



Teresa Hurt, President  
New Mexico Archeological Council  
PO Box 25691  
Albuquerque, NM 87125

March 27, 2020

The Honorable David Bernhardt  
Secretary of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Bernhardt,

I write to you as President of the New Mexico Archeological Council (NMAC) to request that the May 28, 2020 deadline for public comment and participation in the BLM-Farmington Field Office and BIA-Gallup Region's planning processes be extended at least 120 days. NMAC is a nonprofit organization whose purpose is to maintain and promote the goals of professional archeology in the State of New Mexico. This includes encouraging the legal protection of cultural resources and promoting awareness of New Mexico's cultural resources among public agencies, corporations, and members of the public.

The Agencies released the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Resource Management Plan amendment (RMPA) for the Farmington Mancos Gallup project on February 28, 2020, triggering a 90-day period of public review and comment. Because of the ongoing COVID-19 virus crisis, New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham issued a stay-at-home and shelter-in-place order on March 24. The order prohibits public or private gatherings of more than 5 people, thus prohibiting the public meetings that are mandated for the BLM and BIA's planning processes. As the participation of the interested public in the planning process cannot happen, the need to extend the May 28 deadline for public comment and participation is clear.

The New Mexico Congressional Delegation and All-Pueblo Council of Governors (APCG) have recently sent letters to the Secretary asking for an extension of the deadline by at least 120 days. NMAC supports these actions and adds its voice to this issue. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Teresa Hurt".

Teresa Hurt  
NMAC President

Cc:

Al Elser, Bureau of Land Management Farmington Field Office District Manager  
Bart Stevens, Bureau of Indian Affairs Navajo Regional Office Director  
Tim Spisak, Bureau of Land Management New Mexico State Director  
William Pendley, Bureau of Land Management Acting Director