May 11, 2007

Chairman Dallas Massey, Sr.
White Mountain Apache Tribe
P. O. Box 700
White River, AZ 85941

SUBJECT: SECTION 106 CONSULTATION FOR THE HOMESTAKE MINING COMPANY OF CALIFORNIA PROPOSED EVAPORATION POND #3

Dear Chairman Massey:

The Homestake Mining Company of California (HMC) is proposing to build an evaporation pond on a 33-acre site in Cibola County, New Mexico, as part of a long-term groundwater restoration effort at the facility. The purpose of the pond is to add evaporative capacity, allowing HMC to extract contaminated groundwater at higher pumping rates; this will expedite the groundwater cleanup. The proposed location for the pond and alternatives is on private land adjacent to the HMC facility, located north of the City of Grants, in Section 26, T12N, R10W (Figure 1). HMC currently manages a groundwater restoration program subject to U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) License SUA-1471, and New Mexico Environment Department Discharge Plans, DP-200 and DP-725.

HMC has applied for an amendment to the NRC Site License to add a new evaporation pond and expand the NRC-licensed site boundary. HMC has prepared an Engineering Design Package and Environmental Report in support of the amendment request that can be found at http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams/web-based.html, and by searching under ML063050641. The Environmental Report for the proposal can be found by searching under ML070850561. If you have difficulty accessing this information, you may contact the Public Document Room Librarian at 1-800-397-4209. Additionally, HMC provided pre-consultation information to you in a letter dated July 7, 2006, outlining the proposed amendment request.

As required by 36 CFR Part 800, the NRC is requesting the views of the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer on further actions to identify historic or cultural properties that may be affected by the NRC-proposed action of granting the proposed license amendment to construct a third evaporation pond and expand the NRC-licensed site boundary. The area of potential effects includes areas in the immediate area of the HMC licensed area and areas surrounding the facility. HMC has conducted a cultural resource survey based on the proposed alternatives for the evaporation pond locations (enclosed). Please note that the Cultural Resources Survey is not an NRC publicly available document. HMC has also recommended an archaeological monitoring plan be designed and implemented if the evaporation pond is located at Alternative B. NRC would appreciate any information that you can provide with respect to any traditional religious or cultural sites, or other historic or archaeological sites of importance to the White Mountain Apache Tribe that may be within the area.

After assessing the information provided by you, we will determine what additional actions are necessary to comply with the Section 106 process. If you have any questions, please contact me at 301-415-7777 or, by e-mail to rcl1@nrc.gov.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice for Domestic Licensing Proceedings and Issuance of Orders," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records component of the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html.

Sincerely,
/SCohen for RA/

Ron C. Linton, Project Manager
Decommissioning and Uranium Recovery
Licensing Directorate
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Federal and State Materials
and Environmental Management Programs

Docket No.: 040-08903
License No.: SUA - 1471

Enclosure: Survey

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Ron C. Linton, Project Manager
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Enclosure: Survey

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