

October 6, 2003

Mr. Al Cox
Manager - Grants & Southwest U.S.
Homestake Mining Co.
6719-D Academy Rd. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109

SUBJECT: REQUEST TO DISPOSE OF SEVERAL DRUMS OF "CRATER GREASE" IN
THE HOMESTAKE SMALL TAILINGS CELL

Dear Mr. Cox:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) received your request of August 29, 2003 (via e-mail) to dispose of several drums of "Crater Grease" in the Homestake small tailings cell. Based on the information submitted, we agree that the "Crater Grease" used to lubricate the bearings on ore crushing and grinding mills would be considered 11e.(2) byproduct material. We have no objection to your disposal plan of these drums of "Crater Grease." As you mentioned, the disposal area should be documented and the disposal placement should be implemented in a manner such that final reclamation and closure of the small tailings pile would not impact the cell location or stability of the cell.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (301) 415-6251 or by e-mail at rwv@nrc.gov.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Sincerely,

/RA/

William von Till, Project Manager
Fuel Cycle Facilities Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety
and Safeguards
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket: 40-8903

cc: M. Purcell, USEPA
D. Mayerson, State of NM
J. Sanders, State of NM

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*see previous concurrence

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