 20, 2012

Mr. George Farmer
New Mexico Game and Fish Department
Southeast Area Operations Division
1912 West 2nd Street
Roswell, NM 88201

Dear Conservation Officer Farmer,

The Bureau of Land Management's Carlsbad Field Office is initiating an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a new potash mine (the Ochoa Mine Project) proposed by Intercontinental Potash Corp. (USA) (ICP). The proposed Ochoa Mine Project is located about 40 miles east-southeast of Carlsbad, New Mexico, and 20 miles west of Jal, New Mexico (Figure 1). The project is located outside the Secretary's Potash Area (SPA) and SPA management directives will not apply.

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Sincerely,



James Stovall
Field Manager



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Carlsbad Field Office
620 E. Greene St.
Carlsbad, NM 88220-6292



1610 (P0200)

January 20, 2012

Mr. Daniel Ferguson
Department of Energy
Carlsbad Field Office
4021 National Parks Highway
Carlsbad, NM 88220

Dear Site Regulatory Specialist Ferguson,

The Bureau of Land Management's Carlsbad Field Office is initiating an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a new potash mine (the Ochoa Mine Project) proposed by Intercontinental Potash Corp. (USA) (ICP). The proposed Ochoa Mine Project is located about 40 miles east-southeast of Carlsbad, New Mexico, and 20 miles west of Jal, New Mexico (Figure 1). The project is located outside the Secretary's Potash Area (SPA) and SPA management directives will not apply.

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Sincerely,



James Stovall
Field Manager



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Carlsbad Field Office
620 E. Greene St.
Carlsbad, NM 88220-6292



1610 (P0200)

January 20, 2012

Ms. Susan McCauslin
Department of Energy
Carlsbad Field Office
4021 National Parks Highway
Carlsbad, NM 88220

Dear NEPA Compliance Officer McCauslin,

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Sincerely,



James Stovall
Field Manager



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Carlsbad Field Office
620 E. Greene St.
Carlsbad, NM 88220-6292



1610 (P0200)

January 20, 2012

Mr. Michael Janksy
Environmental Protection Agency
Region 6
Office of Planning and Coordination
1445 Ross Ave.
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

Dear Environmental Review Coordinator Janksy,

The Bureau of Land Management's Carlsbad Field Office is initiating an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a new potash mine (the Ochoa Mine Project) proposed by Intercontinental Potash Corp. (USA) (ICP). The proposed Ochoa Mine Project is located about 40 miles east-southeast of Carlsbad, New Mexico, and 20 miles west of Jal, New Mexico (Figure 1). The project is located outside the Secretary's Potash Area (SPA) and SPA management directives will not apply.

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Sincerely,



James Stovall
Field Manager



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Carlsbad Field Office
620 E. Greene St.
Carlsbad, NM 88220-6292



1610 (P0200)

January 20, 2012

Mr. Dale Pate
National Park Service
Carlsbad Caverns National Park
3225 National Parks Highway
Carlsbad, NM 88220

Dear Supervisory Cave Specialist Pate,

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If the National Park Service, Carlsbad Caverns National Park would like to be involved in the planning process as a Cooperating Agency, or if you have questions about the process, please contact David Alderman, the Ochoa Mine Project Manager, at (575) 234-6232, or by email at dalderma@blm.gov.

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James Stovall
Field Manager



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Carlsbad Field Office
620 E. Greene St.
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88220-6292
www.nm.blm.gov



In Reply Refer To:
8100 (523)
CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED
7010 1870 0003 5225 7095

Leroy Ned Shingoitewa, Chairman
Hopi Tribal Council
P.O. Box 123
Kykotsmovi, AZ 86039

NOV 16 2011

Dear Chairman Shingoitewa:

The BLM Carlsbad Field Office has received a proposal from Intercontinental Potash to construct a new mining facility (located approximately 40 miles southeast of Carlsbad). This will require construction of the plant facilities, shaft areas, tailings areas, well locations, and solar evaporative ponds as well as associated infrastructure including roads, pipelines, and electrical powerlines. The BLM is requiring preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for the project. We are currently in the scoping phase of the NEPA process and expect the formal Notice of Intent to be published in the federal register in January. We welcome your comments regarding issues or concerns that should be addressed when analyzing the project impacts.

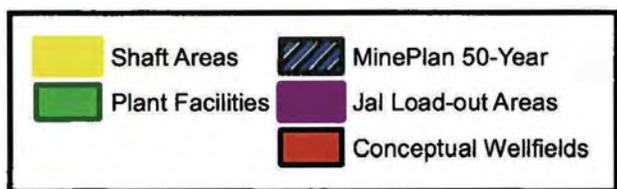
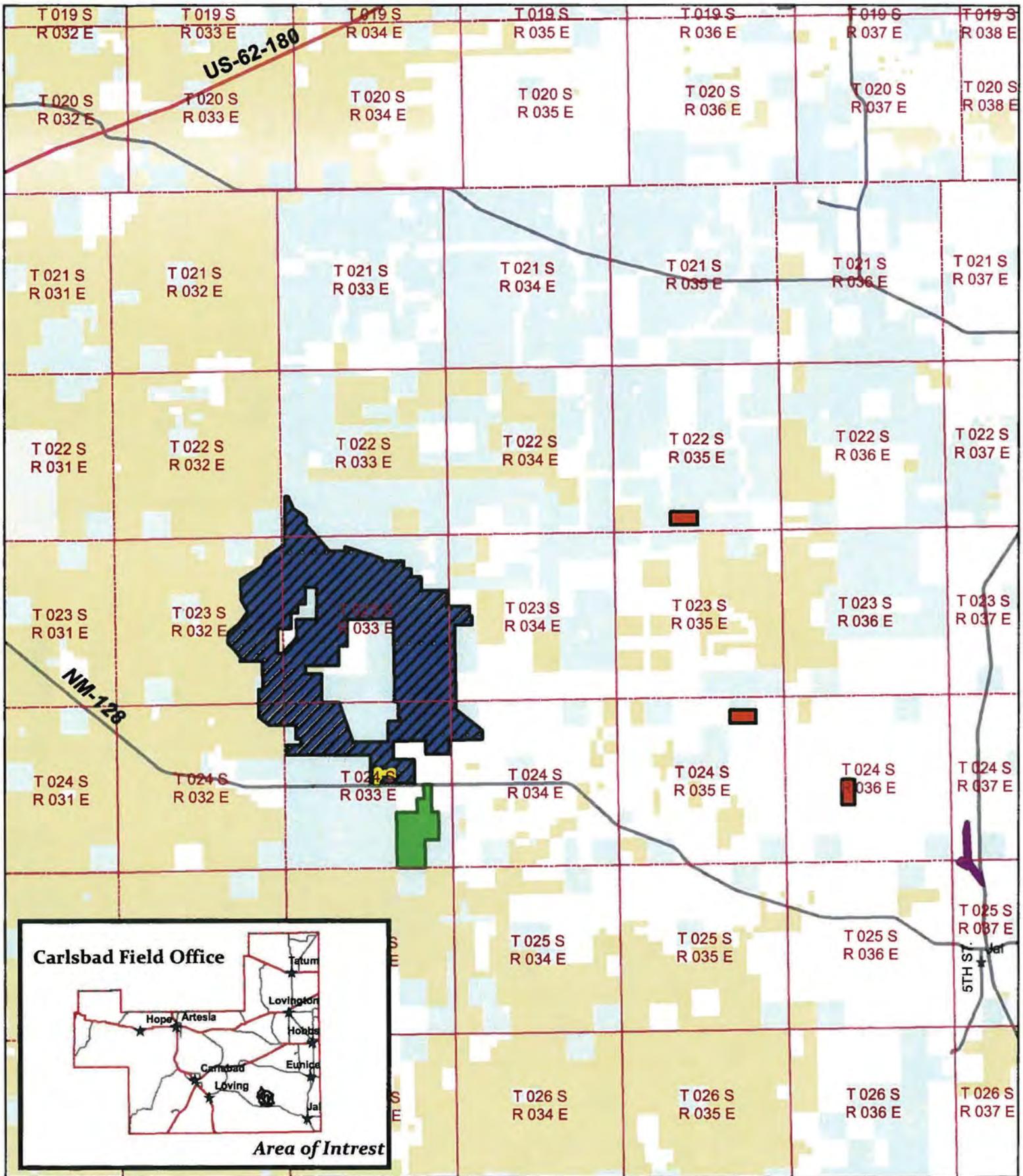
Enclosed for your reference is a map of the proposed project areas provided by Intercontinental Potash. In order to address any tribal concerns the BLM is consulting with your office to identify tribally significant religious or cultural properties that may be eligible to the National Register of Historic Places that may be affected by the proposed action. The BLM will require a complete archaeological inventory of the proposed areas of potential effect prior to construction. The primary means of mitigation for cultural resources will be redesign of the infrastructure to avoid impacts to archaeological sites; however, it may be necessary to test sites for eligibility and impacts may be mitigated through data recovery. The BLM has very little knowledge of tribal sacred or traditional use sites, and these will in most cases not be apparent to archaeologists. Therefore, if your own review should produce any specific concerns, please let us know as early as possible.

The Carlsbad Field Office's Cultural Resources staff is available to work with your staff closely and confidentially regarding any cultural issues or concerns you may have. If you have any immediate comments, please feel free to contact Bruce Boeke at (575) 234-5917.

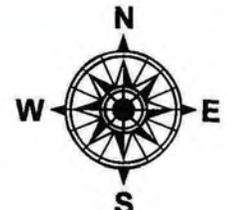
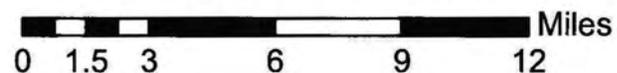
Sincerely,

Jim Stovall
Field Office Manager

Enclosure



ICP Ochoa Mine Project Surface Locations



Appendix B

Scoping Meeting Materials

Public Scoping Meeting

WELCOME

Ochoa Mine Project

Draft Environmental Impact Statement

NEPA Process

Environmental Impact
Statement Process

Publish Notice of Intent

30-Day Scoping Period

Publish Draft EIS

Public Review
of Draft EIS

Publish Final EIS

30-Day Availability Period

Record of Decision

30-Day Public Appeal

= Public
Involvement
Opportunities

The Carlsbad Field Office (CFO) of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will be preparing the **Ochoa Mine Project** Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) over the next two years. Please complete and return this card to ensure BLM establishes an accurate mailing list to keep you informed of all activities and public meetings associated with this project.

Name and organization you represent, if applicable (please print): _____

Address: _____

(city)

(state)

(zip)

① Let us know if you would like to stay informed of the EIS by checking a box below:

- Remove me from the project mailing list.
- Keep me on the project mailing list to receive notifications.

② If you would like to remain on the project mailing list, please let us know the best way to provide notices to you. To save paper, please select website or email below:

By WEBSITE. I will visit the website: <http://www.nm.blm.gov/cfo/ochoaMine/> whenever I am interested in learning more about this project.

