



Hecla Mining Company

40-5914
C90E

October 31, 1990

NOV 1990
RECEIVED

DOCKETED
NOV 06 1990
USNRC
MAIL SECTION
DOCKET CLERK

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

RE: License SUA-1482, Johnny M: Request for Information

Dear Ms. Jacoby:

On October 26, 1990, you requested specific information relative to the main shaft closure at the Johnny M. Specifically, you asked 1) What was put down the shaft; 2) How the shaft was sealed; and 3) What is the current condition of the surface.

We have reviewed the information which we still have in hand, and have talked with the person who was in charge of the Johnny M facility. We have the following responses to your questions:

1) We believe your question relates to what may have been put down the shaft after mining ceased, since the shaft was the entry and production shaft during mining. Following mining, and the removal of the equipment from the shaft, a four foot thick reinforced concrete plug was set between the Dakota and the Westwater members of the formation. The plug was set at the point called the "water ring", which allowed the plug to extend into the sidewalls of the shaft and form an effective seal. There were no other materials put down the shaft after closure (i.e., no waste or other materials were put down the shaft.)

2) The shaft was sealed at the surface with a reinforced concrete plug that was approximately 12" thick. A 20" diameter steel pipe was set in the concrete cap, and a steel cap welded on that pipe. The surface was then covered with earthen materials during the site reclamation activities.

3) The location of the shaft is not presently obvious because of the recontoured surface, which is becoming revegetated. The surface appears to have been disturbed at one time, but otherwise blends with the landscape.

We believe that the above responses provide the information that you were seeking, but if there are additional questions, please do not hesitate to call. We are most anxious to resolve the license termination issue.

Very truly yours,

Larry A. Drew
Manager - Environmental Affairs

91-0075