MKOO3PR JOHNNY M MINE



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6 1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200 DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

MAR 3 0 2012

The Honorable John H. Bemis Cabinet Secretary New Mexico Department of Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources 1220 S. St. Francis Dr. Santa Fe, NM 87505

Re: Johnny M Mine Superfund Site

Dear Secretary Bemis:

Thank you for your March 6, 2012, letter in which you express your desire to reach an agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on jurisdiction of the Johnny M Mine Area Superfund Site west of San Mateo, McKinley County, New Mexico. The Site consists of a former uranium mine and an adjacent property that was until recently residential property.

The EPA initiated a removal action on April 1, 2011, as a result of elevated levels of radium and radon in the soil and contamination of the resident's well above drinking water standards for radium and gross alpha. This action included the temporary relocation of a resident and a small business. The EPA has been in lengthy negotiations with Hecla Limited to reach an agreement to stabilize the Site, conduct a full site assessment, develop a response plan, and recover EPA past costs that exceed \$736,000.

A complicating factor is the presence of uranium mill waste licensed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to be used to backfill the mine stopes for structural integrity. The mill waste has been detected in both the mine area and the former residential area. This will necessitate the coordination of off-site disposal or long-term on-site stewardship. Given the status of continued uncontrolled releases with significant contamination at or near the surface, the EPA believes using the Superfund Program is best suited to address these factors at the Site. We will consider all applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements to the extent practicable.

My staff will continue to work closely with your staff addressing the issues at the Johnny M Mine and other abandoned uranium mines throughout the Grants Mineral Belt. If you have any questions, please contact me at (214) 665-6701 or have your staff contact Lisa Price, Grants Mineral Belt Coordinator, at (214) 665-6744.

Sincerely,

Pamela Phillips

Acting Division Director

Superfund Division

Susana Martinez

Governor

John H. Bemis Cabinet Secretary

Brett F. Woods, PhD Deputy Cabinet Secretary Office of the Secretary

March 6, 2012

Director Samuel Coleman, P.E. Superfund Division, Region 6 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 1445 Ross Avenue Dallas, TX 75202-2733

Re: Johnny M Mine

Dear Director Coleman:

I am following up on my previous phone calls to you and subsequent conversations with Jessica Hernandez of your staff about the Johnny M Mine site in the Ambrosia Lake area in New Mexico. The purpose of this letter is to attempt to reach an agreement with you and your staff with regard to jurisdiction for the reclamation of the mine.

The Johnny M Mine is similar in scope to several uranium mine reclamation projects that the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) of the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD) has effectively managed in the past, in coordination with the New Mexico Environment Department. These sites include the United Nuclear Corporation's Section 27 Mine, St. Anthony Mine, and Soho's L-Bar Mine.

I have discussed with MMD the reclamation issues associated with the Johnny M Mine to begin charting our actions going forward, both in the immediate future, and long-term. Our recent development is that the Jackson family sold its land to New Mexico Land LLC, which is owned by Hecla Limited, and therefore, we are no longer dealing with residential property. This is important, as MMD and Hecla have obtained immediate access to begin characterizing the Jackson property for reclamation.

New Mexico is obviously the most significant stakeholder in this matter, and we have a particular interest in the reclamation of any mine located in our state. In fact, we enacted legislation in 1993 to ensure authority and proper oversight of the reclamation of all mines in New Mexico, leaving no question of our jurisdiction over the Johnny M Mine. I



March 6, 2012 Page 2

believe this authority enables us to avoid potential and unnecessary interruptions, and thus, to reclaim these sites more efficiently and effectively than any other entity.

My staff is ready to begin the reclamation process of the Johnny M Mine and would like to proceed without further delay. It is my hope that you will give immediate consideration to transitioning the Johnny M Mine from EPA's program to MMD's mine reclamation program. Certainly, EPA has recognized New Mexico jurisdiction on other mines in the past, including those with equally important environmental components as the Johnny M Mine.

