



December 10, 1996

UPS SECOND DAY AIR TRACKING LABEL: S037 9736 877

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Division of Waste Management, MST-7-J-9
Attn. Mr. Joseph J. Holonich, Chief
High Level Waste and Uranium
Recovery Projects Branch
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20850

Re: Docket No. 40-8903
License No. SUA-1471
1992 Mine IX Plant Demolition

Dear Mr. Holonich:

Homestake Mining Company of California (HMC) requests that the auxiliary ion-exchange (IX) facility which was located near one of Homestake's former mine sites in McKinley County, New Mexico, be removed from HMC's Material License SUA-1471. The IX plant ceased operations in early 1990. After the plant closure the demolition and decontamination of the plant site was completed early 1992.

As the result of the demolition all of the contaminated piping, tankage, and concrete was removed from the IX site and transported to the Grants mill site in late 1991 and early 1992 for disposal. In addition, approximately four (4) feet of contaminated soil was removed from the building site and also transported for disposal an the Grants mill site. The IX site was subsequently graded, recontoured and revegetated to prevent wind and water erosion.

During the decontamination process a number of soil samples were taken around the IX site. The attached map shows the sampling locations at the site and the analysis results. The highest radium concentration is 4.1 pCi/gm and the highest gamma reading was recorded at 15 mr/hr.

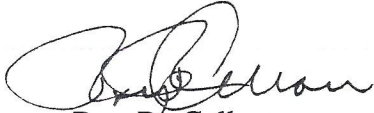
HOMESTAKE MINING COMPANY

650 CALIFORNIA STREET • SAN FRANCISCO • CA 94106-2786 (415) 981-8150

If you have any additional questions regarding this information please contact me at the Grants site, 505-287-4456. Thank you.

Sincerely,

HOMESTAKE MINING COMPANY OF CALIFORNIA

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Roy R. Cellan", is written over a horizontal line.

Roy R. Cellan

Corporate Manager, Reclamation

xc: Mr. C. Cain, Director, NRC Arlington, TX
Mr. Harold Barnes, Director EHSGA, SFO

HOMESTAKE MINING COMPANY

MINE IX SOIL SURVEY