By EMAIL. My email address is (please print): _____

By mail. My mailing address is above.

As part of this process, BLM will distribute a Draft EIS (several hundred pages long). If you are interested in reviewing the Draft EIS, please let us know your preference. To save paper, please select website, public locations, or CD:

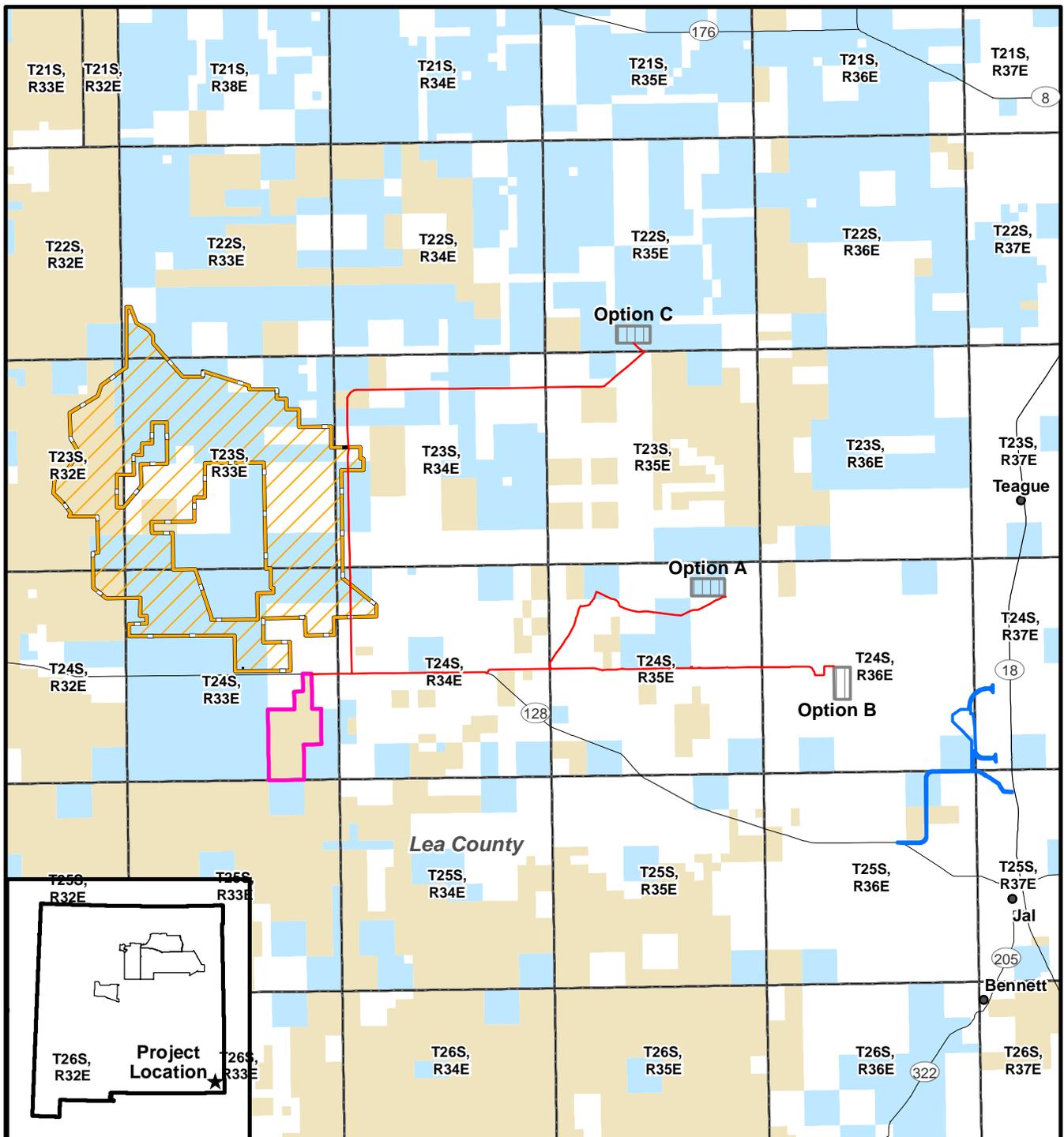
- By WEBSITE. Email me (at address above) when the document is available. I will download from the website.
- Public Locations. Email (at address above) me when the Draft EIS is available and I will visit the local library, CFO, or other public repository to view a copy.
- Mail me a CD to the address listed above.
- Mail me a hard copy to the address listed above.

PLEASE READ: Any information collected for the mailing list may be subject to disclosure, but will be handled in accordance with the Privacy Act and the Freedom of Information Act to ensure the greatest protection of personal privacy in response to any required disclosure.

Add 1st
class
postage

**DOI
BLM Carlsbad Field Office
ATTN: Ochoa Mine Project Lead
620 East Greene
Carlsbad, NM 88220**

Please fold in half, staple or tape the bottom together, and add First Class letter postage.



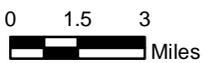
Legend

-  50-Year Mine Plan
-  Plant Facilities
-  Jal Loadout Area and Access Road
-  Shaft and Associated Facilities
-  Conceptual Wellfields
-  Possible Water Line Locations

Surface Ownership

-  BLM
-  Private
-  State

Proposed Ochoa Mine and Facilities



Ochoa Mine Project EIS Fact Sheet

Intercontinental Potash Corp. (USA) (ICP) proposes to develop a new mine on its state and federal leases to extract polyhalite ore. There are 17 state mineral leases. The 34 BLM prospecting permits are being converted to Preference Right Leases. ICP submitted a Mine Plan of Operations to BLM in October, 2011, as the first step in the federal process to allow access to the minerals. The submittal of the Mine Plan triggered the required environmental analysis to be completed before BLM can approve the proposal.

Other quick facts:

- The anticipated life of the mine is 50 years.
- Sulfate of potash will be produced from the polyhalite ore to be sold as agricultural fertilizer.
- Relevant Project Acreage
 - 50-year mine boundary = 27,201 acres
 - Plant site = 1,843 acres
 - Jal loadout and access road = 97 acres
- Mine
 - Conventional room and pillar underground mine (approx. 1,500 feet below ground)
 - ICP will follow rules for a Category IV gassy mine for mine and ventilation plans.
 - Polyhalite ore hoisted to surface, then transported to mill for processing.
- Processing
 - 7-step process
 - Processing to require approx. 2,000 gallons per minute. Source is brackish water from the Capitan Aquifer. Well field and pipeline locations are currently under evaluation.
 - Transport finished potash by truck to Jal for loading on rail cars.
- Projected direct employment
 - 750 construction jobs
 - 450 full-time jobs for operations
- Applicant-committed environmental protection measures
 - Groundwater monitoring
 - Subsidence monitoring
 - Biological resource surveys to identify protection measures
 - Cultural resource surveys
 - Surface water controls
 - Erosion controls
 - Stabilize disturbed areas
 - Reclamation plans

Ochoa Mine Project EIS

Project Overview and NEPA Process



Ellen Dietrich
Peggy Roberts



Presentation Will Cover:

- Project Overview

- Background
- Proposal: What, Where, Why, Who

- NEPA Process

- How, When
- Public Input

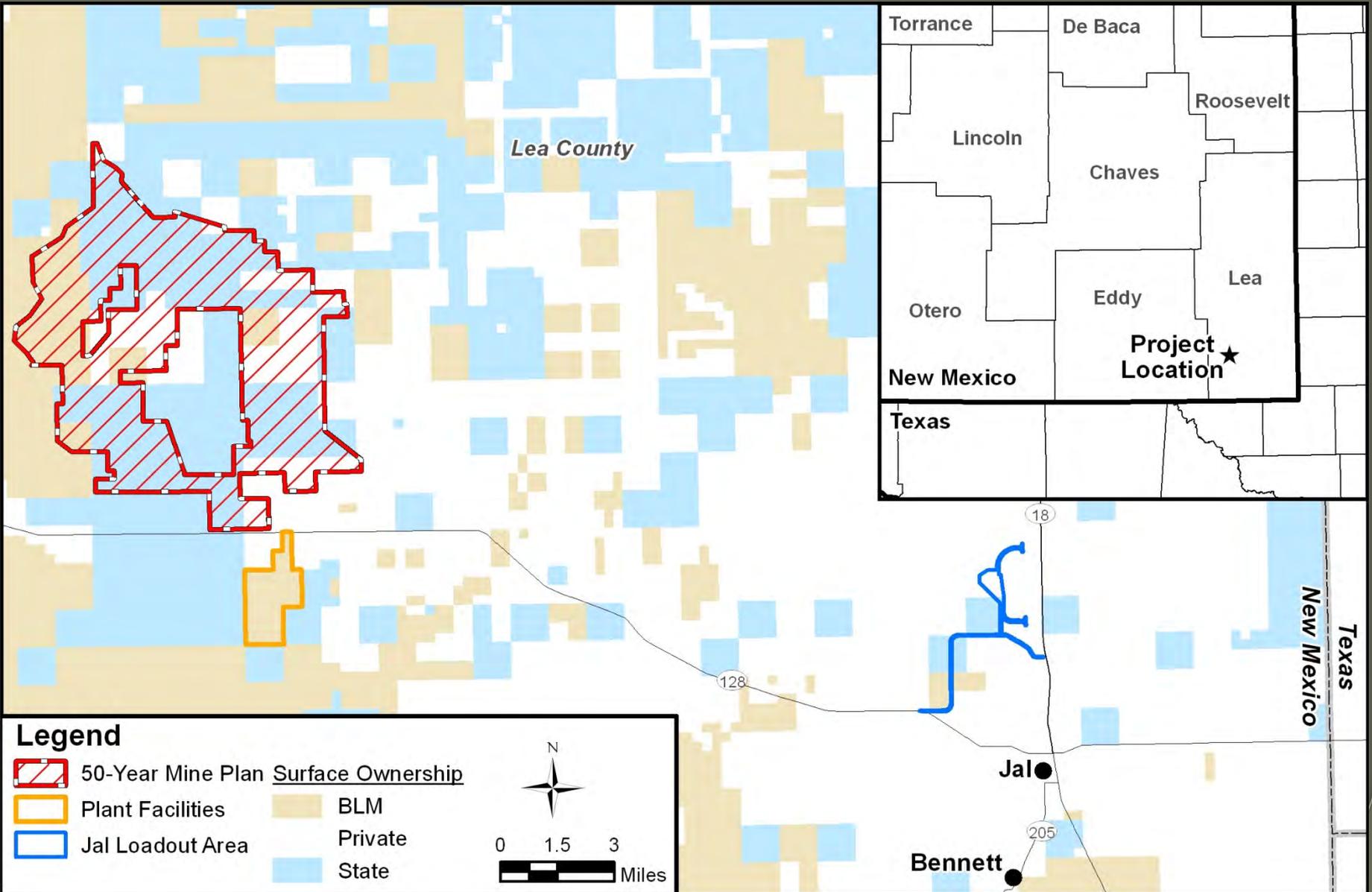
Potash:

Salt primarily used for fertilizer that supplies potassium, an essential nutrient for crops.

Project Background

- Intercontinental Potash Corp. (USA) (ICP) proposes to develop a new mine on its state and federal leases to extract polyhalite ore.
- Polyhalite ore will be used to produce sulfate of potash for agricultural fertilizer.
- ICP submitted a Mine Plan of Operations to BLM in October 2011.
- The Mine Plan submittal triggered the required environmental analysis before BLM can approve the proposal.

Proposed Project Area



BLM Authorities

- Potash is a solid mineral leased from the federal government and managed by BLM under the following primary laws:
 - Mineral Leasing Act of 1920
 - Potash Leasing Act of 1927
 - Mining and Mineral Policy Act of 1970
 - Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976

Land Ownership and Acreage

◉ Surface Ownership

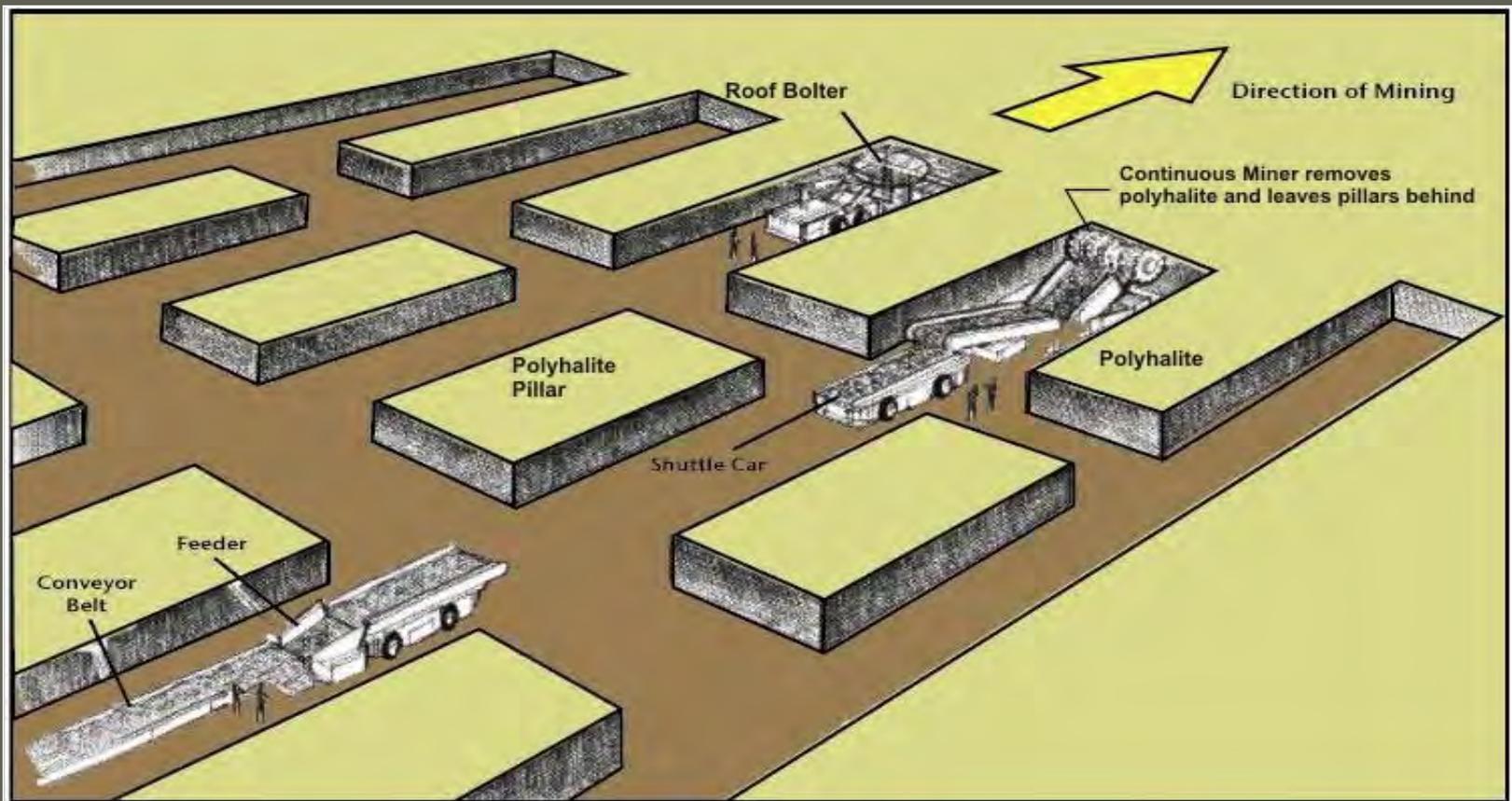
Owner	Mine	Plant	Jal Loadout
BLM	19%	100%	3%
State	58%		18%
Private	23%		79%

◉ Relevant Project Acreage

- 50-year mine boundary= 27,201 acres
- Plant site = 1,843 acres
- Jal loadout and access road = 97 acres
- Well field options on either state or private land

Proposed Project Actions

- Conventional room and pillar underground mine (approx. 1,500 feet below ground)

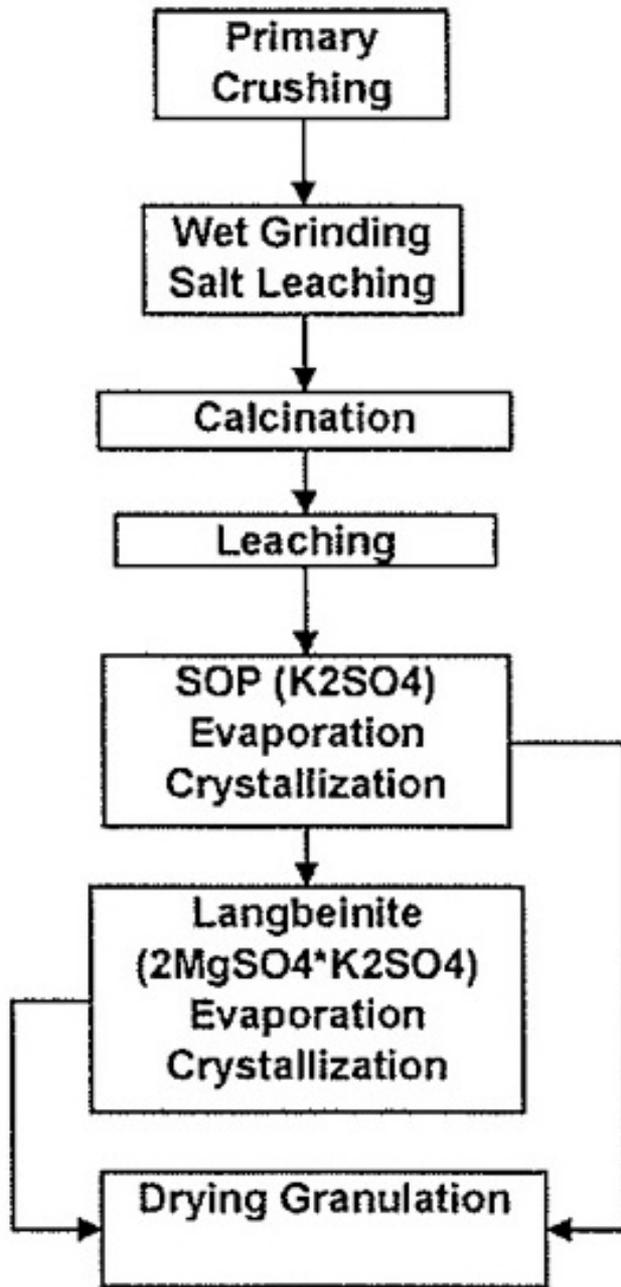


Proposed Project Actions

- General targeted extraction rate is 90% except near active oil or gas wells to minimize subsidence.
- ICP will follow rules for a Category IV gassy mine for mine and ventilation plans.
- Polyhalite ore hoisted to surface, then transported to mill for processing.
- Transport potash by truck to Jal for loading on rail cars

Plant Processing

- 7 major steps in ore processing



Proposed Surface Facilities

- ◉ Shaft and related structures
- ◉ Processing plant
 - Buildings for processing equipment
 - 16 disposal ponds for waste brine
 - Dry stack tailings
- ◉ Access roads
- ◉ Power lines
- ◉ Water wells
- ◉ Jal loadout

Water Source

- ◉ Water to come from Capitan Reef
 - No water right needed (deep)
 - Brackish water use supported by BLM and State Engineer
 - Unlikely to affect other water users in the region
- ◉ Processing to require approx. 2,000 gallons per minute
- ◉ ICP will soon begin testing water yields
- ◉ 3 possible well fields under consideration

Environmental Protection

- ◉ Groundwater monitoring
- ◉ Subsidence monitoring
- ◉ Biological resource surveys to identify protection measures
- ◉ Cultural resource surveys
- ◉ Surface water controls
- ◉ Erosion controls
- ◉ Stabilize disturbed areas
- ◉ Reclamation plans

Effects of Proposed Project

- ◉ Estimated future employment up to:
 - 750 construction jobs
 - 450 full-time jobs for operations
- ◉ Projected impacts to the human environment (natural, cultural, social, economic) will be analyzed in an environmental impact statement (EIS)
- ◉ Procedures and requirements for an EIS are governed and guided by the National Environmental Policy Act

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

Environmental Impact Statement Process



Ochoa Mine Project EIS Timeline
Green boxes indicate public comment opportunities.

Public Scoping

“Scoping is a process, not an event or meetings.”

Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), 1981

Purpose:

To identify the scope of issues for in-depth analysis in the EIS.

Objectives:

- Identify the affected public and agency concerns.
- Facilitate efficient EIS preparation by adequately addressing relevant issues.
- Define issues and alternatives to be examined in the EIS.