Please call me at your earliest convenience, so we might resolve this issue as soon as possible.

Very truly yours,

John H. Bemis Cabinet Secretary

John & Benuz

TEMKIN WIELGA & HARDT LLP

1900 Wazee Street, Suite 303 Denver, CO 80202

Elizabeth H. Temkin Direct: (303)382-2900 temkin@twhlaw.com Phone: (303)292-4922 Fax: (303)292-4921 www.twhlaw.com

December 12, 2011

VIA EMAIL/REGULAR MAIL

Jessica Hernandez, Esq.
Pamela Travis, Esq.
Office of Regional Counsel
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, Texas 75202-2733

Re: Johnny M Mine Area near San Mateo, McKinley County, New Mexico

Dear Jessica and Pam:

This letter is submitted on behalf of Hecla Limited ("Hecla"), as the successor to Ranchers Exploration and Development Corporation, in response to EPA's November 5, 2011 letter and the accompanying draft Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent ("draft Settlement Agreement") and the draft Statement of Work ("SOW") for CERCLA response actions at and related to the Johnny M Mine ("Mine"). A black-lined version of the draft Settlement Agreement, with Hecla's proposed changes, is included with this letter as Attachment 1-A. A clean version of the Settlement Agreement, reflecting Hecla's edits, is included as Attachment 1-B. Attachment 2 is a Site Assessment Plan ("SAP"), designed to define the nature and extent of any contamination problem at the mine, the neighboring Jackson property, and, as needed, the property to the west of the Jackson parcel (collectively "the Johnny M Mine area"). Hecla proposes to implement the SAP as soon as weather permits.

Assuming the parties can otherwise agree on acceptable terms, Hecla also is willing to reimburse EPA for its reasonably documented costs associated with its investigative activities to date at the Johnny M Mine area, and for the Agency's future response costs in oversecing the implementation of the activities required under the Settlement Agreement. In that regard, we would request EPA provide a certified cost package documenting EPA's claimed past costs. In addition, Hecla is willing to reimburse EPA for costs to date under the April 1, 2011 Temporary Relocation Agreement ("TRA"), as amended, with the Jacksons, and to assume direct responsibility for payment to the Jacksons of ongoing, temporary relocation costs under the terms of the TRA, so long as the TRA must remain in effect.

Jessica Hernandez, Esq. Pamela Travis, Esq. December 12, 2011 Page 2

Further, Hecla will agree to complete an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis or a similar evaluation, consistent with EPA guidance, to support the selection of any response actions required at the Johnny M Mine area, in light of the data previously collected by EPA and the data to be collected under the Site Assessment Plan.

Hecla cannot at this time commit to the other activities suggested by EPA's draft SOW, because it is too early to prescribe "next steps" until after the site assessment work is completed. In addition, EPA's proposal for additional work is premised on certain unvalidated assumptions.

First, the extent of the problem with soils at the Johnny M Mine area has yet to be defined. EPA's ASPECT gamma survey of the Johnny M Mine area is at best a screening tool identifying the need for further study, as this survey technique can overestimate, by orders of magnitude, the extent of any problem identified by a ground-based gamma survey and subsequent soil sampling. In this case, only limited soil sampling data has been collected on the Jackson property and no ground-based gamma results or soil sampling data have been collected at the Mine to inform and groundtruth the ASPECT survey results. In addition, there are reasons to believe EPA's so-called "background samples" at the Jackson property are not representative of true background conditions. Further, no background sampling has occurred at the Mine property. Accurate and representative background concentration data is critical to defining the extent of any problem in the Johnny M Mine area and also is critical to setting any action or cleanup levels, which obviously must account for background.

It is also premature and inconsistent with the National Contingency Plan ("NCP"), 40 CFR Part 300, to eliminate on-site disposal for any contaminated material identified through the site assessment work as requiring management, without knowing the volume of material to be managed. In the same vein, it is premature to eliminate the on-site disposal option from consideration until it is known if the Jacksons will return to reside at the property or relocate. There is considerable precedent, at both the state and federal levels, for on-site disposal of uranium mining waste materials in New Mexico and elsewhere. In these circumstances, both the NCP and EPA's EE/CA guidance, see EPA "Guidance on Conducting Non-Time Critical Removal Actions Under CERCLA" (Aug. 1993) (as further summarized by Dec. 1993 Fact Sheet), support retaining on-site disposal as a viable response action alternative for further evaluation in light of the amount of any material ultimately requiring management and disposal. Plus, as you know, the Jacksons and Hecla are in negotiations for Hccla to purchase the Jacksons' property. If those negotiations are successful, Hecla, as the property owner, can commit to an appropriate set of institutional controls to preclude residential use of the property or utilization of the groundwater for residential purposes, and support an onsite disposal option.

¹ Examples of cleanup sites where on-site disposal or stabilization of uranium mining waste materials were considered or utilized include, *inter alia*, and with reference to the lead agency at each site, the following: Skyline Uranium Mine, Utah (Navajo Nation) (EPA Region 9); Northeast Church Rock Mine, New Mexico (EPA Region 9); White King/Lucky Lass Mine, Oregon (EPA Region 10); San Mateo Mine, New Mexico (US Forest Service); Jackpile Mine, New Mexico (Bureau of Land Management/Bureau of Indian Affairs); St. Anthony Mine, New Mexico (New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division); and JJ No. 1/L-Bar Mine, New Mexico (New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division).

Jessica Hernandez, Esq. Pamela Travis, Esq. December 12, 2011 Page 3

There is also considerable precedent for an action and cleanup standard of at least a 5 pCi/g above background, even assuming residential use of the Jackson property. EPA's proposed cleanup level, which proposed, effectively, a 2.5 pCi/g standard above background is unnecessarily conservative and contrary to the weight of authority on this point. 3

You will note that the attached revised Settlement Agreement does not propose a dollar figure for financial assurance purposes in Paragraph 87. That number is necessarily dependent on the outcome of our discussions on the SAP and related issues and was intentionally left blank for that reason.

I should note that, while we are responding to EPA's demands, Hecla continues to believe that management of the Johnny M Mine area site investigation and any necessary cleanup are well within the jurisdiction and capabilities of the Mining and Minerals Division ("MMD") of the New Mexico Department of Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources, with the support of the New Mexico Environment Department. Hecla also believes the matter is more appropriately handled by New Mexico, at least until there is sufficient investigation to determine whether the situation is truly of federal Superfund quality or, instead, is much like several similar situations involving historic uranium mines that MMD has successfully managed over the years.

We look forward to continuing to discuss these matters with you at your earliest convenience, in light of your January deadline for concluding these negotiations. I am not available December 17th through December 23rd, but my partner, Nea Brown is available in my absence to address these matters. I think you both have Nea's contact information but just in case, Nea's phone number is (303) 382-2901 and her email address is brown@twhlaw.com.

Sincerely yours,

Elizabeth H. Temkin

EHT/gob Enclosures

² None of the other property in the Johnny M Mine area is used for residential purposes.

³ Multiple CERCLA cleanup sites apply a cleanup level of 5 pCi/g above background levels as appropriate and consistent with appropriate risk and exposure scenarios and as further supported by regulatory requirements for uranium mill tailings remediation, see 40 C.F.R. 192, and EPA guidance, see "Establishment of Cleanup Levels for CERCLA Sites with Radioactive Contamination (Aug. 1997). See also Draft Guidance for Meeting Radiation Criteria Levels and Reclamation at New Uranium Mining Operations," New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division (May 2011). Examples of CERCLA cleanup sites applying this standard include, inter alia: San Mateo Mine, New Mexico (United States Forest Service); Homestake Mining Company site, New Mexico (EPA Region 6); Uravan Uranium site, Colorado (EPA Region 8); and Canyon City Milling site, Colorado (EPA Region 8).

