



Department of Energy
Office of Legacy Management

OCT 09 2008

Dave Holland
Hecla Mining Company
6500 Mineral Drive
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815-8788

Subject: Transfer of the Durita, Colorado Disposal Site to the U.S. Department of Energy

Dear Mr. Holland:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) visited the Durita site with you on May 22, 2008. During that visit, you afforded DOE an opportunity to become familiar with site conditions so DOE and Hecla can coordinate the transfer of site responsibility to DOE for long-term surveillance and maintenance of the site after the Hecla license is terminated.

DOE found the site to be in generally excellent condition. However, DOE noted several items that we would like to discuss with Hecla. Most of these items are minor, such as removing debris inside the southwest corner of the fence and confirming the presence of several boundary monuments. Several items, though, must be resolved before transition occurs. In accordance with provisions of applicable regulations, DOE must seek to resolve all these issues so that site transition to long-term surveillance and maintenance occurs at no cost to the federal government beyond routine inspection, maintenance, and monitoring activities that are addressed through the long-term care fee.

The perimeter fence on the north and west property lines appears to be located outside the property boundary. Most of the land belongs to the Bureau of Land Management, and a portion on the northwest side of the site is privately owned. DOE does not have access to the land on which the fence is located. DOE requests that Hecla move the fence onto the property line where it encroaches on adjacent property. Other deteriorated portions of the perimeter fence should be repaired to ensure integrity for keeping livestock off engineered structures and to avoid a cost to DOE for fence repairs immediately after transfer.

DOE found erosion and head cutting at the north end of the Central Drainage Channel. Because this is a departure from the design and from as-built conditions, DOE requests that Hecla evaluate this damage to determine if the erosion degrades the functioning of the drainage channel or threatens other engineered structures. DOE requests that Hecla determine if upslope areas need to be re-graded to diminish channelized flow or if the area should be hardened, and implement the repairs if the erosion is causing issues. Regardless of the conclusions of the evaluation, the head cutting should be arrested.

2597 B 3/4 Road, Grand Junction, CO 81503

3600 Collins Ferry Road, Morgantown, WV 26505

626 Cochran's Mill Road, P.O. Box 10940, Pittsburgh, PA 15236

1000 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, DC 20585

11025 Dover St., Suite 1000, Westminster, CO 80021

10995 Hamilton-Cleves Highway, Harrison, OH 45030

955 Mound Road, Miamisburg, OH 45342

232 Energy Way, N. Las Vegas, NV 89030

REPLY TO: Grand Junction Office

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Mr. Holland

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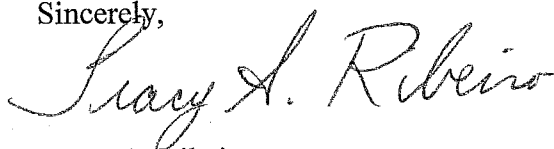
Other, more minor, recommendations include the following actions:

- Provide documentation of the locations where contaminated material was placed at the toe of the side slopes at leach tanks LT-201 and LT-203.
- Reseed the barren area on the southeast corner of leach tank LT-201.
- Repair or alter the deteriorated portions of the chain link fencing and move the wire fence away from the slope break in Site D.
- Remove the woody vegetation growing near the fence to prevent further damage to the fence.
- Discuss installing the warning signs.
- As part of the title package, determine if there is a utility easement associated with the telephone pedestal found on the west property boundary.
- Fix the erosion near the southwest corner of leach tank LT-203 by placing rock and straw wattles.
- Remove debris inside the southwest corner of the site.
- Discuss the Hecla noxious weed control program that has been practiced at the site.

DOE's observations and recommendations are detailed in the enclosed trip report. I look forward to discussing the recommendations with you to move the transition process forward. Thank you for your cooperation and willingness to work with my team and me to ensure a successful transfer of the Durita site to DOE.

Please call me at (970) 248-6621 or email me at Tracy.Ribeiro@lm.doe.gov if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Tracy A. Ribeiro
Site Manager

Enclosure

OCT 09 2008

cc w/enclosure:

R. Bush, DOE

T. Pauling, DOE

S. Schiesswohl, DOE

M. Widdop, Stoller

File Code: DTA 30.10 (DOE)

cc w/o enclosure:

E. Ethington, CDPHE

D. Sollenberger, NRC

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