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NEWS RELEASE

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OFFICE OF NATURAL RESOURCES TRUSTEE SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENT ON GROUNDWATER RESTORATION PLAN

(Albuquerque, NM) — The New Mexico Office of Natural Resources Trustee seeks public comment on the Draft Groundwater Restoration Plan for the Chino, Cobre and Tyrone Mine Facilities in southwestern New Mexico.

The New Mexico Office of Natural Resources Trustee has completed an evaluation of groundwater restoration projects that were proposed during an informal scoping process. A description of the projects and the results of the evaluation can be found in the Draft Groundwater Restoration Plan. Copies of the Draft Groundwater Restoration Plan are available on the internet at www.onrt.state.nm.us or may be requested from the New Mexico Office of Natural Resources Trustee, 4910-A Alameda Boulevard NE, Albuquerque, NM 87113, (505) 243-8087. Copies may also be viewed at the following public libraries: The Public Library, 515 West College Ave., Silver City, NM, (575) 538-3672; Bayard Public Library, 1120 Central Ave., Bayard, NM 88023, (575) 537-6244; and Gila Valley Library, 400 Highway 211, Gila, NM 88038, (575) 535-4120.

A public meeting will be held to answer questions about the project evaluations on October 4, 2011 from 4:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. at the Silver City Annex Building, 2nd floor training room, 1203 N. Hudson, Silver City. The public is invited to send written comments on the contents of the Draft Groundwater Restoration Plan as well as propose additional projects for consideration. Comments and new project ideas must be submitted to the Office of Natural Resources Trustee, 4910-A Alameda Blvd, NE, Albuquerque by November 3, 2011.

The final selection of restoration projects will occur after the Office of Natural Resources Trustee reviews public comments, and will be identified in a final restoration plan to be released in late fall. Selected projects must restore, rehabilitate, replace, or acquire the equivalent of groundwater resources that were injured by the release of hazardous substances from the three Freeport-McMoRan mines.