



Homestake Mining Company of California

David W. Pierce  
Grants Reclamation Project  
**Closure Manager**

June 18, 2020

Ron C. Linton  
Project Manager/Hydrogeologist  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards  
MS T-5A10, 11545 Rockville Pike  
Rockville, MD 20852

**Re: Notice of RST Return to Work After COVID-19**

Dear Mr. Linton:

This is a written follow-up to our conversation on 02Jun2020 in which we notified NRC that our approved Site RST returned to work and resumed his duties on the previous day, 01Jun2020. These notifications are required (referenced below) under the exemption granted by the NRC on 08Apr2020, for relief from COVID-19 related challenges faced by the GRP site.

HMC is grateful to the NRC for the timely relief provided. It allowed for a significant operational issue to be safely and effectively resolved.

***Exemption Scope and Restrictions***

The NRC staff finds that a temporary exemption is supported by HMC's submittal. This temporary exemption will remain in effect for:

1. 90 days, or
2. until such time the business activities restrictions are relaxed by the State of New Mexico and a qualified RST contractor can be put in place, or
3. until the currently approved Site RST can return to work, whichever occurs first.

HMC shall notify the NRC within 15 days of the satisfaction of criteria No. 2 or 3 above. The NRC staff expects the currently approved RST to perform RST duties when available, or a qualified RST contractor to perform RST duties after business activity restrictions are relaxed. This temporary exemption is also contingent upon the availability of the RSO or ARSO via phone or video conference to direct activities associated with any emergency conditions and during oversight of any RWP activities.

Should you have any questions or comments regarding the project, please contact me at [dpierce@barrick.com](mailto:dpierce@barrick.com) or (505) 283-9701.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David W. Pierce".

David W. Pierce  
Closure Manager  
Homestake Mining Company, Grants, New Mexico

cc: A. Winton, NMED, Santa Fe, New Mexico (electronic copy)  
K. Vollbrecht, NMED, Santa Fe, New Mexico (electronic copy)  
M. Purcell, EPA, Dallas, Texas (electronic copy)  
M. McCarthy, Barrick, Salt Lake City, Utah (electronic copy)  
D. Lattin, Barrick, Elko, Nevada (electronic copy)  
R. Whicker, ERG, Albuquerque, New Mexico (electronic copy)