**Exhibit B – Potential Mining Impacts**

**POTENTIAL MINING IMPACTS ASSOCIATED WITH BARKSDALE RESOURCES DRILLING PROGRAM PROPOSAL, SAN ANTONIO PROJECT, IN THE PATAGONIA MOUNTAINS**

Mining is an important economic activity which impacts social and environmental systems in a range of positive and negative ways. Regardless, mining-related industries are one of the largest sources of environmental pollution worldwide. Leakage of chemicals from mining sites can have detrimental effects on the health of the population living at or around the mining site. Mine Prospecting, exploration, construction, operation, expansion, abandonment, decommissioning, maintenance and repurposing of a mine results in land-use changes and impacts local environments. Some associated impacts may including deforestation, erosion, contamination and alteration of soil profiles, contamination of local streams and wetlands, and an increase in noise level, dust and emissions. Besides the mine itself, infrastructure built to support mining activities, such as roads, ports, railway tracks, and power lines, do pollute, and affect the routes of animals, and increase habitat fragmentation.

The primary exploration focus for the proposed Barksdale Resources San Antonio project drilling program, in the Patagonia Mountains, is a shallow porphyry copper target, which includes precious and base metals. And, although it’s common for private companies to drill on public land, federal law requires that mining companies apply for permits and pass environmental studies. However, the US Forest Service is seeking to exempt this proposed Barksdale project’s exploration and drilling activities from environmental review rules, designating it as a “categorically excluded” project, which is therefore not subject to the Federal laws and authorities referenced at 24 CFR 58.5 and is then “exempt” from the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires that ‘Mitigation Measures’ are implemented to avoid, eliminate, reduce, control or compensate for negative impacts and provide positive solutions to impacted systems. Such measures must be considered and outlined in environmental and social impact assessments (EIAs and SIAs) that are conducted prior to major activities. If this project is considered “exempt” then preliminary assessments will not be conducted and no Mitigations Measures would be identified or implemented towards reducing impacts.

Mineral Explorations activities can and do impact air quality by unrefined materials being released when mineral deposits are exposed on the surface and become airborne via wind erosion and vehicular traffic. Water pollution can result from unintended releases associated with abandoned drilling area, processing surfaces and access roads. Disruption and deterioration of local habitat, vegetation and wildlife, is not uncommon with drilling activities. Furthermore, Patagonia Mountain mining areas are known to have zinc-lead-silver minerals associated with porphyry deposits. Although zinc is an essential requirement for good health, excessive zinc in humans can be harmful. A zinc ion in solution is highly toxic to plants, invertebrates, and fish, which is well-established and documented in research and literature. Refinement of sulfidic zinc ores produces large volumes of sulfur dioxide and cadmium vapor.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the Mineral Resources Program that the Tohono O’odham Nation request that the NEPA Environmental Assessment be required by the US Forest Service to evaluate all potential influences of this proposed drilling project on the surrounding environment, plants and animals; to evaluate the project’s impacts on potential historical/cultural native sites; and that the Nation be included via the consultation process for future development of site mining proposals.