CEQ Memorandum, 1981



Scoping Document

- Define purpose of scoping
- Summarize government/tribal consultation
- Summary of scoping process
 - Notification
 - Scoping Meetings
 - Scoping Comments
 - Issues to be evaluated

(CEQ Memorandum: Scoping Guidance, April 30, 1981, II(b)(6))

The EIS Analysis

- ◎ Purpose and Need
- ◎ **Proposed Action (Project)**
- ◎ Alternatives
- ◎ Affected Environment
- ◎ Environmental Consequences

Reasonable Alternatives

- Agencies shall “rigorously explore and objectively evaluate all reasonable alternatives,” and briefly discuss the reasons that some alternatives were eliminated from detailed study.
40 CFR 1502.14(a)
- Must satisfy the purpose and need statement.
Citizens Against Burlington, Inc. v. Busey (1991)
- Must not be remote or speculative.
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC (1978);
NRDC v. Morton (1972)
- Must be practical or feasible from the technical and economic standpoint.
CEQ’s NEPA’s Forty Most Asked Questions-2a (1981)

The EIS Analysis

- ◎ Purpose and Need
- ◎ Proposed Action (Project)
- ◎ Alternatives
- ◎ **Affected Environment**
- ◎ Environmental Consequences

BLM Elements of the Environment

From BLM NEPA Handbook (2008) (H-1790-1, Appendix 1)

- Air Quality
- Cultural Resources
- Fish Habitat
- Forests and Rangelands
- Migratory Birds
- Native American Religious Concerns
- Threatened or Endangered Species
- Wastes, Hazardous or Solid
- Water Quality (Drinking - Ground)
- Wild and Scenic Rivers
- Wilderness
- Environmental Justice
- Floodplains
- Wetland/Riparian Zones

Other resources identified in BLM Instruction Memoranda and Executive Orders that should be addressed, if relevant

- Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
- Farm Lands (prime or unique)
- Invasive, Nonnative Species
- Off Highway Vehicles
- Paleontological Resources
- Wild Horses and Burros
- Statement of Adverse Energy Impact

The EIS Analysis

- ◎ Purpose and Need
- ◎ Proposed Action (Project)
- ◎ Alternatives
- ◎ Affected Environment
- ◎ **Environmental Consequences**

Three Types of Impacts

- ◉ Direct effects
- ◉ Indirect effects
- ◉ Cumulative impacts

(40 CFR 1508.8, 40 CFR 1508.7)

Mitigation

An EIS should “include appropriate mitigation measures not already included in the proposed action or alternatives.” (40 CFR 1502.14[f])

“Mitigation includes:

- (a) Avoiding the impact altogether...
- (b) Minimizing impacts...
- (c) Rectifying the impact...
- (d) Reducing or eliminating the impact over time...
- (e) Compensating for the impact...”

(40 CFR 1508.20)

Environmental Impact Statement Process



Ochoa Mine Project EIS Timeline
Green boxes indicate public comment opportunities.

*Thank you for attending this
public scoping meeting.*

Scoping comments due to BLM by February 7, 2012.

We encourage you to ask questions about the proposed project, the project area, or the NEPA process.

There are BLM resource and NEPA specialists, AECOM NEPA specialists, and Intercontinental Potash staff available to answer questions.

Please submit your comments tonight, or by mail or e-mail.

Appendix C

Comprehensive List of Scoping Comments

Ochoa Mine Project Public Scoping Comments

Category	Commenter	Comment Text
Air Quality		
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	What methane emissions are expected?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	Does the mine expect air quality issues from any source other than oil and gas operations? If so what and how significant?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	Will air exhaust facilities vent from the mine or will treatment be required?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	What gases will be emitted? What quantities are expected?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	Will the vented air be of a quality that poses a risk of any kind? Will it be flammable or potentially explosive? Will it require a buffer zone?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	What emissions (type and amount) will come from the processing of the ore?
	McCloy, Mark; Double M Ranch	Since there has never been any polyhalite mining facilities in operation in this state and abutting states, the McCloy's do not know what odors may result from ICP's operations nor what quantity and kind of particles may be released into the air and they do not know what other impacts to the environment may result from ICP's Ochoa Mine Project.
	Smith, Rhonda; USEPA Region 6	EPA recommends the development of a dust control plan prior to the start of construction activities.
	Smith, Rhonda; USEPA Region 6	EPA encourages the use of clean, lower-emissions equipment and technologies to reduce pollution. EPA's final Highway Diesel and Nonroad Diesel Rules mandate the use of lower-sulfur fuels in nonroad and marine diesel engines beginning in 2007.
Cultural Resources		
	Moran, Kathleen	Because of the long history of natural resource development in the area of the proposed project, the location of the project away from local population centers, and the existing knowledge base of the local community, the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement, and the related review, should be narrowly focused and should give significant weight to the fact that this natural resource is unique and not available elsewhere and the fact that the project will have significant positive impacts on the local communities in areas to be addressed by the EIS, i.e., cultural, social, and economic.
	Smith, Rhonda; USEPA Region 6	Laws concerning preservation of cultural, historical, and archeologically significant items include the Archeological and Historic Preservation Act and the National Historic Preservation Act. Please consult with New Mexico State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) to determine if any impacts to these resources exist. EPA recommends consulting Native American tribes who may have historical ties to the project area to determine if any cultural or religiously significant areas exist within the project boundary.
Cumulative Impacts		
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	What other development is anticipated in the area during the life of the mine? How will the expected development impact the proposed mine?
Environmental Justice		
	Smith, Rhonda; USEPA Region 6	Initial analysis indicates Lea County has a 76% minority population. In accordance with Executive Order 12898, please provide a quantitative and qualitative description of the projects impacts to minority and/or low-income populations.

Category	Commenter	Comment Text
Geology		
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	What rock will be removed in addition to ore? Where will it be placed and how will it be handled?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	At what depth will mining take place? Is that depth consistent across the entire mining area for the life of the mine?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	How tall are the rooms and corridors in the areas to be mined?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	What is the nature of the rock in the mined area?
Health/Safety		
	Dey, Eileen; Conoco Phillips	Conoco Phillips would like the following to be analyzed in the Ochoa Mine Project EIS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - presentation of correlative rights (COP mineral rights) - Co-development between Potash and oil and gas and related safety measures - water usage and disposal - travel and hauling routes; road maintenance - safety factors such as proximity to other multiple uses bases on sound science
	Hayes, Robert	As an engineer, I am convinced this work can be done in a way that will meet all safety, environmental, and public requirements while still allowing the owners to make a healthy profit.
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	How will the mine handle waste material? Is any toxic? Hazardous?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	Will the vented air be of a quality that poses a risk of any kind? Will it be flammable or potentially explosive? Will it require a buffer zone?
	McCloy, Mark; Double M Ranch	Settlement Ponds are proposed covering several hundred acres of the proposed plant site. The McCloys are concerned that the use of settlement ponds will result in the contamination of the limited amount of existing potable water available in the underground water formation which they use and rely upon. How will ICP prevent contamination of potable groundwater?
	McCloy, Mark; Double M Ranch	McCloys are informed that a waste product in the form of gypsum will be generated from ICP's operations and that ICP proposes to stack it on the proposed plant site in one or more tailings piles. With the life of the mine being projected to be operational for at least 40-years and perhaps twice that length of time, the waste piles of gypsum are likely to become huge in volume and area. Erosion by way of wind particularly and perhaps even rainfall in sufficient quantities will scatter the gypsum if it is stacked on open ground in piles for the period of time the mine project is operations. It is not known to the McCloys how this waste over time will affect the health of humans who live and work on the ranch nor how it may affect cattle and their grazing on ranch lands abutting the proposed plant site. How will the gypsum waste ultimately be disposed of and where?
	Rempe, Norbert	In accordance with its mandate to make environmentally responsible multiple use of public lands, the BLM should address in this EIS the potential of the mined-out underground volume of the proposed mine to be used for geologic disposal of dangerous wastes.
	Rempe, Norbert	Polyhalite is a potash ore, and all potash is radioactive because it contains the radioactive isotope K-40. Polyhalite production will increase radiation exposure to mine employees and members of the general public. U.S. regulations do not define any exposure to radiation (as low as it may be) as "below regulatory concern", the ruling paradigm in radiation protection assumes that all exposure is cumulative, and much of the scientific and technical literature presumes that any (additional) exposure to ionizing radiation has at least some detrimental consequences and should be avoided (ALARA principle). The EIS should address this topic in detail, including either mitigating measures to be implemented or providing a sufficient evidence- and science-based rationale for dismissing this potential concern.

Category	Commenter	Comment Text
Health/Safety		
	Rempe, Norbert	Prevailing professional judgment is that salt and potash dust generated from current mining and processing operations presents at worst a mild irritation potential but no actual health hazard. Such dust from current mines and plants is, at least for the most part, easily water-soluble. Polyhalite is not easily soluble in water , and may present potential health hazards from dust generated during mining and processing of polyhalite ore. For example, radioactive isotopes contained in poorly water-soluble dust may affect humans in different ways than radioactive isotopes contained in easily water-soluble dust. The EIS should address this topic in detail, including either mitigating measures to be implemented or providing a sufficient evidence- and science-based rationale for dismissing this potential concern.
	Westbrook, Roger; Energy Transfer Transwest Pipeline	The pipelines are in an easement 132 feet wide on state of NM lands and 100 feet wide on U.S.A-BLM lands. Longitudinal encroachment, grade changes, physical obstruction above or below grade and water impoundment over the easements are prohibited and are not allowed. Any in close proximity to the pipeline must have prior 48 hour notice. Transwestern is a member of and subscribes to the New Mexico One Call at (800) 321-2537, www.nmonecall.org .
Land Ownership/Adjustment		
	McCloy, Mark; Double M Ranch	Some of the McCloys concerns can be addressed through an exchange of land...so that ICP's relocated plant site would be located on all BLM land after the exchange of land. The proposed exchange of land would move ICP's plant site further from the McCloy home and ranch headquarters and at least reduce the concern about contamination of their fresh water source for their home and some of the water source for use in ranching. Existing access across Section 35 to the East part of the ranch would continue as it presently exists and no removal of the water distribution line; water tanks and weaning trap would be required. The habitat on the proposed exchange of land site is of lesser quality than that of ICP's present proposed mine site. Better habitat would be preserved consistent with the Lesser Prairie Chicken Program and its goals. The McCloys request to relocate ICP's present proposed plant site as outlined above is the first opportunity the McCloys have had to express to the BLM their concerns and the impacts which will result to them; to their home, to their ranching business and to the future value of their ranch.
Leasing		
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	Will ICP actions delay the development of oil and gas in the area? If there are delays for an oil and gas operator, will the BLM suspend the requirements on federal leases? What will be the impact, if any, on the state leases?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	What are the legal implications arising between any mining lease ICP has or may obtain and rights in oil and gas leases that were in existence at the time ICP's leases were/are obtained? What impact will the proposed mine have on existing oil and gas leases, including whether it is necessary or appropriate to extend their primary terms?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	Will ICP leases impact any future federal or state lease sales? Will lands be withdrawn from oil and gas leasing by either the federal or state government or both?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	Will this area be pulled into the Secretary's Potash Area pursuant to the 1986 Order or any revisions of that Order? Can that action take place without NEPA review? Would such an action be subject to legal challenge by owners of oil and gas leases that were in existence at the time ICP acquired its mining lease?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	If oil and gas existing rights are impacted will ICP purchase the rights? Pay for any additional operating costs for oil and gas operations arising from the mine's operations?
Livestock Grazing/Range Management		
	Lane, James; State of New Mexico Department of Game and Fish	The surface area that would be cleared for the shaft and processing sites is dominated by black grama grass, in good range condition, with relatively light fragmentation. Black grama grasslands are vulnerable to degradation and difficult to reclaim. The BLM should consider the possibility of requiring compensatory mitigation for the long-term, possibly permanent, loss of this high-quality habitat.

