

## **DELIVERED VIA EMAIL**

**December 24, 2018** 

Ms. Amanda Romero Latin America & Caribbean Representative and Researcher c/o Business and Human Rights Resource Center 1-3 Charlotte Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor London, W1T 1RD, United Kingdom

Dear Ms. Romero:

Thank you for your correspondence dated November 24, 2018 regarding a recent media article related to our operations in Argentina and inviting us to respond to such article. At SSR Mining Inc. (SSR), we value our relationship with local communities and Corporate Social Responsibility is one of our core values. We have reviewed the article carefully, and have some concerns regarding the stated facts as they relate to our operations in Argentina.

SSR has been operating in Argentina since 2009. During this period, we successfully operated the Pirquitas mine located in Jujuy Province in Northern Argentina. Mining of the open pit at Pirquitas ceased in January 2017, and the mine is now moving to a reclamation and closure stage. We have since successfully constructed and commenced operations at the Chinchillas mine, located approximately 42 kilometers from the Pirquitas mine.

SSR endeavors to minimize our environmental footprint. Ore is mined at Chinchillas and processed at Pirquitas, eliminating the need for processing at the Chinchillas site and reducing the overall environmental footprint at the site, including in respect of water use. In 2017, we completed a thorough Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the Chinchillas mine and received government approvals in December 2017. This included a careful analysis and consideration of potential effects on the Laguna de Los Pozuelos. As part of the EIA, we committed to environmental and water quality monitoring in conjunction with local communities.

SSR is also committed to ensuring we maximize benefits from our operations within local communities and leave a positive legacy. We have obtained prior and informed consent from the five communities directly impacted by the Chinchillas mine, and we are actively engaged with the nine communities impacted indirectly. We have almost 600 employees and trained over 300 local community members in our mine operations. Notably, more than 30% of employees in the mine are women.

This commitment has resulted in over 50% of our employees coming from the local communities near the Chinchillas mine site, with over 38,000 hours invested by SSR in training local community members. Furthermore, almost US\$6 million in contracts have been awarded to local communities, including transportation of workers from their homes nearby.

As part of our work to leave a positive legacy in Argentina, in 2018, we established a framework for a Community Development fund, focused on nearby communities. In addition to the Community Development fund, we have undertaken several initiatives, including providing internet access to remote, local communities. As part of our commitment to working with local communities, we have held over 50 community meetings in the last year. We take all grievances seriously, and continue to welcome dialogue with local communities and individuals.

We would like to thank you for the opportunity to respond to this article.

Sincerely,

## SSR MINING INC.

Timothy J. Bekhuys Vice President, Environment & Community Relations

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