



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

December 26, 2017

Thomas Wohlford, Closure Manager
Grants Reclamation Project
Homestake Mining Co. of CA
P.O. Box 98/Highway 605
Grants, NM 87020

SUBJECT: NRC RESPONSE TO HMC REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF TIME FOR
SUBMISSION OF COMPREHENSIVE SITE ASSESSMENT DATED
NOVEMBER 17, 2017, DOCKET NO. 040-08903, LICENSE NO. SUA-1471,
EA-16-114

Dear Mr. Wohlford:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has reviewed Homestake Mining Company of California's (HMC) letter dated November 17, 2017 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession Number ML17325B023), requesting that the due date for the submission of the Self-Assessment described in Condition 3 of the March 28, 2017, Confirmatory Order (CO) (ADAMS Accession No. ML17060A752) be extended from December 29, 2017, to September 3, 2018. Based on HMC's letter showing good cause, and pursuant to Section V of the CO, I am granting the extension request.

In the letter, HMC noted the circumstances that led to the extension request and the actions it is taking to comply with the CO. Specifically, at the time the CO was executed, HMC hired a new project manager to manage the Grants facility. The new project manager is responsible for fulfilling the requirements of the CO as well as addressing the notice of violations issued to HMC in April 2017 and July 2017. In addition, HMC completed the draft self-assessment required by the CO on August 31, 2017, and received extensive feedback from the NRC staff during its recent inspection in September of 2017. HMC has requested additional time to improve its draft self-assessment and has committed to obtaining support from consultants with particular NRC regulatory experience. Based on the actions described in HMC's November 17, 2017, letter, including its commitment to obtain additional resources with the appropriate knowledge and experience, the NRC has determined that HMC has made reasonable efforts to comply with the requirements of the CO, and that the requested time extension will have minimal impact on safety, particularly in light of other corrective actions being taken by the licensee to ensure that it is in compliance with NRC requirements. HMC has, therefore, demonstrated good cause for the extension request. Accordingly, I am granting HMC's request to extend the due date of the self-assessment until September 3, 2018, based on the HMC letter showing of good cause, and pursuant to Section V of the CO.

Notwithstanding the NRC's approval of the extension request, a number of action items resulting from the August 31, 2017, draft self-assessment completed by HMC require NRC review and approval in the near-term. Specifically, Conditions 4 and 5 of the CO require the following sequential actions to occur: 1) HMC development of a draft self-assessment;

2) review of the draft self-assessment by an independent third party consultant; 3) NRC audit of HMC's self-assessment reviewed by the third party consultant; 4) HMC incorporation of any comments resulting from the NRC audit; and 5) submittal of any license amendments for NRC review and approval and notification of any procedure changes. HMC stated that it will submit completed sections of the self-assessment that have undergone review by the independent third party consultant for NRC audit. This is necessary to ensure timely NRC review and approval of license amendments or procedure changes resulting from the self-assessment process before the revised date of September 3, 2018.

Enclosure 1 includes License Amendment No. 50, which modifies Condition 44 of License No. SUA-1471 to include a reference to this letter, which formally approves the extension of the due date in Condition 4 of the CO. Condition 44 of License SUA-1471 has also been amended to reference NRC letter dated October 19, 2017 (ML17241A299), which formally approved the extended due date for Condition 2 of the CO. License Amendment 50 also corrects an administrative error in Condition 35 of License No. SUA-1471. License Amendment 49 inadvertently modified the numbering of Condition 35(A) to 35(1).

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of NRC's "Agency Rules of Practice," 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 ADAMS. ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at (301) 287-9527, or by e-mail at Anne.Boland@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Anne T. Boland, Director
Office of Enforcement

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

Enclosure:

1. Amendment No. 50 to License No. SUA-1471

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ADAMS Accession No.: ML17340B340 (Pkg) ML17340B341 (Ltr)

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