Rule 408 Settlement Communication

Jessica Hernandez, Esq. Pamela Travis, Esq. December 12, 2011 Page 4

cc: Paul Glader David Sienko

Susana Martinez

Governor

John H. Bemis Cabinet Secretary

Brett F. Woods, PhD
Deputy Cabinet Secretary

Office of the Secretary

March 6, 2012

Director Samuel Coleman, P.E. Superfund Division, Region 6 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 1445 Ross Avenue Dallas, TX 75202-2733

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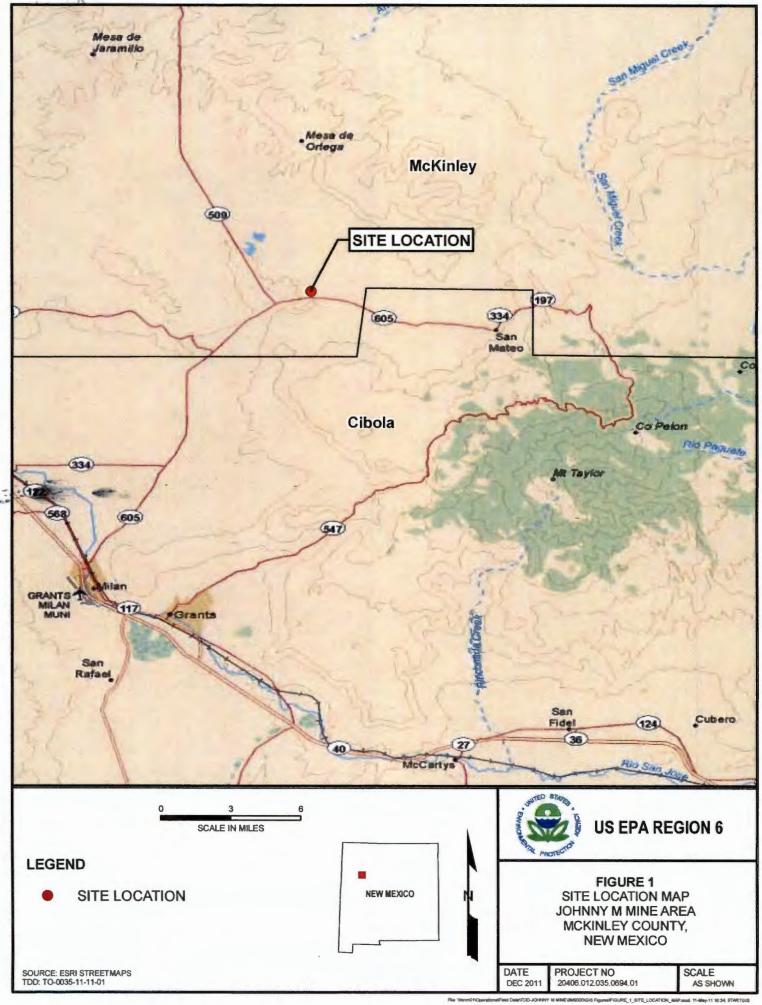
Please call me at your earliest convenience, so we might resolve this issue as soon as possible.

