



Homestake Mining Company of
California

Grants Reclamation Project

Thomas Wohlford
Closure Manager

December 11, 2017

40-8903

ATTN: Document Control Desk
Director, Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management
Programs
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission,
Washington, DC 20555-0001

ATTN: Mr. Mathew Meyer, Project Manager
Reactor Decommissioning Branch (Mailstop T-8F5)
Division of Waste Management and Environmental Protection
Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Program
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

ATTN: Mr. Kurt Vollbrecht
Ground Water Quality Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
PO Box 5469
Santa Fe, NM 87502-5469

**Re: Request for Amendment to License No. SUA-1471 to add Zeolite water
treatment system.**

Dear Mr. Meyer:

As identified in previous Grants Reclamation Project Annual and Semi-Annual Reports, Homestake Mining Company (HMC) has been pilot testing zeolite water treatment systems for the removal of low levels of uranium from off-site groundwater pumped as part of the approved groundwater corrective action program (CAP) identified in License Condition 35. Successive pilot tests, from bench scale to field scale, have been conducted since 2014. The pilot field scale 300 gallon per minute (gpm) and subsequent 1,200 gpm zeolite water treatment systems are single lined facilities located on top of the large tailings pile. Pilot testing indicates that zeolite treatment of certain types of CAP groundwater can be effective in treating impacted groundwater to license standards and, if approved and implemented, will increase the Site water treatment capacity.

HMC herein requests NRC review and approve the enclosed request for amendment of License SUA-1471 to add the 300 gpm and 1,200 gpm zeolite water treatment systems

to Condition 35. The enclosed amendment request describes the proposed systems, their construction and operation, the influent and effluent streams, the reagents and materials used and wastes generated, how those wastes will be managed, and the proposed operational monitoring. In addition, the request presents a review of associated environmental conditions and potential impacts from the proposed system as well as assessment of potential impacts on public and occupational health.

Should you have any questions or comments regarding this issue or request, please contact me at twohlford@homestakeminingco.ca or (505) 290-2187.

Respectfully,



Thomas Wohlford

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

cc:

- M. McCarthy, Barrick, Toronto, Ontario (electronic copy)
- C. Burton, Barrick, San Francisco, California (electronic copy)
- H. Burns, Barrick, Toronto, Ontario (electronic copy)
- G. George, Davis Wright Tremain, San Francisco, California (electronic copy)
- R. Whicker, ERG, Albuquerque, New Mexico (electronic copy)
- G. Hoffman, Hydro-Engineering, Casper, Wyoming (electronic copy)