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Date: 06/06/2007 6:44:12 PM
Subject: Fw: Homestake Mining Company Site Meeting Recap

Summary of last week's meeting.

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----- Forwarded by Sairam Appaji/R6/USEPA/US on 06/06/2007 05:37 PM

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To

06/06/2007 04:52 PM Sairam Appaji/R6/USEPA/US@EPA,
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cc

Subject

Homestake Mining Company Site
Meeting Recap

Hello, all...attached is a summary of the meeting. Sorry it took so long to get it to you, but I've been "Tar Creeked"! I may not have captured everything accurately, so you may want to make changes you feel are warranted. Since I am not involved in the project on a daily basis, I wasn't sure about some of the technical issues under discussion. Also, with everyone talking at once, I may have missed something. I also am attaching a scan of the sign-in sheet. We are currently updating the mailing list database and will return the original to you when we're done. Have a great evening.

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(See attached file: HomestakeCommMtgRecap_5-30-2007.doc)(See attached file: SignInSheet.pdf)

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Mail Envelope Properties (466738A8.049 : 0 : 53321)

Subject: Fw: Homestake Mining Company Site Meeting Recap
Creation Date 06/06/2007 6:42:56 PM
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SignInSheet.pdf	760692	

Homestake Mining Community Meeting Recap - May 30, 2007

TO: Bob Johnson/EPA; Sai Appaji/EPA
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FROM: Lorraine Jameson/CH2M HILL/Dallas
DATE: June 4, 2007
PROJECT NUMBER: 346575.PM.76

U.S. EPA Region 6 (EPA), in association with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), hosted a community meeting to discuss the results of the second five-year review (2006) and the results of ground water sampling conducted in 2005 and 2006. The meeting was held Wednesday, May 30, 2007, at the Cibola County Government Center Auditorium. The event began at 5:30 p.m. with an informal poster session. PowerPoint® presentations and discussion began at 6:30 p.m. and lasted until approximately 9:00 p.m.

Approximately 30 community members attended the meeting (see accompanying sign-in sheet). Agency representatives were:

Sai Appaji, EPA Remedial Project Manager
Dana Bahar, NMED Ground Water Quality Bureau
David Mayerson, NMED Ground Water Quality Bureau
Jerry Schoeppner, NMED Ground Water Quality Bureau
Mike Taylor, NMED Radiation Control Bureau
Andy Dudley, ATSDR

Sai Appaji was the first presenter. He discussed the purpose of the meeting, the agencies involved and the roles they play in site remediation, and the results of the second five-year review.

David Mayerson followed with a discussion of the residential wells sampled in 2005 and 2006 and the sampling program.

Andy Dudley followed with an overview of the ATSDR, a description of contaminants found at the Homestake Mining site, results of sampling events in 2005 and 2006, and conclusions and recommendations from the health assessment, which was based on the sampling results. He said the health consultation report will be available in the near future on ATSDR's website or by contacting him by phone or e-mail.

Mike Taylor provided the final presentation on radon, including instructions on how participants can obtain radon test kits for their homes.

Sai Appaji closed the meeting by telling participants that the agencies understand community members' desires to be part of the remediation process. He also said that EPA will look a recommending consideration for Superfund status for an expanded region upgradient of the Homestake Mining site.

Issues and Concerns

Participants expressed a high level of concern about a number of issues related to the Homestake Mining site. Key points included:

- A participant from the Southwest Research Center said severe contamination is still in effect and is impacting area wells. Participants believe contamination continues from upgradient sources, such as Ambrosia Lake and the Anaconda mine. David Mayerson indicated the Anaconda mine would be a "prime suspect" in the search for other sites that might be contributing to contamination in the area.
- One participant asked why representatives of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) did not attend, and indicated their absence showed that "the community is not important." Another participant mentioned that a recent public site tour conducted by the NRC did not offer enough opportunity for community members to ask questions.
- A number of participants objected to the data used by agencies to establish contaminant background levels and believe there is no proof to support the accuracy of this data.
- One woman said the mill tailings should be removed and that a few years ago an EPA staff member (not named) had said the "mill tailings will leak forever."
- Property values were a concern. One participant said she resented having to "pay for something I previously got for free."
- A number of participants discussed health problems in the community, especially cancer.
- One woman said community members are "tired" and do not have the resources to obtain action to address site contamination. She said if the community had been wealthier, quicker, more effective cleanup actions would have been taken. She said the community has been polite, but now lack of action will "radicalize" the community.
- Dana Bahar said NMED is seeking funding sources and working with the NRC to evaluate the impact of Ambrosia Lake, the Anaconda mine, and other upgradient sources on ground water quality. She also said they are looking at how the Superfund program might factor into the equation. She warned participants that the Superfund program does not have unlimited resources, and that NMED is competing with all 50 states for Superfund dollars.
- Although Andy Dudley told participants that 1) concentrations of chemicals were much greater than what was found in the 2005 and 2006 sampling events and 2) adverse health effects are not anticipated from current levels, a number of community members were unhappy that historical levels of contamination were not included in the current health assessment.

