Hecla Mining Company

46-8914

October 18, 1990

Ms. Dawn L. Jacoby, P.E.
United States Nuclear
Regulatory Commission - Region IV
Uranium Recovery Field Office
P.O. Box 25325
Denver, CO 80225

OCT 1990
RECEIVED

RIV DRMA
RECEIVED

SUBJECT: License SUA-1482, Johnny M

Dear Ms. Jacoby:

During our telephone conversation on October 9, 1990, you requested that we supply information on the sandfilling which occurred at the Johnny M. We have reviewed the records which were retained, and have been reasonably successful in answering the question you asked. It appears that about 50% of the mine was sandfilled with approximately 286,000 tons of sand (tailings from the Kerr McGee operation). The stopes were sandfilled, while the access drifts remained open. (In addition, portions of the stopes were backfilled with waste rock.) The sandfill occurred at a depths of approximately 1134-1148' and 1162-1183' underground at the shaft, or about 1100-1300' underground depending on the terrain at a specific location. You will note in the materials that I have included with this letter that one of the prime purposes of the sandfilling was to prevent caving in the mine, and thus disrupting an overlying aquifer. The sandfilling was successful in this as the Johnny M was a dry mine after the confined water was initially drained. As noted in the attached materials, the distance between the sandfilled stopes and the overlying Dakota aquifer is 130-150 feet, with bentonitic clays in between.

I believe that this information answers the questions you asked. If we can be of further assistance, please call.

Very truly yours,

Larry A. Drew
Manager - Environmental Affairs

Attachments

9011060612

91-0052

6500 Mineral Drive • Box 2000 • Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814-8788 • (208) 769-4100 • TELEX 326476