



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

February 8, 2022

MEMORANDUM TO: Docket: 040-08903
License: SUA-1471, Amendment 58
Licensee: Homestake Mining Company of California
Facility: Grants Reclamation Project, Grants, NM

FROM: Bill Von Till, Branch Chief
Uranium Recovery and Materials
Decommissioning Branch
Division of Decommissioning, Uranium Recovery
and Waste Programs
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bill Von Till", is located to the right of the "FROM:" field.

Signed by Von Till, Randolph
on 02/08/22

SUBJECT: NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION STAFF BASIS FOR
SELECTED CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS: HOMESTAKE MINING
COMPANY OF CALIFORNIA, GRANTS RECLAMATION PROJECT,
2021 ANNUAL SURETY UPDATE AND GROUNDWATER
MONITORING PLAN REVISION, AMENDMENT NUMBER 58 TO
SOURCE MATERIALS LICENSE, SUA-1471, DOCKET NUMBER
040-08903

The purpose of this memorandum is to document the basis for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's conclusion with respect to the satisfaction of the categorical exclusion criteria under paragraph Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 51.22(c). This basis is also described in the Safety Evaluation Reports for this license amendment.

Categorical Exclusion Pertaining to License Condition (LC) 28

The staff has determined that Amendment 58 to License SUA-1471 qualifies for a categorical exclusion because the license amendment pertaining to LC 28 is for the issuance of an amendment that changes the surety, as stated in criteria in 10 CFR 51.22(c)(10)(i), as explained below:

A license amendment to reflect an update in the amount of financial assurance or corrective revisions belongs to a category of actions that the NRC has determined do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the environment. Such actions qualify for a categorical exclusion under 10 CFR 51.22(c) and do not require an environmental assessment. Specifically, the NRC staff has determined that the update and changes to the financial assurance (surety) are categorically excluded from further environmental review under 10 CFR 51.22(c)(10)(i).

CONTACT: Ron C. Linton, NMSS/DUWP
301-415-7777

Categorical Exclusion Pertaining to LC 35

The staff has determined that Amendment 58 to License SUA-1471 qualifies for a categorical exclusion because the license amendment pertaining to License Condition (LC) 35, which revises the Groundwater Monitoring Plan, is administrative in nature and meets the four criteria in 10 CFR 51.22(c)(11), as explained below:

- 10 CFR 51.22(c)(11)(i)—There is no significant increase in the types or amounts of any effluents that may be released offsite;

The proposed action would not involve any changes to effluents. The proposed action is to replace one compliance monitoring well with a compromised well casing, well CF4, with another compliance monitoring well that already exists, well CE7. Therefore, there is no significant change in the types or increase in the amounts of effluents that may be released offsite.

- 10 CFR 51.22(c)(11)(ii)—There is no significant increase in individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure;

The proposed action would not involve any significant changes to public or occupational radiation exposures. The replacement of Well CF4 with Well CE7 in the Groundwater Monitoring Plan does not involve the placement of a new well, as both wells are currently being monitored and well CE7 will continue to be monitored. Therefore, there is no significant increase in individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure.

- 10 CFR 51.22(c)(11)(iii)—There is no significant construction impact;

The proposed action would not involve any significant construction activities. The replacement well, CE7 has already been installed and monitored for several years. Well CF4 may be abandoned in the future, but the activities related to abandoning well CF4 would be minimal. Therefore, there is no significant construction impact.

- 10 CFR 51.22(c)(11)(iv)—There is no significant increase in the potential for or consequences from radiological accidents;

The proposed action is to replace one compliance monitoring well with a compromised well casing with another compliance monitoring well. Therefore, there is no significant increase in the potential for or consequences from radiological accidents.

Pursuant to staff memorandum dated February 28, 1984,¹ SECY-83-286, and guidance in NUREG-1748, as designee for the Division Director, this memorandum documents my concurrence with the staff's evaluation. This memorandum will be placed as a publicly available record in Agencywide Documents and Management System under the above referenced docket and linked to the amendment 58 package.²

¹ Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML20044G949.

² ADAMS Accession Package No. ML21356B106.