Category	Commenter	Comment Text
Livestock Grazing/Range Management		
	McCloy, Mark; Double M Ranch	McCloy's are informed that a waste product in the form of gypsum will be generated from ICP's operations and that ICP proposes to stack it on the proposed plant site in one or more tailings piles. With the life of the mine being projected to be operational for at least 40-years and perhaps twice that length of time, the waste piles of gypsum are likely to become huge in volume and area. Erosion by way of wind particularly and perhaps even rainfall in sufficient quantities will scatter the gypsum if it is stacked on open ground in piles for the period of time the mine project is operations. It is not known to the McCloy's how this waste over time will affect the health of humans who live and work on the ranch nor how it may affect cattle and their grazing on ranch lands abutting the proposed plant site. How will the gypsum waste ultimately be disposed of and where?
	McCloy, Mark; Double M Ranch	The proposed location of ICP's plant facilities will have adverse impacts to the conduct of the ranching business. The McCloy's have an existing water distribution pipeline crossing Section 35 which provides livestock water for Section 35 and for ranch lands located east of Section 35; there are two water tanks located in Section 35; and there is a weaning trap located in portions of the West Half (W/2) of Section 35 and portions of Section 26, Township 24 South, Range 33 East which is fenced with approximately one and one-half (1 1/2) miles of fences.
	Moran, Kathleen	Oil and Gas activity and ranching both occur throughout the area, and the local population is very familiar with what needs to be done to protect the surrounding natural resources. The proposed project will utilize sophisticated mining and production methods which will mitigate any impacts to nearby ranching and oil and gas activity.
Mitigation Measures		
	Lane, James; State of New Mexico Department of Game and Fish	African rue, a New Mexico Department of Agriculture listed noxious weed, is present on well pads and along roadsides in the vicinity of the project area. Surface facility locations should be surveyed for the presence of this and other noxious weeds. The project proponent should also establish a weed management plan designed to prevent the spread of existing weeds or the establishment of new ones, and to control new areas of infestation should they occur.
	Lane, James; State of New Mexico Department of Game and Fish	To avoid violation of the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act, clearing of vegetation should take place from September 1 through March 31, thus minimizing the possibility of nest destruction or abandonment. If it is necessary to remove vegetation during the breeding season, nest surveys should be conducted by a qualified biologist, and active nests should be left undisturbed until the young have fledged.
	Lane, James; State of New Mexico Department of Game and Fish	To minimize the amount of open trenches at any given time, keep trenching and backfilling crews close together. Trench during the cooler months (October - March). However, there may be exceptions (e.g., critical wintering areas) which need to be assessed on a site-specific basis. Avoid leaving trenches open overnight. Where trenches cannot be back-filled immediately, escape ramps should be constructed at least every 90 meters. Escape ramps can be short lateral trenches sloping to the surface or wooden planks extending to the surface. The slope should be less than 45 degrees (100%). Trenches that have been left open overnight, especially where endangered species occur, should be inspected and animals removed prior to back-filling.
	Lane, James; State of New Mexico Department of Game and Fish	The surface area that would be cleared for the shaft and processing sites is dominated by black grama grass, in good range condition, with relatively light fragmentation. Black grama grasslands are vulnerable to degradation and difficult to reclaim. The BLM should consider the possibility of requiring compensatory mitigation for the long-term, possibly permanent, loss of this high-quality habitat.
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	If mitigation of the mine's impact on wildlife is needed how will that impact oil and gas operations? Will each competing interest bear its "fair share" or will one interest be saddled with a disproportionate burden?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	Assuming oil and gas activities will be impacted by the mine what are those impacts and how will they be mitigated? What will happen with infrastructure such as wells, tanks, pipelines, already in place if the mine approved? What will happen to proposed oil and gas operations in the area?
	Moran, Kathleen	The proposed project will utilize sophisticated mining and production methods which will mitigate any impacts to nearby ranching and oil and gas activity.

Category	Commenter	Comment Text
Mitigation Measures		
	Smith, Rhonda; USEPA Region 6	EPA recommends the development of a dust control plan prior to the start of construction activities.
	Smith, Rhonda; USEPA Region 6	Pursuant to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBT A), EPA encourages Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to coordinate mitigation measures to protect migratory birds, in relation to evaporation ponds, with the USFWS and the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish.
NEPA Process		
	Dey, Eileen; Conoco Phillips	Conoco Phillips would like the following to be analyzed in the Ochoa Mine Project EIS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - presentation of correlative rights (COP mineral rights) - Co-development between Potash and oil and gas and related safety measures - water usage and disposal - travel and hauling routes; road maintenance - safety factors such as proximity to other multiple uses bases on sound science
	Hayes, Robert	If there are problems or limitations found in the EIS from the proposed design, I hope that appropriate design or process changes can be made to enable the mining to go forward.
	Hayes, Robert	As an engineer, I am convinced this work can be done in a way that will meet all safety, environmental, and public requirements while still allowing the owners to make a healthy profit.
	Kernan, Gay; New Mexico State Senate	I have confidence that a fair and concise review will prove that Intercontinental Potash Corporation will be beneficial to the economic development of Lea county and at the same time preserve the surrounding area.
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	Will the scope of the study cover the first 10 years of the mine and an additional area for 50 years of the 100-plus year life of the mine, as claimed in ICP documents?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	Will this area be pulled into the Secretary's Potash Area pursuant to the 1986 Order or any revisions of that Order? Can that action take place without NEPA review? Would such an action be subject to legal challenge by owners of oil and gas leases that were in existence at the time ICP acquired its mining lease?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	Likewise for potash, and, because ICP states the life of the mine is 100 years, then that time period needs to be analyzed as part of the EIS. Actually, ICP states there is are for 150 years so looking at a 100 years is not excessive.
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	Before identifying the specific issues, we wish to make an overall suggestion. As a separate path from the EIS which must go forward, Intercontinental Potash Corp. (ICP) and COG and other oil and gas operators owning leases in and around the area of the mine should consider organizing a working group to develop standards for both industries that will allow for the concurrent development of both potash and oil and gas. COG intends to take steps to initiate the formation of this work group.
	Moran, Kathleen	Because of the long history of natural resource development in the area of the proposed project, the location of the project away from local population centers, and the existing knowledge base of the local community, the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement, and the related review, should be narrowly focused and should give significant weight to the fact that this natural resource is unique and not available elsewhere and the fact that the project will have significant positive impacts on the local communities in areas to be addressed by the EIS, i.e., cultural, social, and economic.
	Rempe, Norbert	Prevailing professional judgment is that salt and potash dust generated from current mining and processing operations presents at worst a mild irritation potential but no actual health hazard. Such dust from current mines and plants is, at least for the most part, easily water-soluble. Polyhalite is not easily soluble in water , and may present potential health hazards from dust generated during mining and processing of polyhalite ore. For example, radioactive isotopes contained in poorly water-soluble dust may affect humans in different ways than radioactive isotopes contained in easily water-soluble dust. The EIS should address this topic in detail, including either mitigating measures to be implemented or providing a sufficient evidence- and science-based rationale for dismissing this potential concern.
	Rempe, Norbert	In accordance with its mandate to make environmentally responsible multiple use of public lands, the BLM should address in this EIS the potential of the mined-out underground volume of the proposed mine to be used for geologic disposal of dangerous wastes.

Category	Commenter	Comment Text
NEPA Process		
	Rempe, Norbert	Polyhalite is a potash ore, and all potash is radioactive because it contains the radioactive isotope K-40. Polyhalite production will increase radiation exposure to mine employees and members of the general public. U.S. regulations do not define any exposure to radiation (as low as it may be) as “below regulatory concern”, the ruling paradigm in radiation protection assumes that all exposure is cumulative, and much of the scientific and technical literature presumes that any (additional) exposure to ionizing radiation has at least some detrimental consequences and should be avoided (ALARA principle). The EIS should address this topic in detail, including either mitigating measures to be implemented or providing a sufficient evidence- and science-based rationale for dismissing this potential concern.
	Worthington, Donny; XTO	XTO Energy (a subsidiary of ExxonMobil) holds significant Oil and Gas Mineral Leases in the proposed project area - particularly in T23S, R32E. It is our intention to develop this acreage to take full advantage of those leases. Because we have a significant position in the proposed area, have an obligation to mineral interest owners, and desire to fully develop these leases in a safe, economical, and efficient manner, XTO needs to be included in the process for developing the EIS and addressing those impacts. The impacts associated with mining could possibly have a major affect on our present and future operations for oil and gas drilling and production. The BLM should work together with industry to identify the best path forward.
Noise		
	McCloy, Mark; Double M Ranch	In addition, the McCloy's are concerned about the noise level from ICP's operations and whether it will be heard at the headquarters and in their home, particularly at night when the occupants of the home are trying to sleep.
Oil and Gas		
	Dey, Eileen; Conoco Phillips	Conoco Phillips would like the following to be analyzed in the Ochoa Mine Project EIS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - presentation of correlative rights (COP mineral rights) - Co-development between Potash and oil and gas and related safety measures - water usage and disposal - travel and hauling routes; road maintenance - safety factors such as proximity to other multiple uses bases on sound science
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	What is the anticipated annual water use during construction and during each year of operation of the mine? How will that impact other foreseeable development in the area, such as oil and gas development?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	What is planned for the power grid for the mine? Will it need utility poles? Pipelines for water or fuel? Roads? Tracks? Parking areas? Ore piles? Waste rock? Surface ventilation systems? What are the planned locations? Will any of these require buffer zones prohibiting oil and gas operations?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	What will the impact be on other water users in the area? Are water withdrawals by the mine expected to impact the oil and gas operations' pumping and injecting produced water?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	What is the reasonably foreseeable oil and gas development in the area? COG believes the area of the proposed mine is attractive for both immediate and future oil and gas drilling and production. COG is concerned that the potential development not be underestimated. COG is willing to work with the BLM to assure the adequacy and accuracy of the information developed here.
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	What surface restrictions will be imposed on the proposed mine? The BLM is already limiting the surface disturbances allowed for oil and gas operations to allegedly protect certain animal and plant species. How will the area available for development be split between the mine and oil and gas operators?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	Will this area be pulled into the Secretary's Potash Area pursuant to the 1986 Order or any revisions of that Order? Can that action take place without NEPA review? Would such an action be subject to legal challenge by owners of oil and gas leases that were in existence at the time ICP acquired its mining lease?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	Will ICP leases impact any future federal or state lease sales? Will lands be withdrawn from oil and gas leasing by either the federal or state government or both?

