



Electronic Delivery

September 15, 2026

Eric Burch
Closure Manager
Homestake Mining Company of California
Grants, New Mexico 87020
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Re: Approval of Corrective Action Report for Evaporative Pond Pipeline Discharge, DP-200, Homestake Mining Company, Grants Reclamation Project

Dear Eric Burch,

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Ground Water Quality Bureau (GWQB) has received the *Corrective Action Report* (CAR) dated August 28, 2026, for the evaporative pond pipeline discharge. Homestake Mining Company (HMC) submitted the CAR in accordance with the reporting requirements of Subsection 1203.A of the New Mexico Ground and Surface Water Protection Regulations (20.6.2 NMAC). The CAR documents the cleanup work done in response to the April 16, 2026, release of brine water from a transfer pipeline located at 35.250827° N, 107.871221° W at an elevation of 6,594 ft above sea level. Approximately 9,000 gallons of brine water was discharged from the transfer pipeline based upon a 330-gallon per minute leak rate for approximately fifteen minutes. The transfer pipeline is used only a few times throughout the year to transfer brine water from Evaporative Pond-2 (EP-2) to Evaporative Pond-3 (EP-3). The discharge was discovered when staff traveled along the transfer line to verify the transfer had been initiated successfully and reported water discharging from the pipe south of EP-3. The transfer was immediately stopped. Upon inspection, the pipeline was found to be damaged at the edge of a recently grubbed borrow area. The damage was in a section of pipe beneath the ground surface, where it could not be visually observed when driving the line prior to initiating the transfer.

Corrective actions consisted of the following:

- Initial oral notification and an email summary of the release were provided on April 17, 2026.
- Two soil samples were collected on April 21, 2026, including sample SS1 outside the spill extents as a background sample and sample SS2 was a sample of the soil impacted after the spill.
- A 7-Day Spill Report and 15-Day Corrective Action Response was received on April 23, 2026.
- Approximately 71 cubic yards of contaminated material were scraped and transported to the Trash Pit at the Small Tailings Pile (STP) for disposal under a Radiation Work Permit (RWP) following the initial soil sampling.
- Three soil samples (SS3, SS4, and SS5) were collected on April 23, 2026, following the initial cleanup

of contaminated material. All three samples were collected within the identified spill extent.

- Soil sample analysis results were received on May 20, 2026, which indicated that additional corrective actions were necessary due to elevated chloride, sulfate, and molybdenum concentrations above background in soil.
- Approximately 870 cubic yards (2-ft average depth) of additional material were scraped and transported to the Trash Pit and STP for disposal under a RWP between June 18 and June 25, 2026.
- Three additional soil samples (SS6, SS7, and SS8) were collected on June 25, 2026, following the 2nd round of cleanup of contaminated material. All three samples were collected within the identified spill extent.
- A CAR update was received on July 1, 2026, but the soil sample lab results were not included as they were still pending lab analysis.
- The final CAR was received on August 28, 2026, featuring soil sample lab results for samples SS6, SS7, and SS8.
- A total of 941 cubic yards of contaminated material were scraped and removed from the spill location.
- Molybdenum and uranium concentrations in soil samples SS6, SS7, and SS8 returned concentrations consistent with the background concentrations reported for background soil sample SS1.
- Chloride concentrations in soil samples SS6, SS7, and SS8 were slightly elevated relative to background soil sample SS1 (see Figure 1). However, chloride concentrations in soil samples SS6, SS7, and SS8 fall within the observed range of natural concentrations in background soil samples taken from sections 28, 33, and 34 documented in the March 2010 report titled *Grants Reclamation Project Evaluation of Years 2000 Through 2009 Irrigation with Alluvial Ground Water*. Reported chloride concentrations were also far below NMED soil screening levels for chloride.
- Sulfate concentrations in soil samples SS6, SS7, and SS8 were elevated relative to background soil sample SS1 (see Figure 1). However, NMED does not have a generic soil screening level for sulfate in its Soil Screening Guidance. The NMED groundwater standard for sulfate is 600 mg/L, and groundwater beneath the evaporative pond pipeline discharge area already contains sulfate concentrations greater than 1,000 mg/L. At this location, the depth to groundwater is approximately 60 feet below ground surface, consisting of unsaturated alluvial material. Given the depth to groundwater and the existing sulfate concentrations in groundwater, it is unlikely that the release would result in a measurable increase in groundwater sulfate concentrations. Additionally, the spill area is located hydraulically upgradient of the hydraulic barrier created by injection into the alluvial aquifer. The injection wells, in conjunction with the collection wells, provide hydraulic control to limit the potential migration of impacted groundwater from this area.

NMED hereby approves the CAR in accordance with Paragraph (7) of Subsection A of 20.6.2.1203 NMAC, and the NMED Delegation Order dated July 20, 2026, through which the Cabinet Secretary has delegated this authority to the Chief of the Ground Water Quality Bureau.

NMED may require additional corrective actions if information becomes available indicating that the corrective actions proposed or taken are inadequate and/or groundwater contamination occurs as a result of the described discharge. NMED approval of the CAR does not relieve the permittee of its responsibility to comply with any other applicable federal, state and/or local laws and regulations.

Eric Burch
Approval of Corrective Action Report for Evaporative Pond Discharge
September 15, 2026

Please contact Corey Dimond of MECS at (505) 795-4216 or corey.dimond@env.nm.gov or mecs.general@env.nm.gov with any questions.

Sincerely,

Justin Ball
Digitally signed by Justin
Ball
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Justin Ball, Chief
Ground Water Quality Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department

JB:cd

CC: Melanie Wong, NRC (melanie.wong@nrc.gov)
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Josiah Gerber, HMC (jgerber@barrick.com)
MECS Reading File

Figure 1: Transfer Line Spill Boundary, Sample Locations, and Sample Soil Concentrations



Sample Name	Date	Chloride (mg/kg)	Sulfate (mg/kg)	Moly (mg/kg)	Uranium (mg/kg)
SS1 (background)	4/21/2026	49	62	13	ND
SS2 (after spill)	4/21/2026	987	4270	50	11
SS3 (after 1st round)	4/23/2026	84.8	270	24	ND
SS4 (after 1st round)	4/23/2026	639	2830	39	ND
SS5 (after 1st round)	4/23/2026	658	2870	38	ND
SS6 (after 2nd round)	6/25/2026	71.1	265	<5	ND
SS7 (after 2nd round)	6/25/2026	137	126	<5	ND
SS8 (after 2nd round)	6/25/2026	32.8	603	6	ND
2nd round average		80	331		