

From: laura watchempino [haakuwater@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 24, 2008 3:12 PM
To: John Buckley
Cc: Ann Berkley Rodgers; Sairam Appaji; Reisman.David@epamail.epa.gov
Subject: Re: HMC Environmental Assessment
Attachments: rsj near grants data.xls

Hello John,

I'm sending comments in response to NRC's revised Environmental Assessment (EA) related to the *Issuance of a License Amendment for the Construction of a Third Evaporation Pond, Homestake Mining Company of California, Grants, New Mexico Project, Materials License SUA-1471 (July 8, 2008)*.

Rio San Jose

I've attached data collected by the United States Geological Service at a stream gage near Grants. The data provides justification for our assertion that Rio San Jose streamflows near Grants are not ephemeral. I am also forwarding a New Mexico Environment Department website which provides further documentation on the perennial nature of the Rio San Jose at <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/swqgb/303d-305b/2008-2010/index.html>

Increased groundwater pumping

NRC staff assert that the positive impacts of controlling the contaminated groundwater plume at the Homestake site outweighs the negative impact of increased pumping from the San Andres aquifer. This assertion is not backed up with a thorough discussion of recharge rates and declining water levels in the Homestake wells. Nor has Homestake or NRC provided any guarantees that Homestake's reclamation plan will ultimately be successful.

Flood leakage from impoundments

Neither Homestake nor NRC has discussed the potential for impoundment leakage due to flooding or ice floes. Discussion was limited to leakage from pond liners.

Pueblo of Acoma water quality standards

The designated uses protected by the Acoma water quality standards were not referenced in the draft EA. The Pueblo of Acoma water quality standards can be used as an Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirement (ARAR) for purposes of cleanup actions under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, commonly known as Superfund. Numeric translations of narrative criterion for radioactive materials may also be used as ARARs.

The Pueblo of Acoma is requests further consultation with NRC and EPA on the proposed alternative.

Laura Watchempino
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505-552-6604

John Buckley <JTB@nrc.gov> wrote:

Good morning Laura. Yes, I did receive your emails. I was a little confused when I received them again.

>>> laura watchempino <haakuwater@yahoo.com> 03/04/2008 11:45 PM >>>

Hello John,

I re-sent you my former e-mails requesting further consultation with Acoma on the proposed Evaporation Pond for the Homestake Reclamation site. Did you receive them?

Laura Watchempino

John Buckley <JTB@nrc.gov> wrote:

Good afternoon Laura. I spoke with Al Cox at Homestake today. Al has no objections to having yourself and Ms. Pasqual accompany the NRC team on the Homestake site tour on January 22nd. As you and I have discussed previously, the tour is for informational purposes only and there will be no substantive technical discussions. I also plan to offer a representative from the Bluewater Valley Downstream Alliance an opportunity to attend the site tour. We will meet at 9:00 am at the Homestake site. Please contact me if you have questions or comments.

>>> laura watchempino <haakuwater@yahoo.com> 12/18/2007 6:54 PM >>>

John,

I spoke with Theresa today about meeting with the NRC team when you are out for a site visit in January. She said that she would also like to familiarize herself with the site and Homestake representatives. (Theresa is a recent newcomer to the Acoma Historic Preservation Office.)

I would like to suggest that we all meet at the Homestake site on January 22. This would allow all of us to meet face to face and familiarize us with the project area without the formality of a public meeting. It would also guard against the possibility of any substantive technical discussion taking place in the absence of a publicly noticed meeting.

Laura

John Buckley <JTB@nrc.gov> wrote:

Hi Laura. Not ALL meetings need to be noticed and open to the public. Public meetings require a significant amount of time to schedule, notice, etc. A public meeting is not required for a face-to-face introduction without substantive technical discussion. I was simply proposing to introduce the new NRC team the Pueblo of Acoma representatives since we will be in the area anyway.

Have a safe and happy holiday season.

>>> laura watchempino <haakuwater@yahoo.com> 12/17/2007 5:26 PM

>>>

Hello John,

It is my understanding that all NRC meetings need to be noticed and open to the public. I would prefer such a meeting so that both Acoma, Homestake representatives and interested members of the public would be able to meet with you and other project staff.

It seems that such a public meeting would entail a more efficient use of NRC's limited resources.

Wishing you Peace and Joy in the New Year,

Laura Watchempino

John Buckley <JTB@nrc.gov> wrote:

Good morning Laura. You and I have not formally met, but I was introduced to you during the 11/5 conference call. As you may remember, I have replaced Ron Linton as NRC's project manager for the Homestake reclamation project.

On January 22nd I will be visiting the Homestake site to familiarize myself with the site and to meet the Homestake folks face-to-face. I will be traveling with Thomas Youngblood (project Health Physicist), Jon Peckenpaugh (project Hydrologist), and Drew Persinko (NRC Manager).

If you are available on Wednesday, January 23rd, we would also like an opportunity to meet you and Theresa in person. For me, it is always beneficial to associate a face with the voice on the other end of the phone. I am not proposing a formal meeting with an agenda, just an introduction and a short general discussion. Our schedule for the 23rd is busy, but flexible. If you are interested in meeting with us, please advise me of your availability. Thanks.

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E-mail Properties

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From: laura watchempino

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Recipients:

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Expiration Date:
Priority: olImportanceNormal
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