



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
1600 EAST LAMAR BOULEVARD
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-4511

April 24, 2020

Mr. David W. Pierce
Closure Manager
Homestake Mining Company
of California
Grants Reclamation Project
P.O. Box 98
Highway 605
Grants, NM 97020

SUBJECT: HOMESTAKE MINING COMPANY OF CALIFORNIA REQUEST FOR 90 DAY
EXTENSION TO PROVIDE RESPONSE FOR NRC INSPECTION REPORT
040-08903/2016-001 AND NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Dear Mr. Pierce:

By letter dated March 17, 2020 (Agencywide Documents Access Management System [ADAMS] Accession No. ML20080J188), the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) requested that Homestake Mining Company of California provide the NRC with a description of the completed and proposed corrective actions, as well as a timeline for completion of the proposed corrective actions, to address the radon flux exceedance violation identified in NRC Inspection Report 040-08903/2016-001 (ADAMS Accession No. ML17088A761). You responded by letter dated April 16, 2020 (ADAMS Accession No. ML20108E888).

The purpose of the NRC's March 17, 2020, letter was to reiterate your obligation to address corrective actions associated with the cited violation. Specifically, you must provide specific information associated with completed corrective actions, planned corrective actions, and a schedule of when the planned corrective actions will be complete and compliance is restored, as stated in the Notice of Violation and as required by the provisions of 10 CFR 2.201.

Your letter dated April 16, 2020, did not provide the required information. Instead, your letter requested a 90-day extension for the submission of the response to the violation. You indicated that this extension request was based on the following conditions: (1) reliance of the groundwater restoration program on data collected from monitoring wells on the Large Tailings Pile (LTP) and the presence of those wells hindering the placement of the radon barrier; (2) presence of the Zeolite system on the LTP, hindering placement of the radon barrier; (3) not having a clear understanding on how to submit a request for exemption from the radon flux standard and provide a justification of the exemption based on public dose; and (4) site impacts related to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

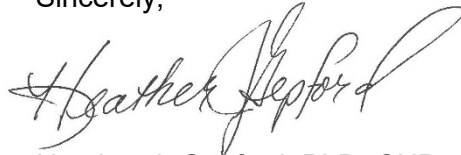
With the exception of the COVID-19 impacts to the site, the reasons identified as justifications for the extension of the response to the NOV are issues that were previously identified by the licensee and/or the NRC. The NRC staff concluded that you have had sufficient opportunity to address these issues in the past three years. Therefore, you are requested to provide a

response to this letter. The reply should be clearly marked as a "Reply to a Notice of Violation," and should include: (1) the corrective steps that have been taken and the results achieved, (2) the corrective steps that will be taken, and (3) the date when full compliance will be achieved. In consideration of the impacts of COVID-19 on the site, you are requested to provide this information to the NRC within 30 days of the date of this letter. Pursuant to the provisions of 10 CFR 2.201, if an adequate reply is not received within the time specified, an order or a Demand for Information may be issued requiring information as to why the license should not be modified, suspended, or revoked, or why such other action as may be proper should not be taken.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Agency Rules of Practice and Procedure," a copy of this letter will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access Management System (ADAMS), accessible from the NRC web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

If you have questions concerning this matter, please contact Ms. Martha Poston-Brown of my staff at 817-200-1181 or the undersigned at 817-200-1156.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heather J. Gepford". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Heather J. Gepford, PhD, CHP, Chief
Materials Licensing and Decommissioning
Branch
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

License No: SUA-1471
Docket No: 040-08903

cc:

M. Hunter, New Mexico Environmental Dept.
S. Rodriguez, New Mexico Environmental Dept.
B. Tsosie, U.S. Department of Energy

HOMESTAKE MINING COMPANY OF CALIFORNIA REQUEST FOR 90 DAY EXTENSION
TO PROVIDE RESPONSE FOR NRC INSPECTION REPORT 040-08903/2016-001 AND
NOTICE OF VIOLATION DATED – APRIL 24, 2020

DISTRIBUTION:

SMorris, ORA
MShaffer, ORA
MMuessle, DNMS
LHowell, DNMS
HGepford, MLDB
MPoston, MLDB
REvans, MLDB
BVonTill, NMSS/DUWP/URLB
RLinton, NMSS/DUWP/URLB

cc:

Santiago Rodriquez, Chief
Radiation Control Bureau
New Mexico Department of Environment
Marquez Building-Suite 1
525 Camino de Los Marquez
Santa Fe, NM 87505 .
santiago.rodriquez1@state.nm.us

Michelle Hunter, Chief
Groundwater Quality Bureau
New Mexico Environmental Department
Harold Runnels Building
1190 S. Saint Francis Drive
Santa Fe, NM 87502
michelle.hunter@state.nm.us

Bernadette Tsosie, Program Manager
U. S. Department of Energy
Office of Legacy Management
2597 Legacy Way
Grand Junction, CO 81503
bernadette.tsosie@lm.doe.gov

ADAMS ACCESSION NUMBER: ML20115E462

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SUNSI Review By: MRP	ADAMS: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Sensitive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Sensitive	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Publicly Available <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Publicly Available	Keyword NRC-002
OFFICE	RIV:MLDB	RIV:MLDB	C:MLDB	
NAME	MRPoston	RJEvans	HJGepford	
SIGNATURE	/RA/	/RA/	/RA/	
DATE	4/22/2020	04/22/2020	04/24/2020	

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY