



Homestake Mining Company of California

Thomas Wohlford
Closure Manager

18 October 2017

40-8903

ATTN: Mr. Matthew Meyer

Project Manager
Materials Decommissioning Branch
Division of Decommissioning, Uranium Recovery and Waste Programs
Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop: T-8F5
Washington, DC 20555

ATTN: Mr. Sairam Appaji

Region VI Superfund Division
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
6SF-LP
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

ATTN: Mr. Kurt Vollbrecht

Ground Water Quality Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
PO Box 5469
Santa Fe, NM 87502-5469

ATTN: Mr. William Pearson

Ground Water Quality Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
PO Box 5469
Santa Fe, NM 87502-5469

RE: Irrigation Lysimeter Monitoring October 2017

Dear Sirs:

In a letter dated July 20, 2016, to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), Homestake Mining Company of California (HMC) requested the suspension of the lysimeter sampling in the former irrigation areas. Attempts at sampling the lysimeters in the first quarter of 2016 did not produce any samples. NMED recently requested HMC sample the lysimeters after the monsoon season in 2017. The October 2017 attempts at sampling the lysimeters also did not produce any samples. No samples were successfully collected in the first quarter of 2016 or the fourth quarter of 2017 due to dry conditions without any irrigation for at least five years prior to the 2017 sampling. The likelihood of successful sampling diminishes as the soil profile gradually dries out after the termination of irrigation. We thought our best chance to collect some additional lysimeter samples would be after the monsoon season, but it was not successful this year.

The following Table 1 presents the notes from the March 2016 lysimeter sampling while the October 2017 sampling notes are presented in Table 2:

NM5501

Table 1. March 2016 Lysimeter Sampling Notes

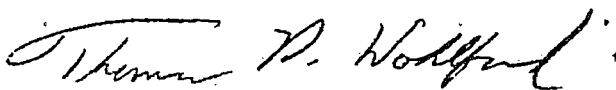
Sampler: Dan Kump, HMC								
Vacuum Application					Sample Collection			
Lysimeter Name	Date	Time	Vacuum Reading (in-Hg)	Notes	Date	Time	Vacuum Reading (in-Hg)	Notes
LY1	3/22/2016	12:40	-20		3/23/2016	8:55	8	No Sample
LY2	3/22/2016	12:50	N/A	Would not hold vacuum	3/23/2016			No Sample
LY4	3/22/2016	13:03	-12		3/23/2016	9:18	-10	No Sample
LY4ML	3/22/2016	13:05	-12		3/23/2016	9:20	0	No Sample
LY4MU	3/22/2016	13:08	-12		3/23/2016	9:25	-10	No Sample
LY28-2	3/22/2016	13:43	-10		3/23/2016	10:02	-8	No Sample
LY28-2M	3/22/2016	13:48	-6		3/23/2016	10:05	0	No Sample
LY28-1	3/22/2016	13:55	-10		3/23/2016	10:12	-6	No Sample
LY28-3	3/22/2016	14:00	N/A	Lysimeter was not found	3/23/2016			No Sample
LY34-1	3/22/2016	14:26	-6		3/23/2016	10:40	0	No Sample
LY34-2	3/22/2016	14:35	-10		3/23/2016	10:50	-6	No Sample

Table 2. October 2017 Lysimeter Sampling Notes

Sampler: Adam Arguello, Hydro-Engineering								
Vacuum Application					Sample Collection			
Lysimeter Name	Date	Time	Vacuum Reading (in-Hg)	Notes	Date	Time	Vacuum Reading (in-Hg)	Notes
LY2-2M	10/3/2017	9:10	N/A	Wouldn't hold vacuum	10/4/2017			No Sample
LY28-2	10/3/2017	9:11	-10		10/4/2017	14:00	-10	No Sample
LY28-1	10/3/2017	9:17	-6		10/4/2017	13:55	-4	No Sample
LY28-3	10/3/2017	9:21	-12		10/4/2017	13:42	-10	No Sample
LY34-4	10/3/2017	9:31	-6		10/4/2017	14:08	0	No Sample
LY3	10/3/2017	9:43	-6		10/4/2017	14:20	0	No Sample
LY3M	10/3/2017	9:45	-9		10/4/2017	14:18	-9	No Sample
LY5	10/3/2017	9:51	N/A	Wouldn't hold vacuum	10/4/2017			No Sample
LY2	10/3/2017	9:59	-8		10/4/2017	14:26	0	No Sample
LY1	10/3/2017	10:05	-10		10/4/2017	14:30	-8	No Sample
LY4	10/3/2017	10:11	-10		10/4/2017	14:34	-8	No Sample
LY4M-U	10/3/2017	10:13	-16		10/4/2017	14:36	-14	No Sample
LY4M-L	10/3/2017	10:15	-8		10/4/2017	14:38	0	No Sample
LY34-3	10/3/2017	10:34	-5		10/4/2017	14:54	0	No Sample
LY34-2	10/3/2017	10:39	-10		10/4/2017	14:58	0	No Sample
LY34-1	10/3/2017	10:46	-10		10/4/2017	15:02	-10	No Sample

HMC respectfully requests the continuation of suspension of sampling the irrigation lysimeters. Thank you for your time and attention on this matter. If you or anyone on your staff has any questions, please contact me at the Grants office at 505.287.4456, extension 34, or call me directly on my cell phone at 505.290.2187.

Respectfully,



Thomas Wohlford
 Closure Manager
 Homestake Mining Company of California
 Office: 505.287.4456 x34 | Cell: 505.290.2187

Copy To:

B. Tsosie, DOE, Grand Junction, Colorado (electronic copy)
M. McCarthy, Barrick, Salt Lake City, Utah (electronic copy)
H. Burns, Barrick, Toronto, Ontario (electronic copy)
C. Burton, Barrick, San Francisco, California (electronic copy)
G. Hoffman, Hydro-Engineering, Casper, Wyoming (electronic copy)