



BRUCE KING
Governor

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
WATER RESOURCES DIVISION

March 15, 1982

S. E. Reynolds, State Engineer
O'Daugh Memorial Building
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87503
(505) 827-2526

Mr. J. M. Parker, P.E.
General Manager
Homestake Mining Company
Post Office Box 98
Grants, New Mexico 87020

Certified-Return
Receipt Requested

Re: File No. 3700

Dear Mr. Parker:

On March 10 and 11, 1982, Mr. Donald T. Lopez and Mr. Steve Schwebke of my staff inspected the Homestake Mining Company tailing ponds near Milan, New Mexico. They report that the minimum sand beach at the east pond was 31 feet from the upstream crest of the embankment and at the west pond it was 34 feet from the upstream crest of the embankment.

My May 13, 1981 order which reads:

A beach with a minimum horizontal distance of 50 feet, measured from the upstream edge of the dam crest of the west pond embankment to the pond water level, shall be maintained at all times. The beach must be constructed to permit free drainage of tailings liquid to the pond throughout the 50 feet.

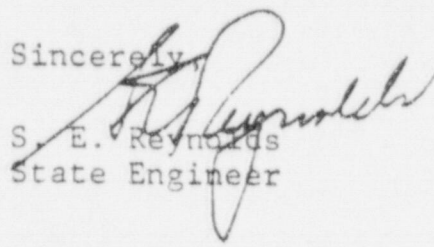
is hereby amended to read:

A beach with a minimum horizontal distance of 50 feet, measured from the upstream edge of the dam crests of the east and west pond embankments to the pond water level, shall be maintained at all times. The beach must be constructed to permit free drainage of tailings liquid to the pond throughout the 50 feet.

It is hereby ordered that measures be undertaken forthwith to establish minimum beaches at both ponds in accordance with the above amendment. Discharge of tailings or liquid into the ponds shall be suspended on March 31, 1982 if the minimum beaches have not been established.

Please let me know if further discussion of this matter would be helpful.

Sincerely,


S. E. Reynolds
State Engineer

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PDR ADOCK 04008903
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cc: Stanley Crout
Tom Baca