



# NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS and NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

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May 15, 2007

## **State Issues Two New Permits for Uranium Exploration** *State Also Accepting Comments on New Application*

Santa Fe - The Mining and Minerals Division of the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department has issued two new permits to conduct exploration drilling for uranium in McKinley and Socorro Counties.

"All permits issued by our agency are strictly monitored throughout the operation to ensure that exploration is conducted in a manner that will protect human health and safety, as well as New Mexico's environment," stated Bill Brancard, Division Director for Mining and Minerals.

The Mining and Minerals Division completed a review of the applications which included field inspections and consultations with other state agencies including the New Mexico Environment Department, Department of Game and Fish and Department of Cultural Affairs. The permits contain requirements to plug all drill holes and to complete the reclamation of the surface disturbance once work is completed. The drill holes must be plugged in accordance with the New Mexico State Engineer's rules.

In McKinley County, Strathmore Resources (USA) Ltd. is approved to drill 4 holes, approximately 2000 feet deep, on state trust land about fifteen miles north of Grants, New Mexico. The site is located in Township 13 North, Range 8 West, in an area referred to as Roca Honda.

In Socorro County, Max Resources Corporation of Reno, Nevada, is approved to drill 14 holes, approximately 350 feet deep on U.S. Forest Service land about 15 miles north of Magdalena, New Mexico. The site is located in Township 1 North, Range 4 West, in the Cibola National Forest.

The Mining and Minerals Division has issued five uranium exploration permits in the past 13 months. The other three permits were issued to Western Energy Development Corp, Laramide Resources and Neutron Energy for projects in the La Jara Mesa and Ambrosia Lake areas north of Grants.

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In a related matter, the Mining and Minerals Division is accepting comments on a new permit application for a uranium exploration project fifteen miles north of Grants. The application was submitted by Western Energy Development Corporation of Reno who is proposing to drill 12 exploration holes up to a thousand feet deep on private land on La Jara Mesa in McKinley County. The site is in section 24, Township 13 North, Range 9 West.

Persons wishing to review the pending exploration permit application may do so at MMD's office in Santa Fe or on the MMD website at <http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/> and click on ***Pending Permit Applications***.

Anyone interested in reviewing the applications or providing any comments about the applications may do so until June 30, 2007 by mailing written comments to the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD), or contacting the Division at the following address:

The New Mexico Energy Minerals and Natural Resources Department  
Mining and Minerals Division  
1220 South St. Francis Dr.  
Santa Fe, NM 87505  
Attention: Division Director  
Phone: 505.476.3400 Fax: 505.476.3402

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