

January 17, 2002

Mr. Roy Cellan
Homestake Mining Company
P.O. Box 98
Grants, NM 87020

SUBJECT: HOMESTAKE REQUEST TO CHANGE BACKGROUND CONCENTRATIONS

This letter is to acknowledge receipt by the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) of Homestake Mining Company's (HMC's) letter dated December 15, 2001, "Request to Change Background Concentrations at the Homestake Grants Reclamation Site". The NRC staff does not expect to begin detailed review of the documents before March 31, 2002, due to the current work load. The staff will inform HMC when it begins review, and provide an estimated completion date at that time, including the time required for coordination with the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency and the New Mexico Environment Department.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or the NRC staff review, please contact the NRC Project Manager for the HMC site, Ken Hooks, at (301) 415-7777 or by email at KRH1@NRC.GOV.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/ADAMS/index.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Sincerely,

/RA/c/GSJ

Melvyn N. Leach, Chief
Fuel Cycle Licensing Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards

Docket No.: 40-8903
License No.: SUA-1471

cc: Arthur Kleinrath, DOE Grand Junction
Maura Hanning, NMED, Santa Fe
George Schuman, NMED, Santa Fe
Mark Purcell, EPA Region 6, Dallas

