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Ground Water Quality Bureau

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DAVE MARTIN
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May 29, 2012

Mr. John Buckley, NRC Project Manager
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Decommissioning and Uranium Recovery Licensing Directorate
Division of Waste Management and Environmental Protection
Mail Stop T-8F5
Washington, DC 20555

Subject: Transmittal of New Mexico Environment Department comments pertaining to review of the Updated Corrective Action Plan for the Grants Reclamation Project at the Homestake Mining Company Superfund Site (EPA ID: NMD007860935) in Milan, New Mexico

Dear Mr. Buckley:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has reviewed the draft-final Corrective Action Plan (CAP) prepared for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) by the Homestake Mining Company (HMC) of California dated March 2012.

Attached please find NMED's comments on the draft-final CAP as requested by NRC in correspondence dated March 29, 2012. Specific issues raised in our comments include concerns over the continued land application of contaminated ground water as part of the ground water treatment methods. In addition, the evaluation of alternative treatment technologies and ongoing pilot tests have been summarized within the CAP, and should be supported by work plans (appended to the CAP) that describe these activities in greater detail. Furthermore, radon monitoring is only briefly mentioned in context of EPA's risk assessment activities. The CAP should include a detailed discussion of HMC's ongoing radon monitoring program.

Please contact David L. Mayerson at (505) 476-3777 or Angelo Ortellì at (505) 827-2866, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Phyllis Bustamante for
Jerry Schoeppner, Chief
Ground Water Quality Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department

Mr. John Buckley, Project Manager
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
May 29, 2012
Page 2 of 2

Attachment: NMED Comments on Grants Reclamation Project - Homestake Mining Company Superfund Site, Updated Corrective Action Program (CAP), Draft-Final CAP, dated March 2012.

Copies: Sairam Appajai, U.S. EPA Region 6, Remedial Project Manager
Phyllis Bustamante, Acting Manager, NMED, Superfund Oversight Section
Angelo Ortell, Project Manager, NMED, Superfund Oversight Section
David Mayerson, Project Manager, NMED, Mining Environmental Compliance Section