



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS TX 75202-2733

January 29, 2019

Kevin R. Murray, Partner
Holland & Hart, LLP
222 South Main Street, Suite 2200
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

Re: Notification of Murray Acres Leases
Homestake Mining Company Site

Dear Kevin:

Thank you for your letter of November 14, 2018 notifying EPA of the Murray Acres residents' request to renew their leases to farmland owned by Homestake and to continue to use the Murray Acres Community well for irrigation. I believe that your clients and mine spoke briefly about this topic in a meeting with Homestake and the New Mexico Environment Department in Santa Fe in late November, but wanted to follow up in writing.

The use of the Murray Acres community irrigation well for farming parcels of land in the Murray Acres subdivision does not require EPA permission. The irrigation well yields water from the San Andres/Glorieta aquifer, which is not known to be impacted south of the Homestake National Priorities List site. Also, the parcels of land to be farmed are outside of the former land application areas. EPA has no health concerns regarding this activity.

We appreciate the November 14, 2018 notification because even though the aquifer in which the well is completed is not known to be impacted by site contaminants, the Chinle and alluvial ground water at or near the Murray Acres subdivision are contaminated and, therefore, may be considered part of the NPL site under the Superfund law. We also wanted to verify that there would be no exposure to site-related contamination associated with this activity.

Once again, thank you for the notification and please do not hesitate to contact EPA about any such activities in future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Pamela J. Travis", is written over a horizontal line.

Pamela J. Travis
Attorney

cc: Mark Purcell, EPA Region 6
Michael McCarthy, Barrick Gold North America

Tom Wohlford, Barrick Gold of North America
Rebecca Darling, Barrick Gold of North America
Kurt Vollbrecht, New Mexico Environment Department
Ron Linton, Nuclear Regulatory Commission