

- GRANTS - response to questions

From: "Cox, Al (Grants)" <ACox@barrick.com>
To: "Ron Linton" <RCL1@nrc.gov>
Date: 10/17/2007 12:41 PM
Subject: GRANTS - response to questions
CC: "Kump, Dan (Grants)" <dkump@barrick.com>, "Alan Kuhn" <AKuhn@kleinfelder.com>, "Louis Bridges" <LBridges@kleinfelder.com>, "George Hoffman" <hydro@alluretech.net>

Ron,
Attached are our responses to your License Amendment questions with regard to the proposed pond EP-3 and related ER.

I have asked Kleinfelder and Hydro-Engineering to work together to prep the map showing relevant air monitoring stations. I will get that to you as quickly as we can.

Thanks.....Al

*Alan D. Cox
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Subject: GRANTS - response to questions
Creation Date 10/17/2007 12:40:12 PM
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TWGWPO01.HQGWD001
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MESSAGE	470	10/17/2007 12:40:12 PM
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Grants Reclamation Project

Response to October 4, 2007 E-Mail from Ron Linton – NRC

Questions on Evaporation Pond #3

Below are Homestake's responses to the questions posed with regard to the Environmental Report and associated environmental review and evaluation for the proposed project Evaporation Pond #3 (EP-3) License Amendment action.

1. Are sprayers going to be used for EP3 to enhance evaporation? I thought you indicated construction is basically the same as EP1 & EP2, but I cant see in specs where they will be fitted for spray evaporation.

The Environmental Report makes reference to forced spray evaporation on the pond. The submitted design package for EP-3 does not, however, provide specific design specifications for a spray system on the pond. The pond is engineered and designed such that a spray system and associated piping, plumbing and pump systems can be added after initial construction should it become necessary to enhance evaporation through addition of such a system at a later date. We anticipate using the pond initially for only water storage and passive evaporation (pond / lake surface evaporation only). We would like the license amendment to allow the flexibility to add a forced spray system in the future should it become necessary to increase evaporative losses from water stored in the new pond.

2. Surface winds in the project area are reported in the EA by Bridges and Meyer (2007) (page 10 of 22) as predominantly from the north-northwest. However, HMC reports the predominant wind direction as from the southwest in latest semi-annual report section 2.1. Which is correct?

The Environmental Report by Bridges and Meyer (2007) is making reference to wind data that was obtained from the Grants / Milan airport which is located several miles SSW of the project site. The data from that site does indeed show a predominant surface wind direction from the North-Northwest. The local geomorphology where the airport is located (in a valley between Black Butte and the base of the Zuni Mountains) is believed to have a localized affected on observed wind direction.

Older data from the Anaconda / ARCO Bluewater millsite west of the project, as well as data from our weather station immediately south of the current evaporation pond complex at the Grants project, shows that the higher and more intense winds (related to storm fronts) come from the Southwest. The ER should have had a discussion of the Anaconda data and local site data which are more locally relevant to wind conditions at the Grants site. The following information is provided with regard to the Bluewater site which is the basis for the references made to wind direction in previous project semi-annual reports

Wind speed and wind direction were monitored near the site in 1978 at Anaconda's Bluewater Mill, approximately 5.5 miles northwest of the HMC site (Anaconda 1981). This data is shown below. Average wind speed at the site in 1978 was estimated to be five miles per hour with a prevailing wind speed of five miles per hour and the prevailing wind direction was from the

southwest. Recent wind data reviewed at Bluewater Ridge supports the Anaconda 1978 wind data.

