



Homestake Mining Company of California

Jesse R. Toepfer  
*Closure Manager*

24 June 2016

**Mr. Charles Thompson**  
Dam Safety Bureau  
New Mexico Office of the State Engineer  
Concha Ortiz Y Pino Building  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504

40-8903

**RE: Dam Breach Analysis and Modeling Report**

Mr. Thompson:

In a letter dated 21 August 2015, Homestake Mining Company (HMC) was informed of the inspection results of its No. 1 and No. 2 Evaporation Ponds. Earlier that summer, on 25 June, Mr. David Heber had conducted an inspection of the aforementioned ponds and rated them as being in "poor" condition due to the lack of a design report on file with the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer. On 6 November 2015, you, Mr. Heber, me, and HMC's engineer of record (EOR), Dr. Alan Kuhn, met in person in Santa Fe to discuss the actions stipulated in the 21 August letter.

During the 6 November meeting, we discussed the Dam Safety Bureau's desire to be included on HMC's distribution list for its Annual Environmental Monitoring Report, as well as the Semi-Annual and Quarterly reports; we also discussed the Dam Safety Bureau's desire to receive copies of all previous Annual Environmental Monitoring Reports to the extent available; also during the meeting, Dr. Kuhn discussed the history of events that occurred during the permitting, construction, and subsequent inspections of the subject evaporation ponds. Finally, we discussed the stipulation in the 21 August letter to perform a Dam Breach Analysis of the aforementioned evaporation ponds.

With respect to the design reports requested: As discussed during the 6 November meeting, Homestake conducted an exhaustive search for the records to no avail. It was understood that the Dam Safety Bureau's records pertaining to design reports for the subject evaporation ponds may have been lost during one or more "building transitions" over the years, as the OSE had moved offices several times. Noting too, that the evaporation ponds were completed nearly 25 years ago (in the early 1990s), and that Dr. Kuhn had also purged his own records. However, as discussed, the OSE was accepting of the ponds' construction and final design as evident by the approval of later permits—especially the 1995 Discharge Permit (DP) 200, issued by the New Mexico Environment Department. Lastly, it was also discussed during the 6 November meeting that Dr. Kuhn performs annual dam inspections for all earthen structures considered dams at the HMC site, and that these inspections include Evaporation Ponds No. 1 and No. 2.

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These inspection reports are included as an appendix in HMC's Annual Environmental Monitoring Report.

On 3 March 2016, you and Mr. Heber toured the HMC site for the purposes of inspecting Evaporation Pond No. 3. During that meeting, you were provided with copies at least the past 10 years' worth of HMC's Annual Environmental Monitoring Reports. On 21 April 2016, we received a letter from your office informing us of the OSE's inspection results on Evaporation Pond No. 3, noting that it was in "satisfactory" condition and rated with a "low hazard potential."

Finally, please find enclosed with this letter, a Dam Breach Analysis report as requested. As you will find in the enclosed report, the volume of water, topography, and drainage features of the ponds combine to yield a minimal risk to nearby residents; thus, a dam breach of any of HMC's evaporation ponds is believed to result in little to no risk to human health or the environment. HMC would be happy to host a face-to-face meeting with you and your staff if further discussion on the Dam Breach Analysis report would be helpful.

We trust that the submittal of the enclosed report concludes the actions required as listed in your 21 August 2015 and 21 April 2016 letters.

Thank you for your time and attention on this matter. If you have any questions, please contact me via cell phone at (505) 290-3067.

Respectfully,



**Jesse R. Toepfer**, PE, PMP, REP, RSO  
Closure Manager  
Homestake Mining Company of California

Enclosures (1)

xc: Mr. P. Webster, Barrick – Salt Lake City, Utah, w/enclosure  
Mr. C. Cadwell, Barrick – Elko, Nevada, electronic copy only  
Mr. H. Burns, Barrick – Toronto, Ontario, w/enclosure  
Mr. S. Appaji, US EPA Region 6 – Dallas, Texas, w/enclosure  
Mr. J. Parrott, US NRC Region IV – Rockville, Maryland, w/enclosure  
Ms. D. Barr, US DOE – Grand Junction, Colorado, w/enclosure  
Mr. J. Peterson, NM OSE – Albuquerque, New Mexico, electronic copy only  
Mr. G. Hoffman, Hydro-Engineering – Casper, Wyoming, w/enclosure  
Mr. D. Rappuhn, NM OSE – Albuquerque, New Mexico, w/enclosure  
Mr. J. Lewellin, NMED – Santa Fe, New Mexico, w/enclosure