



Working with Communities to Protect Their Land Air and Water

P.O. Box 207 Reno, NV 89504
775-348-1986, www.gbrw.org

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 activities. 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Hadder". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke that extends across the name.

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