Figure B2-1 Wind Rose of Wind Speeds and Directions

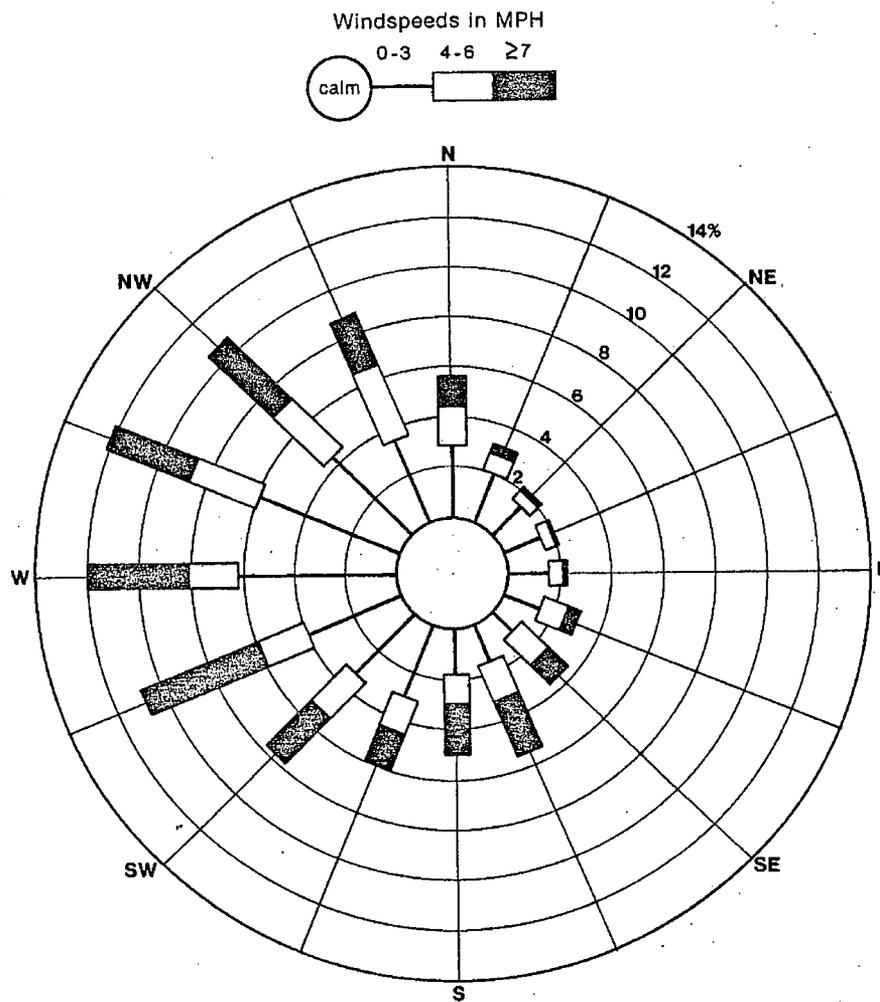


Table A9. Annual Frequency Distribution, All Stability Classes

Direction	Windspeed (mph)						Total
	0-3	4-6	7-11	12-16	17-25	> 25	
N	214	124	82	6	1	0	427
NNE	151	54	28	4	0	0	237
NE	111	31	14	2	0	1	159
ENE	109	35	7	3	0	0	154
E	115	41	8	1	0	1	166
ESE	111	75	39	0	0	0	225
SE	77	110	78	3	0	0	268
SSE	113	117	143	26	8	1	408
S	132	85	106	29	14	7	373
SSW	225	108	72	23	18	5	451
SW	243	150	113	50	27	1	584
WSW	297	138	182	127	58	13	815
W	463	145	175	93	27	1	904
WNW	445	203	165	64	33	1	911
NW	327	210	169	61	28	0	795
NNW	263	230	152	13	5	0	663

3. Is HMC planning an additional air monitoring station for EP3? Based on predominant wind direction, I'm concerned that we may need an additional air monitoring station with Alternative B or C. It doesn't seem like HMC #1 is far enough north of County Road 63 to adequately monitor Alt B. HMC #2, may be ok for Alt C. Can you give me a better idea of where they are located in relation to the proposed pond for Alt B and C.

Air monitoring station HMC-1 is located approximately 450 feet North 40 degrees East of Well P; Well P is shown on most of the project site maps that are included in our Annual Performance Reports. The HMC-2 air monitoring station is located approximately 480 feet North 40 degrees East of Well ND.

We will provide a map in the near future showing the locations of the existing air monitoring stations in relation to the pond siting alternatives B and C. We believe that the existing air monitoring network will be sufficient to provide data with regard to the Alternative B (preferred alternative) pond location; especially in light of the remote location of the pond with regard to the distance to nearest public access and the fact that the strongest winds are typically from the west and southwest.

4. Nearest coal plant is noted in the EA as Coronado Generating Station. I thought I remember seeing one that was located near Smith Lake/Thoreau off to the east when I was driving south on Rt 371 from Crownpoint to I40 last month. If not, what was the big stack I saw?

The ER did not make reference to the the Escalante Generating Station which is located in Prewitt, NM, twenty-seven miles northwest of Grants, NM. The plant was recently acquired by

Tri-State Generating & Transmission Association, Inc. from the Plains Electric G&T Cooperative. There is one boiler at the plant. Information regarding this coal fired plant should have been included in the ER. The following information pertains to the plant.

Boiler #1 is a 250 MWe tangentially-fired pulverized coal boiler built by Combustion Engineering in 1984. It operates at 1800 psig 1000oF and 1,800,000 #/hr steam flow. The boiler burns New Mexico subbituminous coal at about 9,000 Btu/lb. There are five pulverisers on the unit which delivers pulverized coal to five levels of the boiler at the four corners. The boiler has a baghouse for particulate control and a wet limestone scrubber for SO2 control.

: - Few lingering questions for EP3

From: Ron Linton
To: Alan Cox
Date: 10/04/2007 4:14 PM
Subject: Few lingering questions for EP3

Al:

I'm trying to tie up all the loose ends now on the EP3 EA and TER. Acoma and I should be getting together next week for conference call and consultation. Laura is trying to get Governor Johnson and time set up. I've been trying for two weeks now.

I have a few lingering questions I can't find answers to in the reports and maybe you can help me clarify.

1. Are sprayers going to be used for EP3 to enhance evaporation? I thought you indicated construction is basically the same as EP1 & EP2, but I can't see in specs where they will be fitted for spray evaporation.
2. Surface winds in the project area are reported in the EA by Bridges and Meyer (2007) (page 10 of 22) as predominantly from the north-northwest. However, HMC reports the predominant wind direction as from the southwest in latest semi-annual report section 2.1. Which is correct?
3. Is HMC planning an additional air monitoring station for EP3? Based on predominant wind direction, I'm concerned that we may need an additional air monitoring station with Alternative B or C. It doesn't seem like HMC #1 is far enough north of County Road 63 to adequately monitor Alt B. HMC #2, may be ok for Alt C. Can you give me a better idea of where they are located in relation to the proposed pond for Alt B and C.
4. Nearest coal plant is noted in the EA as Coronado Generating Station. I thought I remember seeing one that was located near Smith Lake/Thoreau off to the east when I was driving south on Rt 371 from Crownpoint to I40 last month. If not, what was the big stack I saw?

Thanks Al
Hope to have this done soon.
Ron

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Subject: Few lingering questions for EP3
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From: Ron Linton

Created By: RCL1@nrc.gov

Recipients

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MESSAGE	2357	10/04/2007 4:14:25 PM
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