

FW: Head Milton.pdf - Adobe Acrobat Professional

From: "Bahar, Dana, NMENV" <dana.bahar@state.nm.us>
To: <RWV@nrc.gov>, "Ron C. Linton (rc11@nrc.gov)" <rc11@nrc.gov>, "Larry Camper" <LWC@nrc.gov>
Date: 11/05/2007 9:46 AM
Subject: FW: Head Milton.pdf - Adobe Acrobat Professional
CC: "Mayerson, David, NMENV" <David.Mayerson@state.nm.us>

Thought you might be interested in the attached letter to Senator Bingaman. I have already sent a copy to EPA.

Thanks, Dana

From: Bahar, Dana, NMENV
Sent: Saturday, November 03, 2007 12:35 PM
To: 'Williams.Donald@epamail.epa.gov'; 'Appaji.Sairam@epamail.epa.gov'; 'Parr.Buddy@epamail.epa.gov'
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FYI

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Created By: dana.bahar@state.nm.us

Recipients

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TWGWPO04.HQGWDO01
RWV (Bill VonTill)

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LWC (Larry Camper)

state.nm.us
David.Mayerson CC (David NMENV Mayerson)

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TEXT.htm	3659	
Head Milton.pdf	138008	
Mime.822	195995	

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Expiration Date: None
Priority: Standard
ReplyRequested: No
Return Notification: None

Concealed Subject: No
Security: Standard

October 13, 2007

BVDA
P. O. Box 2038
Milan, NM 87021

Senator Jeff Bingaman
Suite 130
625 Silver Avenue, SW
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Dear Senator Bingaman,

We are a group of citizens who have lived in New Mexico a long time—many of us are sixth generation New Mexicans. We have roots in agriculture and a rural lifestyle, but to support families we have also worked in the underground uranium mines and other jobs near our homes outside Milan, NM. Some of our members are ranchers. We are all working class people who have to keep working in order to pay bills and keep our families afloat. We thought we could continue our rural ways in a little farming community north of Milan. What we did not know is that the uranium mill tailings pile operated by Homestake/Barrick Gold would completely change our lives, take our property, and threaten to destroy the futures we have worked so hard to build. This uranium mill tailings pile has polluted our underground aquifers. Pollution from other former mining operations upstream from the Homestake site has also traveled to the site and is adding to the Homestake/Barrick Gold contamination, making it difficult for state regulators to enforce standards on Homestake/Barrick Gold that would protect our community. This superfund site has been subjected to monumental mismanagement by state and federal regulators, to the point that we now believe the Village of Milan's water supply could be threatened. It is also contaminating aquifers that contribute to traditional American Indian water resources. Almost 100 families have lost the value of the property they worked lifetimes to acquire. We cannot use former wells or drill new ones to support the rural lifestyle we thought we could count on in this community. We have written to you before but we believe you must not understand our situation, because your record shows you would support us if you really knew what was happening.

We found recently that when Governor Richardson and NMED Secretary Curry came to understand our situation, they also began to understand why they should begin working with us for a solution. But they need federal support. The EPA and NRC have not given us the help we need. In fact, they continue to say publicly that because Homestake/Barrick Gold has a remediation plan in place, their responsibility is met. They do not seem to care that the problem is getting worse and our lives and our futures are being ruined. They are not willing to bring the other former uranium mining companies responsible for this environmental debacle into the

search for a solution. Mr. Von Till III of the NRC comes to our community from time to time, treats us like idiots and gives us a litany of reasons why the NRC cannot help us.

We are frustrated beyond belief, but we do not have the money or human resources to avail ourselves of any relief. You are a person who seems committed to environmental justice. We need your help. If you would talk to Dana Behar, David Mayerson, or Jerry Shoepner of the NMED, they would help you understand the technical aspects of the situation. You would need to ask specifically about the Homestake Mining Company Superfund Site. Also, we would very much like you to meet with our group's president, Mr. Milton Head--who has experience as an engineer and former uranium mining project director for Conoco--as well as a group of officers and representatives from our community's organization. We sometimes interpret the technical information differently than the state, since we view it in terms of the impact on our health and our futures.

We feel certain that if you got involved, we might eventually come to a solution that everyone could accept. We know people in our county are interested in starting up new uranium mining in the area, but we feel strongly that current contamination needs to be cleaned up before new operations are begun and that better controls on future operations must be in place so we do not just create new problems. We also believe there is great economic opportunity available in cleanup efforts. What is lacking is someone with the vision and the resources to get it started. We need your help for that.

Please give us a chance to meet and speak with you directly. Our futures may very well be in your hands.

Sincerely,



Bluewater Valley Downstream Alliance

Milton Head, President

Jonnie Head

Steve Dylla and Candace Head-Dylla

Jim and Sandy Brewer

Art and Shirley Gebeau

Larry and Sally Carver

JoAnn Strickland

Rudy and Rylla Vasquez

Bram McFee

Tommy Simpson

Gray Kershner

Larry and Sharon MacKendrick

Cc: Bill Richardson, Governor, State of New Mexico
Pete Domenici, U. S. Senator
Heather Wilson, U. S. Representative-1st District
Steve Pearce, U. S. Representative-2nd District
Tom Udall, U. S. Representative-3rd District