

January 10, 2005

MEMORANSUM TO: Robert Nelson, Section Chief
Uranium Processing Section
Fuel Cycle Facilities Branch

FROM: William Von Till /RA/
Uranium Processing Section
Fuel Cycle Facilities Branch

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF U.S. EPA DECEMBER 7, 2004 PUBLIC MEETING

Background

A public meeting was held by the U.S. EPA Region 6 on December 7, 2004, in Cibola County Building, Grants, New Mexico to Provide the Community a Status Update of Groundwater Corrective Action at the Homestake Uranium Mill and Tailings Site and To Prepare for a Water Use Survey in the Community.

DISCUSSION:

The EPA gave a 5 page hand out to the public which is attached and Homestake's slide presentation is attached.

This public meeting was led by EPA Region 6 with participation from the NRC and State of New Mexico. Presentations were given by Sai Appaji, of EPA Region 6, Bill von Till, of the NRC, and Al Cox, of Homestake Mining. The EPA and NRC presentations were short and explained the roles of the agencies then Al Cox gave a 45 minute slide presentation on the site characteristics and history, groundwater remediation actions, and future actions (Attachment 2). The meeting was then opened up to the public for questions. Approximately 20-30 members of the public were present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Public comments were many and focused on the following concerns:

- 1- Many members of the public had concerns that the regulatory agencies would consider letting Homestake account for background concentrations in groundwater caused by nearby mining sources. This topic took a large amount of discussion. The public was concerned that mining activities and the Homestake site activities have completely contaminated all of the groundwater in the area.

- 2- Members of the public had concerns about when they would be able to use their water wells drilled into the alluvial aquifer instead of the public water lines that had been provided to them by Homestake as an alternate water supply.
- 3- A member of the public had concerns with reclamation of the evaporation ponds used for groundwater treatment.
- 4- Members of the public had concerns regarding the time schedule of remediation.

Docket No.: 40-8903
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Attachment: 1. EPA 5 Page Handout.
2. Homestake Slide Presentation

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