Category	Commenter	Comment Text
Oil and Gas		
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	What are the legal implications arising between any mining lease ICP has or may obtain and rights in oil and gas leases that were in existence at the time ICP's leases were/are obtained? What impact will the proposed mine have on existing oil and gas leases, including whether it is necessary or appropriate to extend their primary terms?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	Before identifying the specific issues, we wish to make an overall suggestion. As a separate path from the EIS which must go forward, Intercontinental Potash Corp. (ICP) and COG and other oil and gas operators owning leases in and around the area of the mine should consider organizing a working group to develop standards for both industries that will allow for the concurrent development of both potash and oil and gas. COG intends to take steps to initiate the formation of this work group.
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	Will evaporation ponds be used? Size? Location? Construction? Will buffer zones be required for oil and gas operations?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	Will ICP actions delay the development of oil and gas in the area? If there are delays for an oil and gas operator, will the BLM suspend the requirements on federal leases? What will be the impact, if any, on the state leases?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	Are restrictions on oil and gas completion work anticipated?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	How will subsidence impact surface or near-surface activities of oil and gas operations, such as pipelines for transporting oil, gas or water?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	If oil and gas existing rights are impacted will ICP purchase the rights? Pay for any additional operating costs for oil and gas operations arising from the mine's operations?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	Assuming oil and gas activities will be impacted by the mine what are those impacts and how will they be mitigated? What will happen with infrastructure such as wells, tanks, pipelines, already in place if the mine approved? What will happen to proposed oil and gas operations in the area?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	How will oil and gas completion work impact subsidence, if at all?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	How will oil and gas completion work impact subsidence, if at all?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	Are the islands separate from pillars? Will the size of the islands be reduced in retreat mining? How much must remain to assure the integrity of the well bore? How is that determined?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	How does the mine propose to deal with salt water disposal wells needed for oil and gas operations? Will they be treated like oil and gas wells?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	In discussions, the mine has proposed drilling islands. What size? Where will they be located? How many wells may be drilled from each island?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	Is special casing and/or cementing required?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	What impact will subsidence have on oil and gas wells? How much subsidence can take place without triggering a problem in an oil and gas well? If there is a problem and the oil and gas well is damaged will the mine pay for the damages? If there is environmental damage will the mine be responsible for the clean up? Will the mine have to providing financial assurance for these risks?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	Will subsidence impact typical oil and gas facilities or will it require design modifications for tanks and other well site facilities?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	If mitigation of the mine's impact on wildlife is needed how will that impact oil and gas operations? Will each competing interest bear its "fair share" or will one interest be saddled with a disproportionate burden?

Category	Commenter	Comment Text
Oil and Gas		
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	Salt water disposal wells are likely to be needed as part of oil and gas production. Will the use of water by the mine impact such wells?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	Will restrictions on oil and gas operations be needed because of subsidence? If so, will these restrictions be permanent or temporary in nature?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	Does the mine expect air quality issues from any source other than oil and gas operations? If so what and how significant?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	Will oil and gas wells be expected to have additional or special casing or cementing requirements in areas where subsidence is expected?
	Moran, Kathleen	Oil and Gas activity and ranching both occur throughout the area, and the local population is very familiar with what needs to be done to protect the surrounding natural resources. The proposed project will utilize sophisticated mining and production methods which will mitigate any impacts to nearby ranching and oil and gas activity.
	Westbrook, Roger; Energy Transfer Transwest Pipeline	The pipelines are in an easement 132 feet wide on state of NM lands and 100 feet wide on U.S.A-BLM lands. Longitudinal encroachment, grade changes, physical obstruction above or below grade and water impoundment over the easements are prohibited and are not allowed. Any in close proximity to the pipeline must have prior 48 hour notice. Transwestern is a member of and subscribes to the New Mexico One Call at (800) 321-2537, www.nmonecall.org .
	Worthington, Donny; XTO	XTO Energy (a subsidiary of ExxonMobil) holds significant Oil and Gas Mineral Leases in the proposed project area - particularly in T23S, R32E. It is our intention to develop this acreage to take full advantage of those leases. Because we have a significant position in the proposed area, have an obligation to mineral interest owners, and desire to fully develop these leases in a safe, economical, and efficient manner, XTO needs to be included in the process for developing the EIS and addressing those impacts. The impacts associated with mining could possibly have a major affect on our present and future operations for oil and gas drilling and production. The BLM should work together with industry to identify the best path forward.
Permits/Special Uses		
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	What permits, especially environmental permits, are required for the mine?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	What permits are needed to acquire, use, handle and discharge water? Have any of these been obtained?
Project Description		
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	Will the scope of the study cover the first 10 years of the mine and an additional area for 50 years of the 100-plus year life of the mine, as claimed in ICP documents?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	How will the mine handle waste material? Is any toxic? Hazardous?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	The mine proposes leaving some pillars in place to decrease subsidence. What size pillars are needed to prevent subsidence? How is that determined? How does that differ from ICP's proposals?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	Will air exhaust facilities vent from the mine or will treatment be required?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	Will natural gas be used as part of the mine's operations? In what quantity each year?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	Because 3.5 million tons of ore will be processed each year how will the waste rock and spent ore be handled?

Category	Commenter	Comment Text
Project Description		
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	How tall are the rooms and corridors in the areas to be mined?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	How will the mine dispose of waste water? What is the nature of the waste water?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	Where will any water wells be located and from what depth will they draw water?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	In discussions, the mine has proposed drilling islands. What size? Where will they be located? How many wells may be drilled from each island?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	At what depth will mining take place? Is that depth consistent across the entire mining area for the life of the mine?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	Will evaporation ponds be used? Size? Location? Construction? Will buffer zones be required for oil and gas operations?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	Are the islands separate from pillars? Will the size of the islands be reduced in retreat mining? How much must remain to assure the integrity of the well bore? How is that determined?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	What rock will be removed in addition to ore? Where will it be placed and how will it be handled?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	What is planned for the power grid for the mine? Will it need utility poles? Pipelines for water or fuel? Roads? Tracks? Parking areas? Ore piles? Waste rock? Surface ventilation systems? What are the planned locations? Will any of these require buffer zones prohibiting oil and gas operations?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	What is the total footprint planned for the life of the mine? What is the proposed surface and underground location for each of the structures included in the plan of operations for the mine? How will it change over time?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	How much electricity will the mine use on an annual basis both during construction and during operations? Who will supply it?
Project Support		
	Campbell, Paul; Forrest Tire Co.	I support this project and believe that it will be a positive contribution to Lea County and fulfill the important role in providing sulfate of potash to a global market. I also believe that the facility will provide quality jobs, enhance the economic diversity of the community and will conduct business in a manner that utilizes environmentally safe methods and care for natural resources.
	Hardison, Lisa; EDC of Lea County	On behalf of the Economic Development Corporation of Lea County (EDCLC), please accept this statement as an indication of our enthusiastic support for the proposed development of a new mine by Intercontinental Potash Corporation (ICP) in Lea County, New Mexico.
	Hayes, Robert	I would very much like to see this project come to my community.
	Heaton, John; New Mexico House of Representatives	<p>I am writing to express my support for the International Potash Corp Ochoa Project. This project will be very positive for southeastern NM.</p> <p>We have been mining various mineral combinations of potassium since 1930 in our area and it has proven to be a very clean, safe and viable operation for many years.</p> <p>The demand for potassium minerals in the agricultural arena will continue to grow as the worldwide population expands. Therefore, I see no reason why it would have a negative impact on the existing potash industry.</p> <p>This addition will have a very positive economic impact on the area and their management is working closely with the O&G industry to have collaborative agreements that support both industries.</p> <p>This project should go forward.</p>

Category	Commenter	Comment Text
Project Support		
	Janway, Dale; City of Carlsbad	As Mayor of Carlsbad, I'd like to express my whole hearted support for the International Potash Corporation's (IC Potash) Ochoa Project in Lea County.
	Janway, Dale; City of Carlsbad	I support the Ochoa Project because of the economic boost it will provide to the citizens of Southeastern New Mexico. This project will provide approximate 350 jobs, many of them going to the citizens of Eddy County and Carlsbad for decades to come. Carlsbad welcomes IC Potash with open arms.
	Kernan, Gay; New Mexico State Senate	I would like to offer my support of the Ochoa Potash Mine Project currently under consideration and development by Intercontinental Potash Corporation in southern Lea County.
	Nicholas, Marsha; Windstream Communications	What an exciting opportunity for Jal, Hobbs, Eunice, and Carlsbad. Ochoa mine will generate jobs, housing, economic development.
	Reagan, Gary; City of Hobbs	I support this project and believe that it will be a positive contribution to Lea County.
	Spencer, Samuel; Lea County State Bank	We definitely support Intercontinental Potash Corporation in its effort to develop this natural resource and put it to beneficial use.
	Spencer, Samuel; Lea County State Bank	Lea County State Bank supports the proposed Ochoa Mine Project in Lea County, New Mexico.
	Waters, John; Carlsbad Department of Development	Finally, I support the Ochoa Project because of the economic growth that it will provide to the citizens of Southeastern New Mexico and Eddy County.
	Waters, John; Carlsbad Department of Development	I want to express my support for the Intercontinental Potash Corporation's IC Potash) Ochoa Project in Lea County.
	White, Matt; City of Eunice	The City of Eunice supports the Intercontinental Potash project.
Public Involvement		
	Hardison, Lisa; EDC of Lea County	Lea County residents and businesses have been provided with opportunities to learn about the ICP project. ICP has been open about the facility plans and responsive to any questions posed.
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	Before identifying the specific issues, we wish to make an overall suggestion. As a separate path from the EIS which must go forward, Intercontinental Potash Corp. (ICP) and COG and other oil and gas operators owning leases in and around the area of the mine should consider organizing a working group to develop standards for both industries that will allow for the concurrent development of both potash and oil and gas. COG intends to take steps to initiate the formation of this work group.
	Spencer, Samuel; Lea County State Bank	As a locally owned business, the opportunity to participate in the public scoping process for the Ochoa Mine is appreciated.
Realty/Land Use		
	Dey, Eileen; Conoco Phillips	Conoco Phillips would like the following to be analyzed in the Ochoa Mine Project EIS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - presentation of correlative rights (COP mineral rights) - Co-development between Potash and oil and gas and related safety measures - water usage and disposal - travel and hauling routes; road maintenance - safety factors such as proximity to other multiple uses bases on sound science
	Galloway, Fay	My property is located so close to the mine I felt it was important to me to have a clear understanding of the two locations. I do not need a lot of information but I do think the road is running through our mineral properties. I will check with you after it is completed.
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	Will the underground operations cause restrictions on the use of the surface? Will use restrictions, if any, extend beyond the area of the underground operations into some kind of buffer zone?

