

**From:** [Ron Linton](#)  
**To:** [Brad Bingham](#); [Appaji, Sairam](#); [Olin, Nicole](#)  
**Cc:** [Daniel Lattin](#); [Eric Burch](#)  
**Subject:** RE: FW: [EXTERNAL] Self-reporting of mineral oil spill from transformer  
**Date:** Monday, August 26, 2024 1:09:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [image005.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
[image007.png](#)  
[image008.png](#)

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Received. Thanks Brad.

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**From:** Brad Bingham <[bbingham@barrick.com](mailto:bbingham@barrick.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 21, 2024 8:18 PM  
**To:** Ron Linton <[Ron.Linton@nrc.gov](mailto:Ron.Linton@nrc.gov)>; Appaji, Sairam <[appaji.sairam@epa.gov](mailto:appaji.sairam@epa.gov)>; Olin, Nicole <[Nicole.Olin@lm.doe.gov](mailto:Nicole.Olin@lm.doe.gov)>  
**Cc:** Daniel Lattin <[dlattin@barrick.com](mailto:dlattin@barrick.com)>; Eric Burch <[eburch@barrick.com](mailto:eburch@barrick.com)>  
**Subject:** [External\_Sender] FW: [EXTERNAL] Self-reporting of mineral oil spill from transformer

Mr. Linton,

Below is the email chain with the NMED regarding our extension request for the 15-day report submittal and their response granting it. A copy of the report will be provided to the NRC when submitted. Please let me know if you require additional information.

Respectfully,

**BARRICK**

[www.barrick.com](http://www.barrick.com)

**Brad R. Bingham**  
Closure Manager – Grants Reclamation Project  
Barrick Gold of North America, Inc.  
  
Tel: (505) 287-4456  
Mobile: (505) 290-8019



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**From:** Dimond, Corey, ENV <[corey.dimond@env.nm.gov](mailto:corey.dimond@env.nm.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 20, 2024 2:42 PM  
**To:** Eric Burch <[eburch@barrick.com](mailto:eburch@barrick.com)>  
**Cc:** Brad Bingham <[bbingham@barrick.com](mailto:bbingham@barrick.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Self-reporting of mineral oil spill from transformer

**EXTERNAL EMAIL** - Be cautious with links and attachments.

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Thanks, Eric. Your extension of time request is approved. Like we discussed this morning if the lab sample from the conduit trench comes back clean then you all are free to move forward with filling in the excavation sites and installing the new transformer. Thank you for your patience and let me know if you have any questions.

Corey Dimond

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**From:** Eric Burch <[eburch@barrick.com](mailto:eburch@barrick.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 20, 2024 12:29:11 PM  
**To:** Dimond, Corey, ENV <[corey.dimond@env.nm.gov](mailto:corey.dimond@env.nm.gov)>  
**Cc:** Brad Bingham <[bbingham@barrick.com](mailto:bbingham@barrick.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Self-reporting of mineral oil spill from transformer

Thanks Corey,

As discussed in the field with you today, Homestake is requesting an extension on the submittal of the 15-day Corrective Action Report so we can include the additional delineation sample results from along the conduit trench. We are requesting an extension to 8/28/2024. We will have the report out to you as soon as we receive the results back from the lab and anticipate having it out to you before 8/28.

Best,  
Eric



**Eric Burch**  
Project Manager  
Homestake Mining Company of California  
  
M +1 (775) 934-1766  
[eburch@barrick.com](mailto:eburch@barrick.com)



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**From:** Dimond, Corey, ENV <[corey.dimond@env.nm.gov](mailto:corey.dimond@env.nm.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 19, 2024 10:18 AM  
**To:** Eric Burch <[eburch@barrick.com](mailto:eburch@barrick.com)>  
**Cc:** Brad Bingham <[bbingham@barrick.com](mailto:bbingham@barrick.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Self-reporting of mineral oil spill from transformer

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All right after reviewing the results and discussing with my supervisor it seems that further investigation along the conduit trench is warranted. I understand the want to get this equipment back online as soon as possible. However, the soil sample taken as close as possible to the conduit trench returned a concentration for DRO and MRO of 12,600 mg/kg and 616 mg/kg, respectively. This conduit could be a preferential pathway, and you have not been able to determine the extent of migration along the conduit trench. I realize there is a concern that additional excavation could risk damage to the critical infrastructure on the buried power supply lines. How deeps are the lines buried? Could you hand auger beneath and get samples to confirm if the spill had in fact followed the conduit?

