



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6  
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200  
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

MAR 05 2010

John Buckley  
Senior Project Manager/Hydrogeologist  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards  
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Mail Stop: T8F42  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Re: Sampling at Homestake Mining Company (HMC) Site

Dear Mr. Buckley:

As discussed on the conference call on Thursday, February 25, 2010, EPA Region 6 is conducting structural assessments of homes in the San Mateo Basin, New Mexico. These assessments are a follow up to EPA Region 9's assessments on the Navajo Nation and EPA Region 6's aerial survey of the Grants Mineral Belt area conducted in October of 2009. The structural surveys are being conducted to assess human exposure to radiation from the building materials used in the construction of homes in the Grants Mineral Belt area. The EPA will conduct a removal action to abate radionuclide emissions on homes that exceed safe levels of radiation.

On a related matter, as you know the Bluewater Valley Downstream Alliance (BVDA) community group near the HMC site is concerned about exposure to unsafe radiation from the remediation activities occurring at the site. Because of these concerns, the EPA in conjunction with your office has developed a scope of work to conduct a human health risk assessment at the site. However, since the HMC site is a National Priorities List (NPL) site, the CERCLA requires EPA to engage the Responsible Party (RP) in these activities. Consequently, EPA believes that HMC should be provided the opportunity to conduct the sampling activities under EPA's guidance. Since HMC site closure is being conducted with NRC oversight, we request that NRC direct HMC to conduct the sampling under EPA's guidance, or alternatively, facilitate EPA's direct contact of HMC on this matter as discussed on February 25, 2010.

The EPA will evaluate the data from the sampling activities and develop the risk assessment report. If HMC agrees to conduct the structural assessment and risk assessment sampling, the EPA would like HMC to initiate field sampling activities no later than May of 2010. EPA expects the results of the structural assessment to be released to each area resident

whose property is sampled as soon as the data is final and/or validated. As for the risk assessment sampling, the EPA expects to complete the report by October 2011, as it involves radon sampling data to be collected over one year.

If you have any questions regarding EPA's request please contact me at 214-665-3126.

Sincerely,

*Sai Appaji /s/ 2/27/2010*

Sai Appaji, Remedial Project Manager  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 6