

From: "Oscar Paulson - Bresnan" <oscar.paulson@bresnan.net>
To: "Stephen Cohen" <SJC7@nrc.gov>
Date: 4/27/06 1:30AM
Subject: Tailings Impoundment Liner - *Kennecott - 40-8584*

Stephen Cohen:

George Palochak and I reviewed the previous license (the one prior to the Performance Based License) regarding the tailings impoundment. The pre-Performance Based License stated in License condition 10.7:

The tailings cell liner shall be maintained in an operable condition within 5 feet of the solution surface.

The old license does not use the term "freeboard". When the new Performance Based License was being created, it was agreed that certain conditions in the pre-existing license would be incorporated in to a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) called Tailings Operating Procedure (TOP) - 1. This language was among several items (including the prohibition against adding more than 25 million gallons per year of pumpback fluid in to the impoundment) included in this Standard Operating Procedure (SOP).

In addition, when the tailings are regraded and the new evaporation ponds constructed, there will be a ten (10) foot wide road of tailings between the fluid in the new pond and the tailings impoundment embankment. This will effectively keep the solution surface ten (10) feet away from the repaired liner.

Given this situation, it would appear that maintaining a five (5) foot slope distance of liner above the top of the road between the new lagoon and the existing embankment should be adequate. Do you agree?

Oscar Paulson
Facility Supervisor

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Mail Envelope Properties (445056E0.0F7 : 6 : 61687)

Subject: Tailings Impoundment Liner
Creation Date: 4/27/06 1:35AM
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Files

MESSAGE

TEXT.htm

Mime.822

Size

1386

2527

5928

Date & Time

04/27/06 01:35AM

Options

Expiration Date:

None

Priority:

Standard

Reply Requested:

No

Return Notification:

None

Concealed Subject:

No

Security:

Standard