Very truly yours,

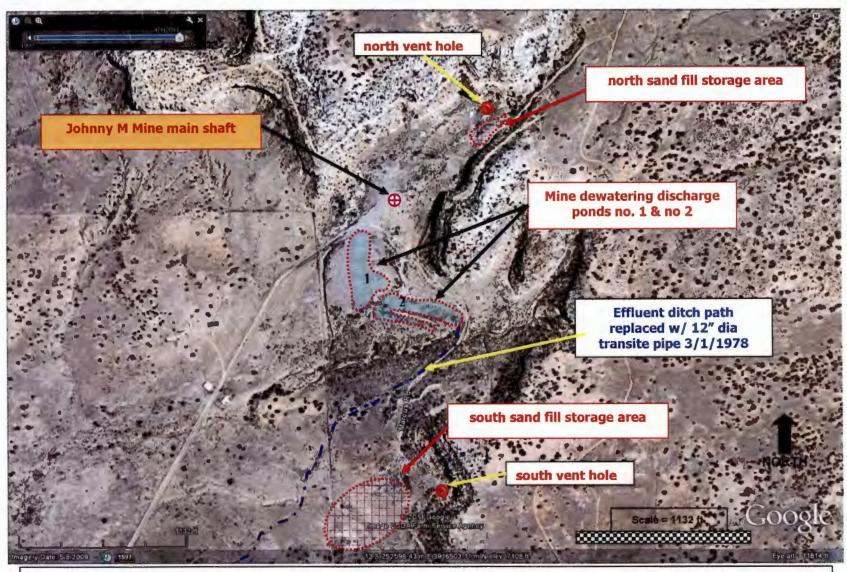
John H. Bemis

Cabinet Secretary

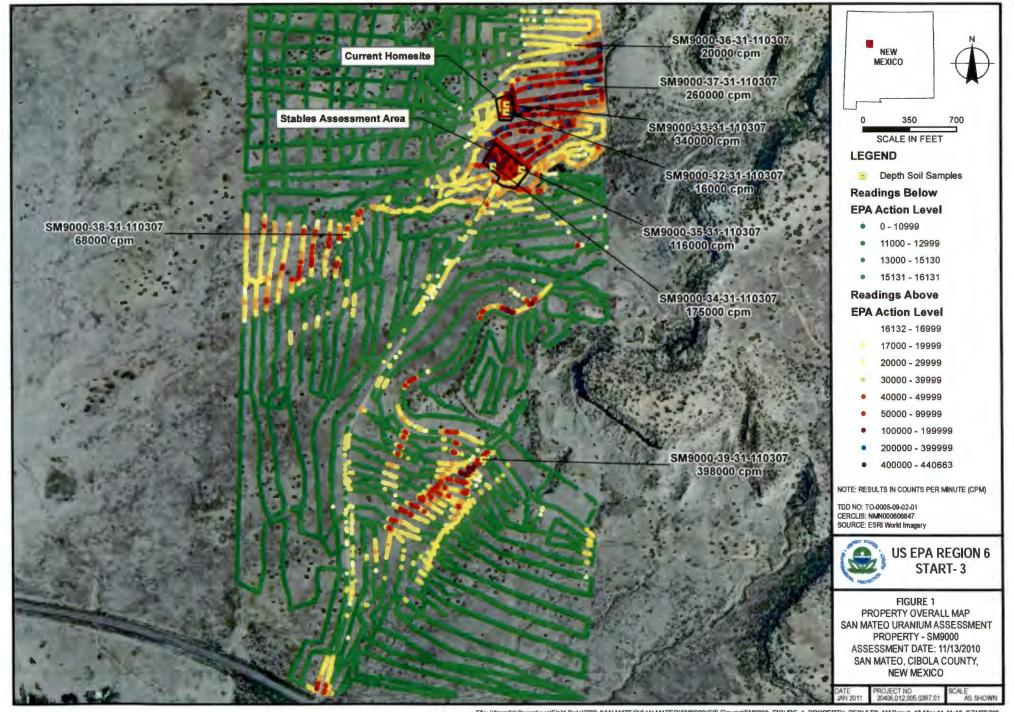
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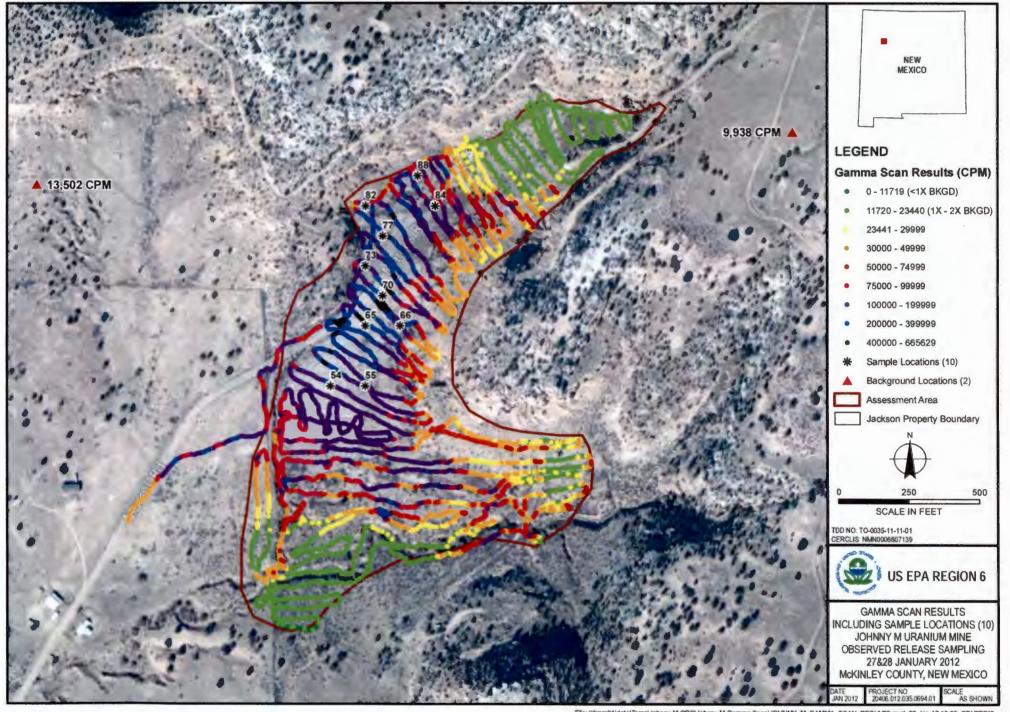