I will give you a call to discuss.

**Corey Dimond**

**Water Resources Professional III**

New Mexico Environment Department

**Ground Water Quality Bureau**

**Mining Environmental Compliance Section**

1190 St. Francis Dr.

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**From:** Eric Burch <[eburch@barrick.com](mailto:eburch@barrick.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, August 19, 2024 9:04 AM

**To:** Dimond, Corey, ENV <[corey.dimond@env.nm.gov](mailto:corey.dimond@env.nm.gov)>

**Cc:** Brad Bingham <[bbingham@barrick.com](mailto:bbingham@barrick.com)>

**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Self-reporting of mineral oil spill from transformer

Hi Corey,

Thanks for speaking with us just now. I wanted to send you the finalized test results. We received them on Friday but we didn't get them out to you due to travel on our end. As you can see there is

remaining TPH ORO/DRO in the conduit trench while at the extent of the excavation, we are at ND or single digits PPM.

Best,  
Eric



**Eric Burch**  
Project Manager  
Homestake Mining Company of California

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eburch@barrick.com



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**From:** Eric Burch  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 15, 2024 4:51 PM  
**To:** Dimond, Corey, ENV <[corey.dimond@env.nm.gov](mailto:corey.dimond@env.nm.gov)>  
**Cc:** Brad Bingham <[bbingham@barrick.com](mailto:bbingham@barrick.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Self-reporting of mineral oil spill from transformer

Hi Cory,

Brad told me he spoke with you today about the remediation and sampling we have completed for the transformer oil spill. I have attached the initial sampling results and we anticipate receiving the rest of the results late this afternoon or tomorrow morning. The first "Soil Characterization Sample" was taken at the surface in the center of the visible oil patch, the "6' Down Under Drip" sample was taken as close as possible to the conduit trench directly below the leaking bushing, the "6' Down Extent of Ex" sample was taken from the bottom of the excavation at the furthest extent of observed oil, and the "Transformer Mineral Oil" sample was taken from the sample port of the transformer that leaked. The soil sample results received are below 100 mg/kg TPH GRO, the oil sample was non-detect for PCB, and we are still waiting on RCRA 8 metals and TPH DRO/ORO.

Before taking the samples, we removed the transformer to a prepared lined area, temporarily relocated the transformer pad, and excavated ~36 yards of material around and directly beneath the pad until there was no observable oil, other than in the conduit trench. The excavated soil was placed on a liner for on-site remediation. The excavation is approximately 8 feet by 8 feet and 6 feet deep, about one foot below the buried conduit from the electrical service pole. We have not been able to determine the extent of oil migration along the conduit trench, it would require extensive additional excavation to complete safely and risk damage to the critical infrastructure of the buried power supply lines.

We will follow up with a 15-day report for the spill with the remaining sample results and full

descriptions of corrective actions. Feel free to contact Brad or me with any questions in the meantime.

Best,  
Eric



**Eric Burch**  
Project Manager  
Homestake Mining Company of California

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**From:** Dimond, Corey, ENV <[corey.dimond@env.nm.gov](mailto:corey.dimond@env.nm.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 6, 2024 4:27 PM  
**To:** Brad Bingham <[bbingham@barrick.com](mailto:bbingham@barrick.com)>  
**Cc:** Eric Burch <[eburch@barrick.com](mailto:eburch@barrick.com)>; Daniel Lattin <[dlattin@barrick.com](mailto:dlattin@barrick.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Self-reporting of mineral oil spill from transformer

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Including Brad's more current barrick email address. Brad, please see my response below. Note below that Brad's original email came from the email address [bbingham@homestakeminingcoca.com](mailto:bbingham@homestakeminingcoca.com). When I reply to that email, I get a message saying the email is undeliverable.

**Corey Dimond**  
**Water Resources Professional III**  
New Mexico Environment Department  
**Ground Water Quality Bureau**  
**Mining Environmental Compliance Section**  
1190 St. Francis Dr.  
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<https://www.env.nm.gov/gwqb/>  
Twitter: @NMEnvDep | #IamNMED



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**From:** Dimond, Corey, ENV

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 6, 2024 4:24 PM

**To:** Brad Bingham <[bbingham@homestakeminingcoca.com](mailto:bbingham@homestakeminingcoca.com)>

**Cc:** Eric Burch <[eburch@barrick.com](mailto:eburch@barrick.com)>; Daniel Lattin <[dlattin@barrick.com](mailto:dlattin@barrick.com)>

**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Self-reporting of mineral oil spill from transformer

Brad,

Thank you for the summary of the transformer spill below. Your email will serve as the written 7-Day Report verifying the prior oral notification and the details of the spill.

