

March 26, 2010

Mr Sai Appaji
Remedial Project Manager
US EPA Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR SAMPLING AT HOMESTAKE MINING
COMPANY SITE

Dear Mr. Appaji:

This letter responds to your letter dated March 5, 2010, regarding the proposed collection of radon sampling data at the Homestake Mining Company (HMC) site, which is being remediated under a U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) license. As noted in your letter, this data collection would be part of a human health risk assessment that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will be conducting to determine whether the ongoing remediation activities at the HMC site is causing public exposure to unsafe radiation levels. EPA is requesting the NRC to "direct HMC to conduct the sampling under EPA's guidance, or alternatively, facilitate EPA's direct contact of HMC" on this matter." As your letter acknowledges, EPA will be conducting the risk assessment pursuant to its CERCLA authority. EPA plans to issue its risk assessment report in 2011.

Without evidence that HMC's remediation actions are violating any NRC requirements, the NRC has no regulatory basis to direct HMC to conduct sampling under EPA's guidance. Should you wish to pursue your request directly with HMC, you should contact Mr. Al Cox. His phone number is 505-287-4456.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 301-415-6607 or by email at john.buckley@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

John T. Buckley, Senior Project Manager
Decommissioning and Uranium Recovery
Licensing Directorate
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Federal and State Materials
and Environmental Management Programs

Docket No.: 040-08903
License No.: SUA-1471

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