



GRANTS OFFICE

Alan D. Cox
Project Manager - Grants

24 July 2006

State of New Mexico
Department of Cultural Affairs
Historic Preservation Division
Bataan Memorial Building
407 Galisteo Street, Suite 236
Santa Fe, NM 875501

Attn: Ms. Katherine Slick, State Historic Preservation Officer

RE: **Homestake Mining Company of California**
Grants Reclamation Project
– Archaeological / Cultural Resources Inventory for Proposed Alternative Siting
Locations associated with Pond Construction Project

Dear Ms. Slick:

Homestake Mining Company of California (HMCo) is in the early planning and design engineering / siting process to construct an additional evaporation pond at the Grants Reclamation Project north-northeast of Milan, NM to assist in final project reclamation and closure at a uranium milling complex that was operated by HMCo and others from the late 1950's through the early 1990's. As part of the process, HMCo is required to submit design plans and other documentation to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to facilitate the review and approval process for the pond as required under our federal NRC Radioactive Materials License. Due to the fact that the review process involves a federal action pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the NRC must follow the requirements of the Act during review and evaluation of the proposal. As part of that process, NRC will be required to enter into a formal consultation process with other agencies and entities that have interest in the proposed project.

Enclosed please find the following documents that are intended to facilitate the NRC NEPA review and consultation process that will include formal consultation and communications with your office:

1. **"Cultural Resources Inventory of 350 Acres for the Homestake Mining Company in Cibola County, New Mexico" – July 2006; and**
2. **Attachments** for the above document that includes: a) NMCRIS Investigation Abstract Form; b) Laboratory of Anthropology Site Forms; and c) Archival Photographs

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I look forward receiving your input through the consultation process with NRC to assure that any required or necessary measures are taken during the construction project to protect archaeological or cultural resources of importance. We trust that our "early-on" communication activities, and provision of these documents at this time, will assist your office in working with NRC during that process.

Thank you for your time and attention on this matter. If you or any staff members in the SHPO office have any questions, please contact me at the Grants site (505) 287-4456 ext. 25 or via cell phone at (505) 400-2794.

Sincerely yours,



HOMESTAKE MINING COMPANY OF CALIFORNIA

Alan D. Cox

Project Manager

– Grants Reclamation Project

Cc: R. Linton – U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission – Rockville, MD (w/o enclosure)

A. Kuhn – Kleinfelder, Inc., Albuquerque (w/o enclosure)

L. Bridges – Kleinfelder, Inc., Hotchkiss, CO (w/o enclosure)

R. Chase – SLC (w/o enclosure)

D. Deisley – SLC (w/o enclosure)

B. Ferdinand – SLC (w/o enclosure)