Homestake now needs to put together and submit a 15-Day Report (aka 'Corrective Action Plan') indicating any corrective actions taken and/or to be taken to remediate the soil around the transformers. It may include the following:

- Soil needs to be excavated to a depth where no stained soil is observed, and confirmation soil lab samples indicate the remaining soil is clean.
  - Soil samples could be taken from the bottom of the excavation and near the sides of the excavation but please propose what Homestake will do to confirm all contaminated soil has been removed.
- A transformer oil sample should be analyzed using EPA Method 8082 to confirm that the oil within the transformer is in fact non-detect for Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs).
- Confirmation soil samples should be analyzed using EPA Method 8015 for Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons and also Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) 8 metals.
- Please provide a map of all the transformers at the site, confirm that the other transformers are not leaking, and include a plan for reoccurring future inspections of transformers at the site to hopefully catch similar releases sooner.
- Please propose interim containment whether it be plastic sheeting, absorbent socks/pads, etc. until the transformer has been replaced.

NMED may require additional corrective actions if the corrective actions proposed are inadequate. Please note that Homestake did not report the release to NMED within 24 hours as required by subsection A.1 of 20.6.2.1203 NMAC and Condition 63 of Discharge Permit 200

(DP-200). Future failures to report spills may result in NMED taking whatever enforcement or legal action it deems necessary or appropriate in accordance with Paragraph (8) of 20.6.2.1203 NMAC.

**Corey Dimond**

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Twitter: @NMEnvDep | #IamNMED



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**From:** Brad Bingham <[bbingham@homestakeminingcoca.com](mailto:bbingham@homestakeminingcoca.com)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 6, 2024 2:34 PM

**To:** Dimond, Corey, ENV <[corey.dimond@env.nm.gov](mailto:corey.dimond@env.nm.gov)>

**Cc:** Eric Burch <[eburch@barrick.com](mailto:eburch@barrick.com)>; Daniel Lattin <[dlattin@barrick.com](mailto:dlattin@barrick.com)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Self-reporting of mineral oil spill from transformer

**CAUTION:** This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Mr. Dimond,

Per our conversation this morning, a summary of the transformer spill is provided below.

On Friday 8/2, the RO Control Room Operator reported visible oil on the ground adjacent to the 2500KV transformer for the RO Water Treatment Plant. Homestake notified the electrical service provider, who isolated the transformer from the grid so that a qualified electrician could access the transformer. Upon opening, an active leak (~1 drop/second) was discovered coming out of the lowest bushing insert. The leak was immediately stopped by tightening the bushing. The oil level in the transformer is unknown due to the absence of a sight glass, but Homestake did determine that the level was approximately 1.5 feet below the "Full" port in the oil reservoir. The transformer is currently disconnected from the grid and will be replaced with a spare per the electrician's

recommendation.

Additional information

- **What was the date, time, location, and duration of the spill?**
  - Spill was discovered on Friday 8/2 at approximately 8:45am. Duration is unknown, but oil was not observed the previous week when clearing weeds in the area. A .kmz file with the location of the spill is attached.
- **Source and cause of the spill?**
  - 2500KV pad mounted transformer leaked from a loose internal bushing.
- **Is there some sort of placard on the transformer that may indicate how old the oil may be and what constituents may be in the oil?**
  - The Transformer placard is attached.
  - Description including chemical composition?
    - Type II Mineral Oil containing <1 ppm PCB when manufactured, total capacity of 506 gallons
- **Was there any sort of secondary containment and if not does there need to be any sort of secondary containment to prevent future spread due to possible rain, etc.?**
  - No, the transformer was located on a concrete pad that contained a portion of the spill.
- **Estimated volume?**
  - Unknown at this time, the maximum capacity of the transformer is 506 gallons.
- **Mitigation actions (if taken)?**
  - The leak was stopped on 8/2 at approximately 5:45 pm by tightening the leaking bushing. The transformer is currently out of service and is being safely removed for evaluation.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Respectfully,



**Brad R. Bingham**

Closure Manager – Grants Reclamation Project  
Homestake Mining Company of California

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