

May 11, 2012

Mr. Anthony J. Thompson, Partner
Thompson & Pugsley, PLLC.
1225 19th Street, N.W., Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Mr. Thompson:

I am writing in response to your letter of April 11, 2012, regarding the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) lack of progress on the review of the State of Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's (CDPHE's), Completion Review Report (CRR) for the Durita heap leach facility (Hecla Limited facility). The initial review of the draft CRR identified a gap in the groundwater monitoring data for the site. The NRC conducted several activities including a site visit to evaluate the significance of the gap in monitoring data. The evaluation of this information is ongoing.

We appreciate the patience that your client has demonstrated and we are working to clear the other urgent activities that have been assigned to Dr. Sollenberger. We are providing additional staff assistance to facilitate completion of this project. We anticipate that NRC will provide a response (final comment on the groundwater monitoring issue in the draft CRR) to CDPHE by September 4, 2012.

The NRC staff will work with CDPHE staff to address any additional questions on the groundwater issue. If you have any questions on this letter, please call me (301-415-7217) or Mr. Duncan White (301-415-2598).

Sincerely,

/RA/

Mark A. Satorius, Director
Office of Federal and State Materials
and Environmental Management Programs

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NAME	DSollenberger	DWhite	CEinberg	BMcDermott	CPoland	MSatorius
DATE	05/08/2012	05/08/2012	05/09/2012	05/09/2012	5/10/2012	05/11/2012

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