

40-8903



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

AUG 30 2000

Ms. Birgit Landin
New Mexico Environment Department
Ground Water Quality Bureau
Superfund Oversight Section
1190 St. Francis Drive
P.O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

RE: Homestake Mining Deletion from the Nation Priorities List and Development of a Five-Year-Review for the Site.

Dear Ms. Landin: *Birgit*

Thank you for your correspondence dated July 13, 2000, concerning the potential for deleting Homestake Mining Corporation (HMC) Superfund Site (the Site) from the National Priorities List (NPL). Your letter was directed to our agency as well as the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and expressed agreement with the potential for deleting the Site. Your letter outlined what remaining issues will need to be addressed before the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) can officially support the deletion. The discussions between the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and NMED have included the need to develop a Five-Year Review in order to support the action and summarize site activities. We concur with the summary of information needed to support the deletion as it relates to our role of completing the action.

As I discussed in my letter to HMC dated May 4, 2000, we find it necessary to perform a Review at this time to ensure that the conclusions documented in the 1989 Record of Decision (ROD) about the Site are still valid, and that the remedy remains appropriate. We expect the Review to address how human health and the environment are being protected, what remains to be done, and what mechanisms will remain in place, or become instituted, to ensure an appropriate level of protectiveness.

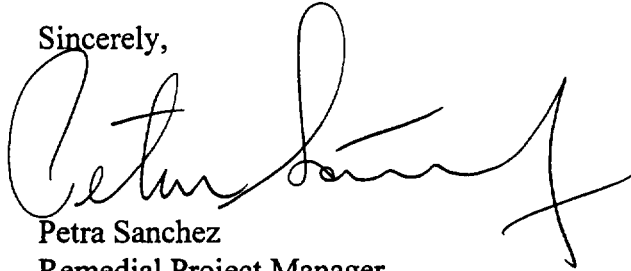
Your letter cited an excellent framework for beginning the Review process. We look forward to continuing our discussions and anticipate the support from HMC to complete the Five-Year Report in order to expedite the deletion process.

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I suggest that we discuss the next steps to be taken, with a schedule of these activities in a conference sometime in September. I will contact you to schedule this call.

Again, thank you for your letter and continued support toward our program goals. Please contact me at (214) 665-6686 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Petra Sanchez', with a large, stylized initial 'P' and a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Petra Sanchez
Remedial Project Manager
US EPA Region 6

cc: Mr. Roy Cellan, Homestake Mining Company
Mr. Ken Hooks, Nuclear Regulatory Commission