HOMESTAKE
Grants Project

Homestake Mining Company of California

David W. Pierce
Closure Manager

05 August 2019

Ashlynne Winton
Mining Environmental Compliance Section
Ground Water Quality Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
P.O. Box 5469
Santa Fe, NM 87502

Ron C. Linton
Project Manager/Hydrogeologist
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
MS T-5A10, 11545 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852

RE: Homestake Mining Company, Grants Reclamation Project, License Source Materials License SUA-1471, Docket Number 40-8903; NMED Discharge Permit DP-200: NMED 15-Day/NRC 30-Day Corrective Action Report for the Unauthorized Discharge from Evaporation Pond EP-1

Dear Ms. Winton/Mr. Linton:

This letter will serve as the 15-day report as required by 20.6.2.1203.A (6) NMAC in the Homestake Mining Company (HMC) New Mexico Environmental Department (NMED) Discharge Permit (DP-200). In addition, this letter will also serve as the 30-day report of a release as required by Condition 41 of Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Materials License SUA-1471. The letter report provides additional details regarding the unauthorized release of impacted water from HMC Evaporation Pond #1 (EP-1) as previously notified by letter on 7/30/2019 to the NMED and NRC.

In anticipation of the EP-1 re-lining project, the water level in EP-1 had been lowered during the spring. Since the re-lining project was deferred to 2020 and residual salts were exposed in EP-1, HMC commenced transferring water from Evaporation Pond #2 (EP-2) on July 11, 2019. The discharge stream into EP-1 tore a hole in the liner on July 23, 2019 and the transfer was stopped that afternoon, leaving an approximate six-inch hole in the liner slightly above the water line. An estimated volume of up to 12,000 gallons of brine was released through the tear. A photograph of the tear area is attached.

Repairs were performed on July 31, 2019. Sandbags were used to isolate the tear and then a fabric patch was used to cover the tear prior to application of Deery Oil #6 to seal the tear. A photograph showing the final patch is attached.

It should also be noted that EP-1 is located upgradient of the hydraulic barrier created by injection of water into the alluvial and Upper Chinle aquifers. Multiple injections wells are located downgradient of the evaporation ponds and help control potential migration of impacted groundwater from this area.

NMSSD1
NMSS

If you have any questions or comments regarding this matter, please contact me via e-mail at dpierce@homestakeminingcoca.com or at the Grants office at 505.238.9701.

Respectfully,

David W. Pierce

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Homestake Mining Company of California
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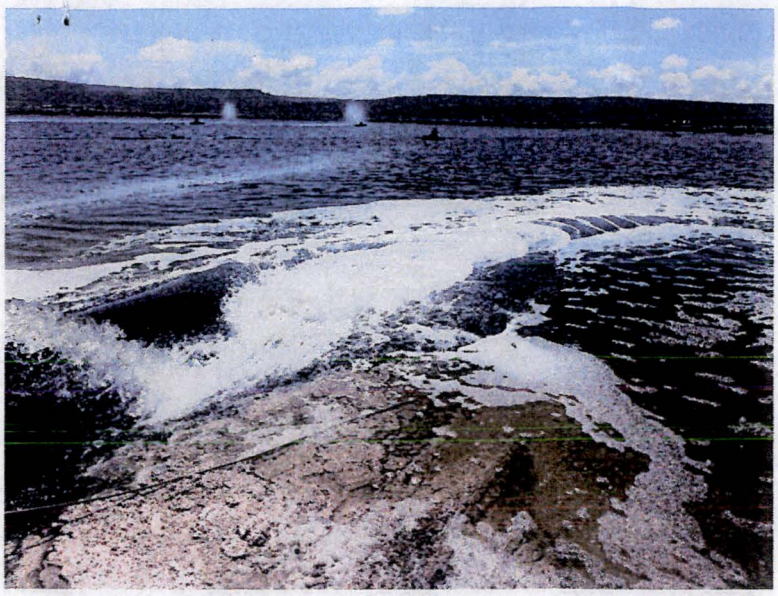
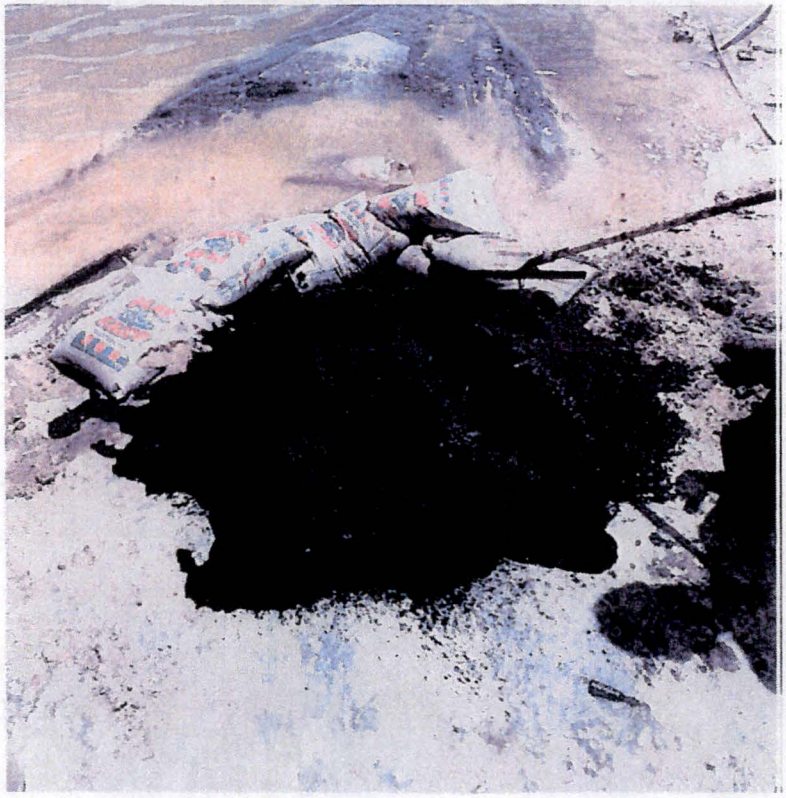
Copy To:
Document Control, NRC (hard copy)
Mark Purcell, EPA, Dallas, Texas (electronic copy)
M. McCarthy, Barrick, Salt Lake City, Utah (electronic copy)
C. Burton, Barrick, Henderson, Nevada (electronic copy)
R. Whicker, ERG, Albuquerque, New Mexico (electronic copy)

attachment

HOMESTAKE MINING COMPANY P.O. BOX 98, GRANTS, NM 87020 TELE: (505) 287-4456 FAX: (505) 287-9289



Photograph 1: View showing water discharge causing water/air to infiltrate below liner



Photograph 2: View showing liner after repair with fabric patch and sealed with Deery Oil #6