



NRC NEWS

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NRC Approves License Amendment for Homestake Mining Company

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has [approved](#) a license amendment request authorizing Homestake Mining Company to install an evapotranspiration cover system on the top of the large tailings pile at the HMC Grants Reclamation Project site near Grants, New Mexico. This is a major milestone towards remediating the site and assuring the final tailings disposal system is protective of public health and the environment.

NRC staff [reviewed](#) the July 28, 2023, request and subsequent June 3, 2025, revised cover system design. The NRC staff's review, documented in a [safety evaluation report](#) and [environmental assessment](#), found the design acceptable. The NRC's approval will allow HMC to proceed with the cover system construction and continue its decommissioning at the Grants Reclamation Project site.

An evapotranspiration cover is designed to work with nature to limit groundwater contamination by using soil layers and vegetation so that water evaporates or is taken up by plants, rather than infiltrating through the cover.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission was created as an expert, technical agency to protect public health, safety, and security, and regulate the civilian use of nuclear materials, including enabling the deployment of nuclear power for the benefit of society. Among other responsibilities, the agency issues licenses, conducts inspections, initiates and enforces regulations, and plans for incident response. The global gold standard for nuclear regulation, the NRC is collaborating with interagency partners to implement reforms outlined in new Executive Orders and the ADVANCE Act to streamline agency activities and enhance efficiency.