NEW MEXICO
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Harold Runnels Building
1190 South St. Francis Drive (87505)
P.O. Box 5469, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-5469
Phone (505) 827-2900 Fax (505) 827-2965
www.env.nm.gov

SUSANA MARTINEZ
Governor

JOHN A. SANCHEZ
Lieutenant Governor

BUTCH TONGATE
Cabinet Secretary

BRUCE YURDIN
Acting Deputy Secretary

CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

December 31, 2018

Thomas Wohlford
Homestake Mining Company of California
PO Box 98
Grants, NM 87020

RE: Continued Use of Well 951 as a Groundwater Monitoring Well, Homestake Mining Company, Discharge Permit 200

Dear Mr. Wohlford:

On April 5, 2018 the Mining Environmental Compliance Section of the New Mexico Environment (NMED) approved a submittal from Homestake Mining Company (Permittee) titled *Well Plugging Plan of Operations* (Plan) dated July 27, 2017. The Plan proposes that 146 wells, including Well 951, be plugged and abandoned.

Subsequent to NMED approving the Plan, discussions regarding Well 951 were held between the Department of Energy, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Environmental Protection Agency, NMED (Agencies), and the Permittee. During these discussions, the Department of Energy indicated they would like to continue using Well 951 as a San Andres-Glorieta aquifer groundwater monitoring well. During a September 19, 2018 teleconference between the Permittee and the Agencies it was agreed that since the Permittee has demonstrated through geophysical and downhole camera studies that the integrity of Well 951 is good and is not causing cross-contamination between aquifers, Well 951 will not be plugged and abandoned, and instead will continue to be used by the Department of Energy for future groundwater monitoring.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (505) 827-0195 or Ashlynne Winton at (505) 827-0602.

Sincerely,

Kurt Vollbrecht, Program Manager
Mining Environmental Compliance Section
Ground Water Quality Bureau

KV:AW

cc: Mark Purcell, EPA (signed PDF copy sent via electronic mail to: purcell.mark@epa.gov)
Ron Linton, NRC (signed PDF copy sent via electronic mail to: Ron.Linton@nrc.gov)
Bernadette Tsosie, DOE (signed PDF copy sent via electronic mail to: Bernadette.Tsosie@lm.doe.gov)
Alison Kuhlman, DOE CONTR (signed PDF copy sent via electronic mail to: Alison.Kuhlman@lm.doe.gov)
Deborah Barr, DOE (signed PDF copy sent via electronic mail to: Deborah.barr@lm.doe.gov)
Christopher Burrus, OSE (signed PDF copy sent via electronic mail to: Christopher.Burrus@state.nm.us)
Keith Ehlert, Operational Team Leader, MECS (signed PDF copy sent via electronic mail to: keith.ehlert@state.nm.us
Ashlynne Winton, MECS (signed PDF copy sent via electronic mail to: Ashlynne.winton@state.nm.us)