

April 7, 2014

Jonnie Head, President
Candace Head-Dylla, Community Liaison
Bluewater Valley Downstream Alliance
Box 2038
Milan, NM 87021

Dear Ms. Head and Ms. Head-Dylla,

Thank you for your e-mailed letter dated March 10, 2014, regarding the requested license amendment by the Homestake Mining Company (HMC) to change the location of its background radon in air monitor. In your letter, you provided some technical comments on the request by HMC as well as expressing concerns about the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRCs) communications with the community about the request.

Homestake's stated purpose for moving the background radon monitor is to obtain a more representative background value. We are evaluating their request based on that proposal.

Regarding communications with the community about this request, HMC submitted its license amendment request to NRC on September 23, 2013, and the request documentation was put into publically available Agencywide Document Access and Management System (ADAMS) (ML13281A790). The NRCs acknowledgement and acceptance letter on the request was sent to HMC by letter, dated October 17, 2013 (ML13274A290), with a copy going to your organization Blue Valley Downstream Alliance (BVDA). A *Federal Register* notice announcing an opportunity for requesting a hearing or a petition for leave to intervene was published on October 29, 2013, which provided a filing deadline of December 30, 2013. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provided comments to NRC on the request by letter, dated December 30, 2013; that letter was put into publically available ADAMS (ML14029A558).

The NRC will be submitting a request for additional information to HMC shortly. Your organization will be on distribution for a copy of that request. In addition, we will respond in writing to the technical comments we received from EPA and BVDA. If after having a chance to review our response to those comments, and our request for additional information to HMC, the local community still has questions on this request or NRCs process for reviewing it, please submit additional written questions and staff will respond. When the staff responds to HMC's license amendment requests on the radon background location, the corrective action program, and the decommissioning and reclamation plan, the staff intends to conduct a public meeting in the vicinity of the site to discuss the multiple topics related to Homestake.

J. Head

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If you have any questions on this letter please contact me at 301-415-6634, or by email at Jack.Parrott@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/ by A. Mohseni for

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

J. Head

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OFFICE	FSME	FSME	FSME	FSME	FSME
NAME	JParrott	LA	BWatson	APersinko	AMohseni for LCamper
DATE	04/2/14	04/2/14	04/3/14	04/7/14	04/7/14

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