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NEW MEXICO
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Ground Water Quality Bureau

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RON CURRY
Secretary
CINDY PADILLA
Deputy Secretary

October 17, 2007

Mr. Buddy Parr
Remediation Team Leader
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6
Mail Drop 6SF-RL
1445 Ross Avenue
Suite 1200
Dallas, TX 75202

RE: NMED Request for Remedial Strategy Optimization Review for the Homestake Uranium Mill Superfund Site (CERCLIS ID NMD007960935), Cibola County, New Mexico

Dear Buddy:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) requests that EPA perform a remedial strategy optimization review for the Homestake Uranium Mill Superfund Site. Ground water remedial action for this site was initiated in 1977 and has been further expanded under the regulatory authority of the Nuclear Regulatory Agency (NRC), with oversight by EPA under a Memorandum of Understanding. The site includes groundwater contamination in four (4) aquifers extending, in part, under residential subdivisions in which homeowners use private wells for domestic and agricultural purposes. NMED has conducted sampling of residential wells within the vicinity of this site, many of which are completed within aquifers that are affected by site-derived contaminants and exceed regulatory standards. NMED is especially concerned about the efficacy of current remedial activities for containing and remediating two (2) contaminant plumes, to the west and south of the mill, within the Alluvial aquifer. Therefore NMED requests a determination of whether the current remedial strategy is optimized for control and eventual remediation of site-derived ground water contamination and for protectiveness of public health.

NMED understands that the NRC currently is revising the Corrective Action Plan for this Site; therefore timeliness of this review is important so that potential changes might be considered for incorporation into this revision. Please contact David L. Mayerson of my staff at (505) 476-3777 or david.mayerson@state.nm.us to discuss this request further.

Sincerely,

Dana Bahar
Manager
Superfund Oversight Section

Copies: Mr. Sairam Appaji, EPA Region 6
Mr. Ron Linton, NRC
Mr. Milton Head, Bluewater Valley Downstream Alliance
Mr. David L. Mayerson, NMED/SOS
Mr. Jerry Schoepner, NMED/MECS
October 2007 NMED/SOS read file