



**Alan Austin**

Farco Mine Project Manager  
Chevron Environmental Management Company

January 2, 2019

Honorable Tano E. Tijerina, Webb County Judge  
Webb County Courthouse  
1000 Houston Street, 3rd Floor  
Laredo, TX 78040

Dear Honorable Tano E. Tijerina:

Farco Mining Inc. has submitted an application for final permit closure and release of Phase III bond obligations on all 2,575.2 previously disturbed acres of the Palafox Mine, Permit No. 37C, located approximately 31 miles north of Laredo, Texas, in Webb County. The requested bond release areas are shown on the attached map. The accepted bond for Permit No. 37C is \$3,376,676. The applicant requests a full release of this bond amount. This application has been submitted because the applicant declares the following reclamation activities have been completed as required in the approved permit: grading to the approximate original contours (AOC), placing topsoil over the disturbed areas, seeding the disturbed areas, reclamation of temporary structures, and the 10-year Extended Responsibility Period.

The Surface Mining and Reclamation Division Office of General Counsel docket number assigned to the application is DOCKET NO. C19-0007-SC-37-F. Notice of the application will be published in the Laredo Morning Times. A copy of this public notice and accompanying location map are included with this letter. A complete application package including the public notice can be inspected in the main office of the Railroad Commission of Texas at 1701 North Congress, William B. Travis Building, Austin, Texas; or at the Office of the Webb County Clerk, 1110 Victoria Street, Suite 201, Laredo, Texas. The application may be supplemented and should be reviewed periodically.

Written comments, objections, or requests for a hearing or informal conference on the proposed release are to be sent within thirty days of this letter to:

Director  
Surface Mining and Reclamation Division  
Railroad Commission of Texas  
P.O. Box 12967  
Austin, Texas 78711-2967

Sincerely,

Alan Austin  
Project Manager  
Chevron Environmental Management Company  
On behalf of Farco Mining Inc.

Attachments

Mining & Specialty Portfolios  
Chevron Environmental Management Company  
25 miles NW Highway 264, P.O. Box 4590, Gallup, NM 87301  
Tel 505 371 6302 Mobile 505 870 9045  
aaustin@chevron.com

RECEIVED

JAN 07 2019

Webb County Judge's Office



PUBLIC NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR RELEASE OF RECLAMATION LIABILITY  
AND FINAL PERMIT CLOSURE SURFACE COAL MINING AND RECLAMATION PERMIT

PERMIT NO. 37C, FARCO MINING INC.'S PALAFOX MINE  
TOTAL OF 2,575.2 ACRES AS FOLLOWS: 77.6 ACRES FOR PHASE I, II & III BOND RELEASE,  
1,755.5 ACRES FOR PHASE II & III BOND RELEASE, AND 742.1 ACRES FOR PHASE III  
RELEASE  
DOCKET NO. C19-0007-SC-37-F

Pursuant to Section 134.128-134.134 of the Texas Surface Coal Mining and Reclamation Act, TEX. NAT. RES. CODE ANN. (Vernon Supp. 2018) and Texas Coal Mining Regulations, TEXAS ADMIN. CODE §§12.312-12.313 (Thomson West 2018), Farco Mining Inc., 6001 Bollinger Canyon Road, C-2348, San Ramon, California 94583, has submitted its application to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a full release of reclamation performance bond obligations for its Palafox Mine, Permit No. 37C in Webb County, Texas. The Palafox Mine permit area is located in Webb County, Texas, approximately 31 miles north of Laredo, Texas, and contained within the U.S. Quadrangle Survey 7.5 minute quadrangle sheets "Pinto Creek, San Pedro Hill, and Palafox SW". The location of the mine is shown on the accompanying map. The Palafox Mine permit first issued as Permit No. 8 on August 31, 1981, and last renewed as Permit No. 37C was approved on September 12, 2006.

A breakdown of the current bond release status of the 2,575.2 acres requested for full Phase III release is as follows:

Palafox Bond Release Request - Acreage Breakdown			
Current Phase of Bond Release	Pastureland	Developed Water Resources (DWR)	Percent of Total 2,575.2 Acres
No bond release	63.8	13.8	3.0%
Phase I	1,667.4	88.1	68.2%
Phase II	711.6	30.5	28.8%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>2,442.8</b>	<b>132.4</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

The applicant declares that it has completed all reclamation obligations at the Palafox Mine, including backfilling, regrading, drainage control, topsoiling, revegetation, long-term surface water and long-term groundwater monitoring. The areas requested are located within the Palafox Mine permit area described in the paragraph above and shown on the map included with this notice. Mining operations were conducted on between 1980 and 2005. Final grading was accomplished on all mined areas between 1982 and 2005. Vegetation was planted between 1988 and 2006, with additional overseeding of some areas in 2017 as part of normal husbandry practices. The 10-year Extended Responsibility Period (ERP) for the pastureland areas was initiated on September 26, 2007. The approved postmine land uses are pastureland and developed water resources. The acreage requested for release contains the following permanent structures: 15 ponds, 7 diversions, 5 culverts, 39 terraces, 13 roads, 3 buildings and other miscellaneous structures.

The accepted bond for Permit No. 37C is \$3,376,676. The applicant requests release of the full bond obligation, and final closure of the permit.

Interested persons are invited to submit written comments on the application within thirty days after the last date of publication of this notice in a local newspaper. All written comments, objections, or requests for public hearing or informal conference on the application should be directed to:

**Director**  
**Surface Mining and Reclamation Division**  
**Railroad Commission of Texas**  
**P.O. Box 12967**  
**Austin, Texas 78711-2967**

A copy of the complete application may be inspected in the main office of the Railroad Commission of Texas at 1701 North Congress, William B. Travis Building, Austin, Texas; and in the Office of the Webb County Clerk, 1110 Victoria Street, Suite 201, Laredo, Texas. The application may be supplemented and should be reviewed periodically.

All public notices pertaining to permitting actions will be placed in the Laredo Morning Times.