

April 18, 2017

**BY OVERNIGHT MAIL AND ELECTRONIC MAIL**

Director, Office of Enforcement [OE]  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
One White Flint North  
11555 Rockville Pike  
Rockville, MD 20852-2738

40-8903

Deputy Director  
Division of Decommissioning  
Uranium Recovery and Waste Programs [DUWP]  
Two White Flint North  
11545 Rockville Pike  
Rockville, MD 20852-2738

Re: Confirmatory Order of March 28, 2017 modifying License No. SUA-1471, EA-16-114

Dear Sir or Madam:

On April 14, 2017, pursuant to Paragraph 9.a of the Confirmatory Order, Homestake Mining Company of California (HMC) provided the name and qualifications of FoxFire Scientific Inc., and their senior partners, Matthew Arno, Ph.D, and Gerald A. Schlapper, Ph.D for approval by the NRC as the independent assessor to review the results of the comprehensive assessment of facility operations directed by Paragraph 9. Foxfire is also to provide independent review of the analysis required under Par. 6 of the Confirmatory Order, although the Order does not require prior approval of the independent assessor for that work.

Dr. Arno has now informed us that his wife, Dr. Janine F. Katanic, CHP, is a senior health physicist in the NRC Region IV office in Arlington, Texas. There does not appear to be any actual conflict by virtue of that relationship. Dr. Katanic does not work for Foxfire, has no ownership interest in Foxfire, and would not be receiving payments as she has no connection to the company, nor would Foxfire be incurring any expenses on her behalf. It is also our understanding that she has never worked and is not currently working on any projects involving oversight, inspection, enforcement, or licensing of Homestake activities for the NRC.

However, we are bringing this to the agency's attention in the interest of full transparency, to determine if the agency has any concerns about the appearance of a conflict.

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If you require any further information regarding this issue, please contact me promptly at (415) 276-6526.

Sincerely,



Gerald F. George

Counsel for Homestake Mining Company of California

cc: NRC Document Control Desk (hard copy)  
cc: Patricia Holohan, Director of OE (email)  
cc: Andrea Kock, Deputy Director of DUWP (email)  
cc: Matthew Meyer (email)  
cc: Holton Burns (email)  
cc: Tom Wohlford (email)  
cc: Michael McCarthy (email)