Appendix 14.C

Prime Farmland Determination Correspondence

United States Department of Agriculture

NRCS

Natural Resources Conservation Service
6200 Jefferson NE, Room 305
Albuquerque, NM 87109
Phone: (505) 761-4400 **Fax:** (505) 761-4462
Web site: www.nm.nrcs.usda.gov

December 5, 2011

Mr. Mark Heil, GIS Director
Buchanan Consultants, Ltd.
P.O. Box 2549
Farmington, New Mexico 87499

Dear Mr. Heil:

Thank you for allowing the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) the opportunity to review the Navajo Mine Lease Boundary project in San Juan County, New Mexico. In review of the NRCS Soil Survey, there are no soil types within the project area that are described by the NRCS as prime farmland, farmland of local importance, farmland of statewide importance, unique farmland; or those farmlands that have previously been converted to non agricultural uses. With this acknowledged, the proposed project will not cause Prime or Unique Farmlands to be converted to nonagricultural uses. In addition, the NRCS soil survey does not identify hydric soils as occurring in the proposed project area. Hydric soils may identify potential areas of wetlands. If wetlands or waterways do exist, it is recommended that you contact the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers.

If you have any questions concerning soils information please contact Mr. Clarence Chavez, Soil Data Quality Specialist, at (505) 761-4435 or by email clarence.chavez@nm.usda.gov. Any questions concerning wetlands or other environmental impacts please contact Ms. Chanda Pettie, State Biologist, at (505) 761-4432 or by email chanda.pettie@nm.usda.gov.

Sincerely,

Rosalbert L. Garcia-Sg, Acting

for NORMAN VIGIL
Acting State Conservationist

cc:
Clarence Chavez, Soil Data Quality Scientist, NRCS, Albuquerque, NM
Chanda Pettie, State Wildlife Biologist, NRCS, Albuquerque, NM