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Acting Deputy Secretary

**CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

December 31, 2018

Thomas Wohlford  
Homestake Mining Company of California  
PO Box 98  
Grants, NM 87020

**RE: Continued Use of Well 951 as a Groundwater Monitoring Well, Homestake Mining Company, Discharge Permit 200**

Dear Mr. Wohlford:

On April 5, 2018 the Mining Environmental Compliance Section of the New Mexico Environment (NMED) approved a submittal from Homestake Mining Company (Permittee) titled *Well Plugging Plan of Operations* (Plan) dated July 27, 2017. The Plan proposes that 146 wells, including Well 951, be plugged and abandoned.

Subsequent to NMED approving the Plan, discussions regarding Well 951 were held between the Department of Energy, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Environmental Protection Agency, NMED (Agencies), and the Permittee. During these discussions, the Department of Energy indicated they would like to continue using Well 951 as a San Andres-Glorieta aquifer groundwater monitoring well. During a September 19, 2018 teleconference between the Permittee and the Agencies it was agreed that since the Permittee has demonstrated through geophysical and downhole camera studies that the integrity of Well 951 is good and is not causing cross-contamination between aquifers, Well 951 will not be plugged and abandoned, and instead will continue to be used by the Department of Energy for future groundwater monitoring.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (505) 827-0195 or Ashlynnne Winton at (505) 827-0602.

Sincerely,



Kurt Vollbrecht, Program Manager  
Mining Environmental Compliance Section  
Ground Water Quality Bureau

KV:AW

cc: Mark Purcell, EPA (signed PDF copy sent via electronic mail to:

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