Category	Commenter	Comment Text
Realty/Land Use		
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	What is planned for the power grid for the mine? Will it need utility poles? Pipelines for water or fuel? Roads? Tracks? Parking areas? Ore piles? Waste rock? Surface ventilation systems? What are the planned locations? Will any of these require buffer zones prohibiting oil and gas operations?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	Will ICP actions delay the development of oil and gas in the area? If there are delays for an oil and gas operator, will the BLM suspend the requirements on federal leases? What will be the impact, if any, on the state leases?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	What are the legal implications arising between any mining lease ICP has or may obtain and rights in oil and gas leases that were in existence at the time ICP's leases were/are obtained? What impact will the proposed mine have on existing oil and gas leases, including whether it is necessary or appropriate to extend their primary terms?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	What is the reasonably foreseeable oil and gas development in the area? COG believes the area of the proposed mine is attractive for both immediate and future oil and gas drilling and production. COG is concerned that the potential development not be underestimated. COG is willing to work with the BLM to assure the adequacy and accuracy of the information developed here.
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	What surface restrictions will be imposed on the proposed mine? The BLM is already limiting the surface disturbances allowed for oil and gas operations to allegedly protect certain animal and plant species. How will the area available for development be split between the mine and oil and gas operators?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	If oil and gas existing rights are impacted will ICP purchase the rights? Pay for any additional operating costs for oil and gas operations arising from the mine's operations?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	Assuming oil and gas activities will be impacted by the mine what are those impacts and how will they be mitigated? What will happen with infrastructure such as wells, tanks, pipelines, already in place if the mine approved? What will happen to proposed oil and gas operations in the area?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	Will this area be pulled into the Secretary's Potash Area pursuant to the 1986 Order or any revisions of that Order? Can that action take place without NEPA review? Would such an action be subject to legal challenge by owners of oil and gas leases that were in existence at the time ICP acquired its mining lease?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	Will ICP leases impact any future federal or state lease sales? Will lands be withdrawn from oil and gas leasing by either the federal or state government or both?
	McCloy, Mark; Double M Ranch	ICP seeks to appropriate non-potable groundwater from the Capitan Formation Aquifer to supply water for mining and industrial purposes. If it is necessary to put this water through a Reverse Osmosis process or otherwise treat it prior to using for mining and industrial purposes, where will any treatment facilities be located; what wastes will result from such treatment and how will any such wastes be disposed? Will the water produced be transported to the plant site via pipeline or via truck?
Reclamation		
	Lane, James; State of New Mexico Department of Game and Fish	The surface area that would be cleared for the shaft and processing sites is dominated by black grama grass, in good range condition, with relatively light fragmentation. Black grama grasslands are vulnerable to degradation and difficult to reclaim. The BLM should consider the possibility of requiring compensatory mitigation for the long-term, possibly permanent, loss of this high-quality habitat.
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	What reclamation will be required for the mine and when will it be required?
Socioeconomics		
	Campbell, Paul; Forrest Tire Co.	I support this project and believe that it will be a positive contribution to Lea County and fulfill the important role in providing sulfate of potash to a global market. I also believe that the facility will provide quality jobs, enhance the economic diversity of the community and will conduct business in a manner that utilizes environmentally safe methods and care for natural resources.

Category	Commenter	Comment Text
Socioeconomics		
	Hardison, Lisa; EDC of Lea County	This facility will be a significant contribution to the future economic diversity and strength of Lea County. This project will stimulate job growth and enhance the economic base of Lea County and Southeast New Mexico. The EDCLC anxiously looks forward to the dedicated community partner Lea County will be gaining.
	Hayes, Robert	As an engineer, I am convinced this work can be done in a way that will meet all safety, environmental, and public requirements while still allowing the owners to make a healthy profit.
	Heaton, John; New Mexico House of Representatives	<p>I am writing to express my support for the International Potash Corp Ochoa Project. This project will be very positive for southeastern NM.</p> <p>We have been mining various mineral combinations of potassium since 1930 in our area and it has proven to be a very clean, safe and viable operation for many years.</p> <p>The demand for potassium minerals in the agricultural arena will continue to grow as the worldwide population expands. Therefore, I see no reason why it would have a negative impact on the existing potash industry.</p> <p>This addition will have a very positive economic impact on the area and their management is working closely with the O&G industry to have collaborative agreements that support both industries.</p> <p>This project should go forward.</p>
	Janway, Dale; City of Carlsbad	I support the Ochoa Project because of the economic boost it will provide to the citizens of Southeastern New Mexico. This project will provide approximate 350 jobs, many of them going to the citizens of Eddy County and Carlsbad for decades to come. Carlsbad welcomes IC Potash with open arms.
	Kernan, Gay; New Mexico State Senate	I have confidence that a fair and concise review will prove that Intercontinental Potash Corporation will be beneficial to the economic development of Lea county and at the same time preserve the surrounding area.
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	If oil and gas existing rights are impacted will ICP purchase the rights? Pay for any additional operating costs for oil and gas operations arising from the mine's operations?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	What impact will subsidence have on oil and gas wells? How much subsidence can take place without triggering a problem in an oil and gas well? If there is a problem and the oil and gas well is damaged will the mine pay for the damages? If there is environmental damage will the mine be responsible for the clean up? Will the mine have to providing financial assurance for these risks?
	McCloy, Mark; Double M Ranch	In addition to the foregoing, even if all of the above matters are addressed to the extent the McCloys may find the results to be acceptable, the McCloys are convinced that at the very least ICP's Ochoa Mine Project will substantially decreased the value oftheir ranch. They have a very substantial amount of investment in their ranch, and their home; and, if they should decide to sell in the future, their major concern and fear is that the location ofthis Mine Project and mine shaft and its operation on the ranch to future date not presently determinable an unknown may make the ranch unmarketable to all prospective buyers.
	McCloy, Mark; Double M Ranch	Some of the McCloys concerns can be addressed through an exchange of land...so that ICP's relocated plant site would be located on all BLM land after the exchange of land. The proposed exchange of land would move ICP's plant site further from the McCloy home and ranch headquarters and at least reduce the concern about contamination of their fresh water source for their home and some of the water source for use in ranching. Existing access across Section 35 to the East part of the ranch would continue as it presently exists and no removal of the water distribution line; water tanks and weaning trap would be required. The habitat on the proposed exchange of land site is of lesser quality than that of ICP's present proposed mine site. Better habitat would be preserved consistent with the Lesser Prairie Chicken Program and its goals. The McCloys request to relocate ICP's present proposed plant site as outlined above is the first opportunity the McCloys have had to express to the BLM their concerns and the impacts which will result to them; to their home, to their ranching business and to the future value of their ranch.

Category	Commenter	Comment Text
Socioeconomics		
	McCloy, Mark; Double M Ranch	The proposed location of CP's plant facilities will have adverse impacts to the conduct of the ranching business. The McCloys have an existing water distribution pipeline crossing Section 35 which provides livestock water for Section 35 and for ranch lands located east of Section 35; there are two water tanks located in Section 35; and there is a weaning trap located in portions of the West Half (W/2) of Section 35 and portions of Section 26, Township 24 South, Ranch 33 East which is fenced with approximately one and one-half (1 1/2) miles of fences.
	Moran, Kathleen	Because of the long history of natural resource development in the area of the proposed project, the location of the project away from local population centers, and the existing knowledge base of the local community, the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement, and the related review, should be narrowly focused and should give significant weight to the fact that this natural resource is unique and not available elsewhere and the fact that the project will have significant positive impacts on the local communities in areas to be addressed by the EIS, i.e., cultural, social, and economic.
	Moran, Kathleen	The polyhalite deposits are an important natural resource necessary for agricultural production not found elsewhere, and there is not a readily available alternative to the location of the project or the method of developing this resource.
	Moran, Kathleen	Moreover, the development of this important natural resource will benefit the greater human environment by aiding in increased agricultural production to feed an ever increasing population.
	Nicholas, Marsha; Windstream Communications	What an exciting opportunity for Jal, Hobbs, Eunice, and Carlsbad. Ochoa mine will generate jobs, housing, economic development.
	Reagan, Gary; City of Hobbs	I also believe the facility will produce important potash products for U. S. markets and be an asset to U.S. Fertilizer manufacturing.
	Spencer, Samuel; Lea County State Bank	When this project comes to fruition, it will make a positive contribution to the economic health of Lea County and the State of New Mexico by providing employment and generally increasing our economic base.
	Waters, John; Carlsbad Department of Development	Finally, I support the Ochoa Project because of the economic growth that it will provide to the citizens of Southeastern New Mexico and Eddy County.
	White, Matt; City of Eunice	The project will bring needed jobs to the area and will cause the economy to remain level during periods of Energy market fluctuations.
	Worthington, Donny; XTO	XTO Energy (a subsidiary of ExxonMobil) holds significant Oil and Gas Mineral Leases in the proposed project area - particularly in T23S, R32E. It is our intention to develop this acreage to take full advantage of those leases. Because we have a significant position in the proposed area, have an obligation to mineral interest owners, and desire to fully develop these leases in a safe, economical, and efficient manner, XTO needs to be included in the process for developing the EIS and addressing those impacts. The impacts associated with mining could possibly have a major affect on our present and future operations for oil and gas drilling and production. The BLM should work together with industry to identify the best path forward.
Soils		
	Smith, Rhonda; USEPA Region 6	EPA recommends the development of a dust control plan prior to the start of construction activities.
	Smith, Rhonda; USEPA Region 6	According to the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) web soil survey, farmlands of statewide importance may possibly occur within the project boundary. If prime and unique farmlands will be disturbed by the project; consultation with the NRCS State of New Mexico conservationist is recommended.
Special Designations		
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	Are there sensitive areas in or near the proposed mine?

Category	Commenter	Comment Text
Subsidence		
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	The mine proposes leaving some pillars in place to decrease subsidence. What size pillars are needed to prevent subsidence? How is that determined? How does that differ from ICP's proposals?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	Will restrictions on oil and gas operations be needed because of subsidence? If so, will these restrictions be permanent or temporary in nature?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	Will oil and gas wells be expected to have additional or special casing or cementing requirements in areas where subsidence is expected?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	When is the subsidence expected in the various areas of the mine?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	Will subsidence impact typical oil and gas facilities or will it require design modifications for tanks and other well site facilities?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	The mine proposes rock bolting the ceiling to prevent or minimize subsidence. How effective has that been in mines with similar conditions?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	What subsidence is expected? ICP has made statements there will be no subsidence at a mining rate near 60 percent. Is there evidence of a similar result at some other similar mine location?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	How will subsidence impact surface or near-surface activities of oil and gas operations, such as pipelines for transporting oil, gas or water?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	What impact will subsidence have on oil and gas wells? How much subsidence can take place without triggering a problem in an oil and gas well? If there is a problem and the oil and gas well is damaged will the mine pay for the damages? If there is environmental damage will the mine be responsible for the clean up? Will the mine have to providing financial assurance for these risks?
Surface Disturbance		
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	What surface restrictions will be imposed on the proposed mine? The BLM is already limiting the surface disturbances allowed for oil and gas operations to allegedly protect certain animal and plant species. How will the area available for development be split between the mine and oil and gas operators?
Threatened & Endangered Species		
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	What wildlife is there in and near the mine and what habitat will be impacted by the mine? What sensitive species are known to visit or use the mine area? Will existing BLM prescriptions for special status species apply to the proposed mine?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	Are there sensitive areas in or near the proposed mine?
Travel Management		
	Dey, Eileen; Conoco Phillips	Conoco Phillips would like the following to be analyzed in the Ochoa Mine Project EIS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - presentation of correlative rights (COP mineral rights) - Co-development between Potash and oil and gas and related safety measures - water usage and disposal - travel and hauling routes; road maintenance - safety factors such as proximity to other multiple uses bases on sound science
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	Will new permanent roads be allowed?

