



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
1201 ELM STREET, SUITE 500
DALLAS, TEXAS 75270

Via E-mail to dlattin@barrick.com

November 29, 2021

Daniel Lattin, P.E.
Sr. Closure Program Manager
Barrick Gold of North America, Inc.
Tel: (775) 748-1022
Mobile: (775) 397-7215

Re: Draft Development and Screening of Remedial Alternatives Technical Memorandum, Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent for Feasibility Study (CERCLA Docket No. 06-03-20)

Dear Mr. Lattin:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has completed its review of the Homestake Mining Company of California's (Homestake's) draft document entitled "Development and Screening of Remedial Alternatives Technical Memorandum, Operable Unit 1: Groundwater Restoration, and Operable Unit 2: Mill Decommissioning, Surface Soils, and Tailings Reclamation" (Technical Memorandum), dated April 22, 2020. Based on its review, EPA has a number of comments which must be adequately addressed before the initial development and screening phase of the feasibility study (FS) will be approved. These comments take into account the National Remedy Review Board's (NRRB's) June 15, 2021, recommendations on the feasibility study (FS) and other aspects of the CERCLA RIFS process, as well as EPA Region 6's responses to the NRRB recommendations, dated October 15, 2021. The EPA comments also take into account comments received from the New Mexico Environment Department on November 16, 2021. The EPA comments are attached. They are provided in both a Word format and pdf format.

In accordance with Paragraph 50 of the Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent for FS (Order), Homestake shall submit a revised Technical Memorandum to EPA within 90 days of the date of this letter. In light of the extensive revisions EPA is requiring to the Technical Memorandum and the broad range of technical issues raised in the attached comments, it may be appropriate to schedule a technical meeting to discuss this work going forward and for EPA to answer any questions Homestake may have regarding this effort. Please notify me if there is interest in doing so and I will schedule the meeting at a time of your convenience.

If you have any questions, please contact me via e-mail at purcell.mark@epa.gov. I can also be reached by mobile phone at (469) 553-7211 while working at an alternate telework location during the COVID-19 pandemic EPA Region 6 Continuity of Operation.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Purcell', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mark Purcell, Remedial Project Manager
Superfund and Emergency Management Division

Cc: Kurt Vollbrecht, NMED Ground Water Quality Bureau
Anne Maurer, NMED Groundwater Quality Bureau
Ron Linton, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission