September 14, 2017

Christine Gabriel  
Greater Phoenix DEIS PM  
Bureau of Land Management  
Mount Lewis Field Office  
50 Bastian Road  
Battle Mountain, NV 89820

Re: Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) Greater Phoenix Project; request for comment extension period

Dear Ms Gabriel,

Great Basin Resource Watch (GBRW) requests the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) extend the public review and comment period for the draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Greater Phoenix Project.

We are currently beginning our review of the DEIS and it is clear that considerable time will be required by the public to fully comment on the DEIS and the associated documents. The Phoenix Mine operation is a very complex site with a long history of mining actives. The Phoenix site has a history of acid-mine drainage and there is a potential for very long term treatment that could affect the surrounding environment. Critical analysis and full public engagement is vital at this time.

We envision review of many existing technical supporting documents in addition to the DEIS, which are considerable in size as well, as part of our and the general public’s comment process. The 45 day comment period is much too brief. The complexity and sheer scope of this project requires at least 90 day comment period for the public to have time to assemble materials and assess them.

Even our organization, accustomed to reviewing EIS documents like this, will be hard pressed to be able to fully analyze the DEIS in less than 90 days let alone the average citizen in the region. In addition, public will need more time after the EIS meetings to digest and evaluate what they have learned and follow-up with the technical documents.

Altogether, GBRW requests that the BLM allow a bare minimum of 90 days for review of the DEIS and fully involve the public and register their comments.

We look forward to your consideration and reply to this request.

Great Basin Resource Watch is a tax-exempt (501(c)3) organization
Sincerely,

John Hadder, Director

cc. Senator Cortez Masto
    Senator Dean Heller
    Representative Mark Amodei
    Marci Todd, Acting Nevada State Director, Bureau of Land Management
    Joe Sawyer, Bureau Chief, Mining Regulation and Reclamation, Nevada Division of
    Environmental Protection