



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV
URANIUM RECOVERY FIELD OFFICE
BOX 26326
DENVER, COLORADO 80225

MAY 11 1990

URFO:PJG
Docket No. 40-8903

Homestake Mining Company
ATTN: Mr. Mark Hiles
P. O. Box 98
Grants, New Mexico 87020

Dear Mr. Hiles:

We are in receipt of your March 15, 1990 letter requesting generic NRC guidance on the difference in regulatory approaches which would be utilized in evaluating the design for an evaporation pond located on the inactive tailings pile or on natural soils. While we believe the placement of the evaporation pond on an existing tailings area would simplify the approval process and possibly result in some reduction in design requirements, we are not able to address the specific questions provided in your letter in the absence of a detailed design for the evaporation pond.

We would be happy to address the questions asked in your letter in the context of a specific proposed design for the evaporation pond, and would look forward to such a proposal. If you have any questions, please contact this office at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ramon E. Hall", written over a horizontal line.

Ramon E. Hall
Director

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Docket File No. 40-8903

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