Category	Commenter	Comment Text
Travel Management		
	McCloy, Mark; Double M Ranch	Also based upon available information, ICP plans to haul via trucks from its plant site to the railroad in Jal, New Mexico, the product(s) for which it has a market. InCp produces the tonnage of product(s) it has estimated to be hauled annually, the number of tracks necessary to do so will be huge and the hauling will occur continuously 24/7. Will the road used for trucking be paved so dust is not scattered over areas of the ranch located outside of the proposed plant site? Also, will the product(s) being hauled via truck be contained in a manner so spillage will not occur nor otherwise be permitted to scatter along the route traveled?
	McCloy, Mark; Double M Ranch	Some of the McCloy's concerns can be addressed through an exchange of land...so that ICP's relocated plant site would be located on all BLM land after the exchange of land. The proposed exchange of land would move ICP's plant site further from the McCloy home and ranch headquarters and at least reduce the concern about contamination of their fresh water source for their home and some of the water source for use in ranching. Existing access across Section 35 to the East part of the ranch would continue as it presently exists and no removal of the water distribution line; water tanks and weaning trap would be required. The habitat on the proposed exchange of land site is of lesser quality than that of ICP's present proposed mine site. Better habitat would be preserved consistent with the Lesser Prairie Chicken Program and its goals. The McCloy's request to relocate ICP's present proposed plant site as outlined above is the first opportunity the McCloy's have had to express to the BLM their concerns and the impacts which will result to them; to their home, to their ranching business and to the future value of their ranch.
	McCloy, Mark; Double M Ranch	Also, there is the primary road for access to the east portion of the ranch from the ranch headquarters. On average it is used two to three times daily. If this access road of one mile in length across Section 35 is lost, replacement access over existing ranch roads to the east part of the ranch will require traveling approximately three miles one way. In other words, a round trip across Section 35 to enter Section 36 is presently two miles and if lost, a round trip around Section 26 and Section 35 will be approximately six miles to be at the same place in Section 36. Based upon present information available to the McCloy's, they expect the entire proposed plant site of approximately 1,840 acres, more or less, will be fenced by ICP, therefore they believe the above improvements and access road will not remain available to them unless all of same are removed and relocated.
	Waters, John; Carlsbad Department of Development	As an additional suggestion, Southwest Rail already has heavy rail services in the area which could minimize the economic and environmental impact of the transportation process. The short extension of this system eastward would provide a rail with capacity to handle the transportation of product, while minimizing the amount of new track needed.
Vegetation/Botany		
	Lane, James; State of New Mexico Department of Game and Fish	African rue, a New Mexico Department of Agriculture listed noxious weed, is present on well pads and along roadsides in the vicinity of the project area. Surface facility locations should be surveyed for the presence of this and other noxious weeds. The project proponent should also establish a weed management plan designed to prevent the spread of existing weeds or the establishment of new ones, and to control new areas of infestation should they occur.
	Lane, James; State of New Mexico Department of Game and Fish	The surface area that would be cleared for the shaft and processing sites is dominated by black grama grass, in good range condition, with relatively light fragmentation. Black grama grasslands are vulnerable to degradation and difficult to reclaim. The BLM should consider the possibility of requiring compensatory mitigation for the long-term, possibly permanent, loss of this high-quality habitat.
Visual/Scenic Resources		
	McCloy, Mark; Double M Ranch	The west boundary line of Section 35 is approximately one mile from the headquarters and McCloy's home. Section 35 contains a ridge which is elevated sufficiently so ICP's plant facilities, operations, tailing piles, settlement ponds and truck traffic will likely be visible in whole or in part from the McCloy home and ranch headquarters depending on ICP's location of facilities and tailing piles.
Water Resources		
	Dey, Eileen; Conoco Phillips	Conoco Phillips would like the following to be analyzed in the Ochoa Mine Project EIS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - presentation of correlative rights (COP mineral rights) - Co-development between Potash and oil and gas and related safety measures - water usage and disposal - travel and hauling routes; road maintenance - safety factors such as proximity to other multiple uses bases on sound science

Category	Commenter	Comment Text
Water Resources		
	Janway, Dale; City of Carlsbad	ICP will use the Capitan reef. This is brackish water that has not been used by any industry and should not affect any fresh water aquifers.
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	What recycling is planned for the water?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	What will the impact be on other water users in the area? Are water withdrawals by the mine expected to impact the oil and gas operations' pumping and injecting produced water?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	Where will any water wells be located and from what depth will they draw water?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	How will the mine dispose of waste water? What is the nature of the waste water?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	What permits are needed to acquire, use, handle and discharge water? Have any of these been obtained?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	Will evaporation ponds be used? Size? Location? Construction? Will buffer zones be required for oil and gas operations?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	What is the anticipated impact on the water table? Drawdown depth and acreage?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	How does the mine propose to deal with salt water disposal wells needed for oil and gas operations? Will they be treated like oil and gas wells?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	What is the anticipated annual water use during construction and during each year of operation of the mine? How will that impact other foreseeable development in the area, such as oil and gas development?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	Salt water disposal wells are likely to be needed as part of oil and gas production. Will the use of water by the mine impact such wells?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	What water quality is needed?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	Does ICP already have the water rights for the mine? Where will the water come from?
	McCloy, Mark; Double M Ranch	Settlement Ponds are proposed covering several hundred acres of the proposed plant site. The McCloys are concerned that the use of settlement ponds will result in the contamination of the limited amount of existing potable water available in the underground water formation which they use and rely upon. How will ICP prevent contamination of potable groundwater?
	McCloy, Mark; Double M Ranch	The proposed location of ICP's plant facilities will have adverse impacts to the conduct of the ranching business. The McCloys have an existing water distribution pipeline crossing Section 35 which provides livestock water for Section 35 and for ranch lands located east of Section 35; there are two water tanks located in Section 35; and there is a weaning trap located in portions of the West Half (W/2) of Section 35 and portions of Section 26, Township 24 South, Ranch 33 East which is fenced with approximately one and one-half (1 1/2) miles of fences.
	McCloy, Mark; Double M Ranch	Some of the McCloys concerns can be addressed through an exchange of land...so that ICP's relocated plant site would be located on all BLM land after the exchange of land. The proposed exchange of land would move ICP's plant site further from the McCloy home and ranch headquarters and at least reduce the concern about contamination of their fresh water source for their home and some of the water source for use in ranching. Existing access across Section 35 to the East part of the ranch would continue as it presently exists and no removal of the water distribution line; water tanks and weaning trap would be required. The habitat on the proposed exchange of land site is of lesser quality than that of ICP's present proposed mine site. Better habitat would be preserved consistent with the Lesser Prairie Chicken Program and its goals. The McCloys request to relocate ICP's present proposed plant site as outlined above is the first opportunity the McCloys have had to express to the BLM their concerns and the impacts which will result to them; to their home, to their ranching business and to the future value of their ranch.

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Water Resources		
	Smith, Rhonda; USEPA Region 6	Please coordinate with the New Mexico State Engineer to determine impacts and mitigation strategies concerning brackish water extraction and availability.
	Waters, John; Carlsbad Department of Development	In addition, IC Potash's use of evaporators and crystallizers will significantly lower water requirements and reduce surface area disturbance.
	White, Matt; City of Eunice	One area we would like you to consider during your evaluation is the use of fresh water in the process. Water is always a concern as our fresh water comes from the Ogala Basin and is a limited resource.
Wildlife		
	Lane, James; State of New Mexico Department of Game and Fish	To avoid violation of the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act, clearing of vegetation should take place from September 1 through March 31, thus minimizing the possibility of nest destruction or abandonment. If it is necessary to remove vegetation during the breeding season, nest surveys should be conducted by a qualified biologist, and active nests should be left undisturbed until the young have fledged.
	Lane, James; State of New Mexico Department of Game and Fish	To minimize the amount of open trenches at any given time, keep trenching and backfilling crews close together. Trench during the cooler months (October - March). However, there may be exceptions (e.g., critical wintering areas) which need to be assessed on a site-specific basis. Avoid leaving trenches open overnight. Where trenches cannot be back-filled immediately, escape ramps should be constructed at least every 90 meters. Escape ramps can be short lateral trenches sloping to the surface or wooden planks extending to the surface. The slope should be less than 45 degrees (100%). Trenches that have been left open overnight, especially where endangered species occur, should be inspected and animals removed prior to back-filling.
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	Are there sensitive areas in or near the proposed mine?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	If mitigation of the mine's impact on wildlife is needed how will that impact oil and gas operations? Will each competing interest bear its "fair share" or will one interest be saddled with a disproportionate burden?
	Leach, Carol; Concho Resources, Inc.	What wildlife is there in and near the mine and what habitat will be impacted by the mine? What sensitive species are known to visit or use the mine area? Will existing BLM prescriptions for special status species apply to the proposed mine?
	McCloy, Mark; Double M Ranch	Some of the McCloy's concerns can be addressed through an exchange of land...so that ICP's relocated plant site would be located on all BLM land after the exchange of land. The proposed exchange of land would move ICP's plant site further from the McCloy home and ranch headquarters and at least reduce the concern about contamination of their fresh water source for their home and some of the water source for use in ranching. Existing access across Section 35 to the East part of the ranch would continue as it presently exists and no removal of the water distribution line; water tanks and weaning trap would be required. The habitat on the proposed exchange of land site is of lesser quality than that of ICP's present proposed mine site. Better habitat would be preserved consistent with the Lesser Prairie Chicken Program and its goals. The McCloy's request to relocate ICP's present proposed plant site as outlined above is the first opportunity the McCloy's have had to express to the BLM their concerns and the impacts which will result to them; to their home, to their ranching business and to the future value of their ranch.
	McCloy, Mark; Double M Ranch	The McCloy's are participating with BLM and numerous other parties in a Lesser Prairie Chicken Program which involves the use of practices for conservation of the land, habitat improvement and preservation of Lesser Prairie Chickens and other wildlife. How will ICP's proposed plant site, mine shaft and overall operations impact this program and the participants' ability to meet the requirements of this Program?
	Smith, Rhonda; USEPA Region 6	Pursuant to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBT A), EPA encourages Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to coordinate mitigation measures to protect migratory birds, in relation to evaporation ponds, with the USFWS and the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish.
	Smith, Rhonda; USEPA Region 6	The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has designated threatened and endangered (T&E) species within Lea County, New Mexico. Consultation with the USFWS is recommended to address project related impacts to T&E species and their associated critical habitat.