

## MEETING SUMMARY

for the

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's  
September 29, 2020, Virtual Community Meeting

on the

Status of Response Actions  
Homestake Mining Company Superfund Site  
Grants, Cibola County, New Mexico

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) virtual community meeting on the status of activities at the Homestake Mining Company Superfund Site began at 7:05 p.m. CDT, on September 29, 2020. There were no identified local government officials or press attending. There were 15 federal and state attendees, and 30 residents from the local area between Grants and Milan, NM. Mr. Jason McKinney, the community involvement coordinator with EPA Region 6 facilitated the meeting, while Mr. Mark Purcell, the EPA Region 6's remedial project manager for the Site presented a status update. Weston Solutions, led by Jeff Criner, also assisted on the technical side with the Microsoft Teams presentation, specifically during the Q&A session.

At the start of the meeting, EPA's Outreach and Community Involvement representative, Thomas Ruiz, informed the attendees in Spanish that the presentation would be performed in English. Mr. Ruiz also informed the attendees that if anyone wanted a Spanish translation of the meeting or meeting materials, to contact him and this would be provided at another time. Mr. Ruiz's contact information was presented on a slide at the beginning of the meeting. Next, Weston Solutions explained how the virtual meeting would be conducted and how the participants could ask questions at the end of EPA's presentation. Following this discussion, Mr. McKinney asked if any elected official in attendance would like to make a statement before EPA gave its presentation. He also repeated this request at the end of the presentation.

At the start of the status update, Mr. Purcell identified the four federal and state regulatory stakeholders that are involved with the Homestake Superfund Site: the EPA, New Mexico Environment Department, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and the U.S. Department of Energy. He then explained their jurisdictions, roles and responsibilities at the site. He also identified each federal and state government official in attendance at the meeting. Mr. Purcell then provided a status update that focused primarily on the following five main topics: (1) the early regulatory history at the site, (2) a general description of the current groundwater corrective action, (3) the status of EPA's groundwater background reassessment, (4) the ongoing Superfund remedial investigation and feasibility study (RI/FS) being performed by Homestake to demonstrate equivalency of the work performed under the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Source Materials License and New Mexico Environment Department's groundwater discharge permitting program to the Superfund requirements for characterization, remedy selection and remedy implementation, and (5) EPA's fifth five-year review of the remedy.

Mr. Purcell discussed the steps involved in completing the Superfund RI/FS, including the community outreach that would be performed throughout the process. He also discussed the Technical Impracticability waiver process as a component of the RI/FS. Technical Impracticability is when EPA decides that groundwater cannot be cleaned up to drinking water quality with available remedial technology in a reasonable time period. Under the Superfund law and regulations, EPA can waive a requirement or standard such as federal drinking water standards or state groundwater standards because of Technical Impracticability. He explained that a Technical Impracticability evaluation was currently being performed by Homestake as part of the ongoing RI/FS process and that EPA would ultimately decide if there was a basis to waive such requirements or standards in its Superfund decision-making process following completion of the RI/FS. Mr. Purcell explained that the community would have an opportunity provide comments to EPA on any proposed Superfund remedy, including any intent to waive a requirement or standard based on Technical Impracticability as part of a remedy. The public would be able to provide comments during a formal Public Comment Period that would be held after the RI/FS was completed. He also explained that RI/FS documents and other site related documents would be available to the public for review. The EPA webpage address and local Site repository were identified for sources of information and updates.

After the presentation, EPA held a Question and Answer (Q&A) period. Below are some questions that were asked and requests that were made by participants during the meeting:

- An attendee asked for a written summary of the site feasibility study steps and alternatives; what is considered in each, and to please post on the site webpage so the community can meaningfully participate in this process.
- An attendee requested that the site webpage be updated with current information. The web lead EPA Community Involvement Coordinator informed attendees that while the Site Documents and Data Section of the page contains many of the requested documents they are looking for, the EPA's Superfund Enterprise Management System (SEMS) database is currently down and documents are unavailable. He also mentioned checking back in the next few days.
- There was a request for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and EPA to follow up on the following regarding the off-site spill of waste in August 2020 at the Homestake Superfund Site. The request included the follow:
  1. Please update the community about the off-site spill that happened in August 2020.
  2. Is the spill outside the NRC's Source Materials License area?
  3. Should there be penalties for going outside the boundary of the License?
  4. Has EPA inspected the site?
  5. Will EPA be requiring follow up from Homestake?
- Is EPA planning specific outreach to the tribes - Laguna, Acoma and Navajo during the Superfund remedial investigation and feasibility study process and future EPA decision-making?
- Several residents and members of BVDA and MASE requested that the EPA power point presentation for the September 29, 2020, community meeting be sent to them via email.