



Homestake Mining Company of California

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March 30, 2021

Ashlynn Winton
Mining Environmental Compliance Section
Ground Water Quality Bureau
New Mexico Environmental Department
P.O. Box 5469
Santa Fe, NM 87502

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: Liner Tear During Brine Transfer to Evaporation Pond 1
Discharge Permit DP-200 7-Day Notification/15-Day Corrective Action Report
Source Materials License SUA-1471, Docket Number 040-08903, 30-Day Correction
Action Report
Homestake Mining Company, Grants Reclamation Project**

Dear Ms. Winton and Mr. Linton:

This letter will serve as the 7-day written report and 15-day corrective action report as required by 20.6.2.1203 (New Mexico Administrative Code) in the Homestake Mining Company (HMC) Discharge Permit (DP-200). In addition, this letter will also serve as the 30-day report as required by Condition 41 of Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Materials License SUA-1471. The letter confirms the details of the liner tear in HMC Evaporation Pond 1 (EP-1) during brine transfer from Evaporation Pond 2 (EP-2) as notified verbally on March 24, 2021 (within 24-hours as required) via phone calls to the New Mexico Environmental Department (NMED) and on March 25, 2021 (within 48-hours as required) via voice message and subsequent telephone conversation with the NRC.

As part of normal operations, HMC commenced transferring brine (water) from EP-2 on March 23, 2021. During transfer, the discharge stream into EP-1 resulted in liner tears above the water level sometime between 1330 and 1515 on March 23, 2021.

Based on the duration of the discharge, size of the tears in the liner and time of discovery, it is estimated that a minimal volume of brine was lost through the liner into the underlying tailings. In addition, it should be noted that EP-1 is located upgradient of the hydraulic barrier created by injection of water into the alluvial and Upper Chinle aquifers. Multiple injection wells are located

downgradient of the evaporation ponds and help control potential migration of impacted groundwater from this area.

Repairs were performed on March 25, 2021, and photographs showing the tears and a final patch are attached. To avoid this type of incident from occurring in the future, additional HDPE liner, with conveyor belt material on top of the HDPE liner, will be placed directly under the discharge pipe from EP-2 and extended to the water line during transfer.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this matter, please contact me via e-mail at bbingham@homestakeminingcoca.com or via phone at 505-290-8019.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brad R. Bingham".

Brad R. Bingham
Closure Manager
Homestake Mining Company of California
Office: 505.287.4456 x35 | Cell: 505.290.8019

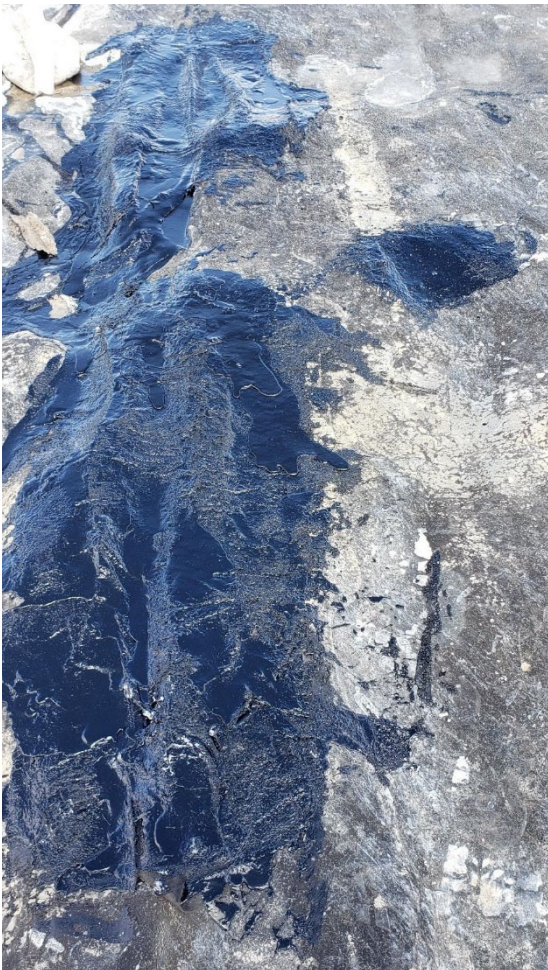
BB/jlo

Enclosure

ec: M Purcell, EPA, Dallas, Texas
M McCarthy, Barrick, Elko, NV
D Lattin, Barrick, Elko, NV
R Whicker, ERG, Albuquerque, New Mexico



**Photograph 1: View showing
tear in liner**



**Photograph 2: View showing
repair of tear**