

February 1, 2012

Ms. Candace Head-Dylla, President
Bluewater Valley Downstream Alliance
P.O. Box 2038
Milan, NM 87021

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO BLUEWATER VALLEY DOWNSTREAM ALLIANCE LETTER
DATED DECEMBER 23, 2011, DOCKET: 040-8903, LICENSE: SUA-1471

Dear Ms. Head-Dylla:

By letter dated December 23, 2011 (ADAMS No. ML120190343), Bluewater Valley Downstream Alliance (BVDA) transmitted community concerns about ongoing remedial actions at the Homestake Mining Company (HMC) site in Milan, New Mexico. Specifically, BVDA requests: (1) that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) study alternative sites for disposal of tailings from the HMC site and other sites; and (2) that a meeting be held in 2012 between the Federal and State agencies, and Navajo EPA to address BVDA's concerns.

The issues identified in your letter have been raised numerous times before and the agencies have responded to you in writing and in public meetings. As usual, the NRC is available to discuss new concerns regarding remedial actions at the HMC site. A copy of your letter has been forwarded to the NRC's Office of the Inspector General to assess the management and conduct of NRC's process for regulating the activities at the HMC site.

On January 26, 2012, NRC requested that HMC submit the updated Groundwater Corrective Action Plan (CAP) to the NRC as soon as possible (see enclosure, ADAMS No. ML113390071). The updated CAP will guide HMC's remedial activities at the site through site closure. After receipt of the updated CAP and allowing time for its review by all involved regulatory agencies, the NRC intends to hold a noticed meeting open to the public at the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) offices in Albuquerque, NM to identify any outstanding regulatory concerns. Subsequently, NRC plans to hold a public meeting in Grants, NM to discuss the planned remedial activities and the issues raised in your letters. We anticipate that these two meetings will take place this summer.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice for Domestic Licensing Proceedings and Issuance of Orders," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records component of NRC's Agency-wide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

C. Head-Dylla

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If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact John Buckley at (301) 415-6607 or by e-mail to john.buckley@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Larry W. Camper, Director
Division of Waste Management and
and Environmental Protection
Office of Federal and State Materials
and Environmental Management Programs

Docket No.: 40-8903
License No.: SUA-1471

Enclosure: NRC Letter to HMC

cc: Homestake Distribution List
Senator Bingaman
Senator Udall
Congressman Heinrich
Congressman Lujan

C. Head-Dylla

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Enclosure
NRC Letter to HMC
ML113390071

Homestake Distribution List

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