



Homestake Mining Company of California

Thomas Wohlford
Closure Manager

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Document Control Desk

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission,
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Mr. Jeffrey Whited

Materials Decommissioning Branch (Mail Stop T-8F5)
Decommissioning, Uranium Recovery, & Waste Programs
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Mr. William Pearson

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

ATTN: Mr. Sairam Appaji

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

ATTN: Mr. Charles Thompson

New Mexico Office of the State
Engineer Dam Safety Bureau
Concha Ortiz Y Pino Bldg.
P.O. Box 25102
Santa Fe, NM 87504

RE: Homestake Mining Company of California – Grants Reclamation Project – Water Management Prefeasibility Study

Dear Sirs:

Homestake Mining Company of California (HMC), a subsidiary of Barrick Gold Corporation has completed a Prefeasibility Study for the repair or replacement of Evaporation Pond No. 1 (EP-1). The study evaluated the feasibility of re-lining EP-1 (Option 1) or replacing altogether by constructing a new pond (Option 2). Option 1 included several sub-options for managing the water and salts present in EP-1 during the proposed construction process. A copy of the Prefeasibility Study is included with this cover letter.

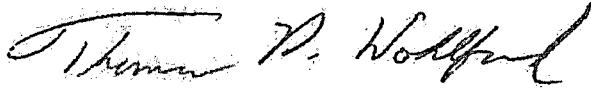
Based on the results of the Prefeasibility Study, the decision has been made to re-line EP-1 (Option 1). Option 1D was selected based on the following factors:

- Lowest CAPEX of the two options;
- Fewest permit approvals and shortest permitting schedule; and
- No fatal flaws identified during the risk workshop.

NM5501

If you have any questions or comments regarding this matter, please contact me via e-mail at twohlford@homestakeminingcoca.com or at the Grants office at 505.290.2187.

Respectfully,



Thomas Wohlford

Closure Manager
Homestake Mining Company of California
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Copy To:

- B. Tsosie, DOE, Grand Junction, Colorado (electronic copy)
- C. Burton, Barrick, Henderson, Nevada (electronic copy)
- H. Burns, Barrick, San Antonio, Texas (electronic copy)
- R. Whicker, ERG, Albuquerque, New Mexico (electronic copy)
- G. Hoffman, Hydro-Engineering, Casper, Wyoming (electronic copy)