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November 15, 2021

Via electronic file delivery

Mr. Adam Lujan, Assistant Field Manager, RMP/EIS Lead
BLM Rio Puerco Field Office
100 Sun Avenue NE, Suite 330
Albuquerque, NM 87109

Subject: Rio Puerco RMP and EIS
Preliminary Proposed RMP/Final EIS version I for Field Office
and State Office Review

Dear Adam:

EMPSi is pleased to submit Preliminary Proposed RMP/Final EIS version I for Rio Puerco Field Office and New Mexico State Office review. All documents are submitted as Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) files via the following file transfer protocol (ftp) link:

<https://backup.filesanywhere.com/fs/v.aspx?v=8e6c66895c5f717ba1a5>

Password: November2021

Please note:

1. A blank comment matrix (*_RPFO_PrelimFEISv1-Nov2021_CommentMatrix-blank.docx*) is also provided for reviewers to use when providing feedback, which we anticipate receiving by December 13, 2021.
2. The files show the additions and deletions since the most recent (July 2020) administrative draft PRMP/FEIS. In some cases, embedded comments are also shown to explain why a change was made.
3. Text that will be completed later, such as information about SHPO and USFWS consultation in Chapter 5, is highlighted in yellow.
4. In Appendix Q, Public Lands Identified as Potentially Suitable for Disposal or Further Study, the new disposal parcels are 255–259, 270, and 271. These are listed in Table Q-I and shown on the corresponding parcel maps on pages Q-275 through Q-279 (parcels 255–259), Q-290 (parcel 270) and Q-291 (parcel 271) at the end of the appendix.
5. The Draft RMP/EIS comment responses in Appendix R need thoroughly reviewing.
6. As we have discussed, the following changes will be made in Preliminary Proposed RMP/Final EIS version 2:
 - a) The production cost listed on the covers will be revised with updated costs from you.

- b) Updates to the cultural site density using more current New Mexico Cultural Resource Information System (NMCRIS) data may occur, depending on BLM direction.
- c) Chapter 3, Section 3.17, Socioeconomics, will include updates of the 2017 Census data.
- d) The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail existing alignment may be adjusted, pending direction from the BLM as Dawn Chavez continues looking into the existing line and spur routes (per our November 10, 2021, discussion).
- e) Per our November 10, 2021, discussion, the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail Special Recreation Management Area will be omitted from all alternatives, a footnote will be added to Chapter 2 explaining why, all related Chapter 2 (alternatives) and Chapter 4 (impact analysis) calculations will be re-run, Appendix P (Description of Recreation Management Areas) will be revised, and Appendix S maps will be revised.
- f) Overlapping management of Cimarron Mesa may change, depending on BLM's direction during your review.
- g) Chapter 4, Table 4-1, Reasonably Foreseeable Future Projects Relevant to the RMP/EIS, will be revised per pending feedback from you.
- h) The index (Appendix V) will be re-run.

We look forward to receiving reviewers' feedback by December 13, 2021. As always, please contact me at (415) 636-5359 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Holly Prohaska

Enclosures (via electronic transfer):

Preliminary Proposed RMP/Final EIS version I
Blank comment matrix