

**From:** [Orlando, Dominick](#)  
**To:** [Buffington, Carmen](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Gold King Mine spill response  
**Date:** Monday, October 19, 2015 9:20:47 AM

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Please include in ADAMS as a public document, Docket WM-00058

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**From:** Kautsky, Mark [mailto:Mark.Kautsky@lm.doe.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 11, 2015 3:39 PM  
**To:** Orlando, Dominick <Dominick.Orlando@nrc.gov>  
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**Subject:** [External\_Sender] Gold King Mine spill response

Nick-

I learned today that the Navajo Nation has restricted pumping of groundwater within ½ mile of the San Juan River because of concerns about impacts to alluvial aquifers by the recent discharge of mine drainage from Gold King Mine into the Cement Creek/Animas River system. Consequently, I'm directing our contractor to temporarily suspend pumping, at wells 1104 and 1089 and Trench 1, at the floodplain aquifer near the disposal cell at the Shiprock UMTRCA site, effective immediately, until the restriction is lifted. I am also directing our contractor to delay the restart of pumping operations at Trench 2 until the pumping restriction is lifted. These actions are prudent because of the close proximity of the pumping wells to the San Juan River and because of the institutional restrictions that are now in force. I will direct our contractor to resume pumping from wells 104 and 1089 and Trench 1, and restart pumping from Trench 2, after the pumping restriction is lifted. I will let you know when that occurs.

Please contact me if you have questions or comments.

Thank you,

Mark Kautsky  
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