HISTORICAL MINE FEATURES



Composite location map of the Johnny M Mine main features by Earle Dixon based on approximated locations using 1985 file documents and 2009 Google Earth map, T13N, R8W, Section 18 (35.361959, -107.721956), Ambrosia Lake Sub-District, Grants Mining District, NM.





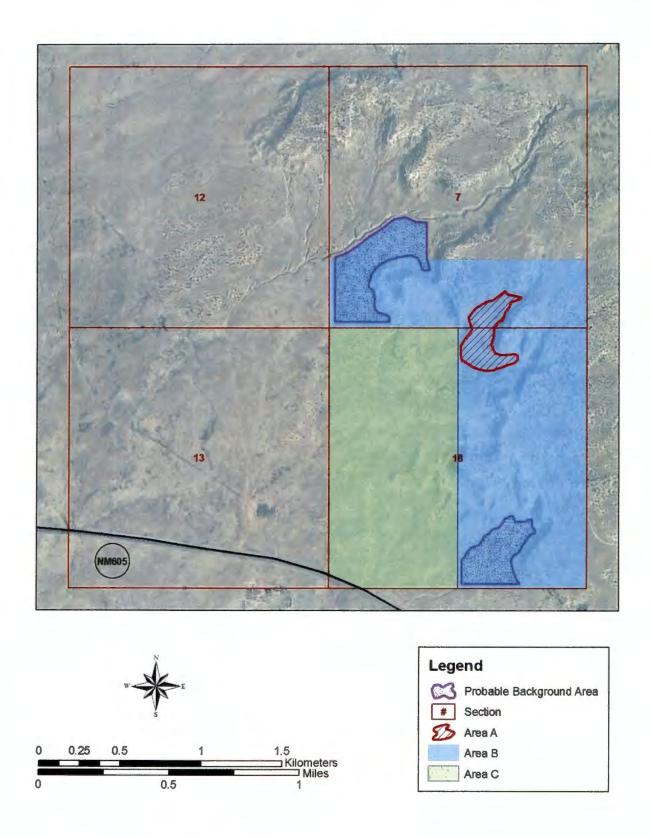


Figure 2. Lay-out of the proposed project area.

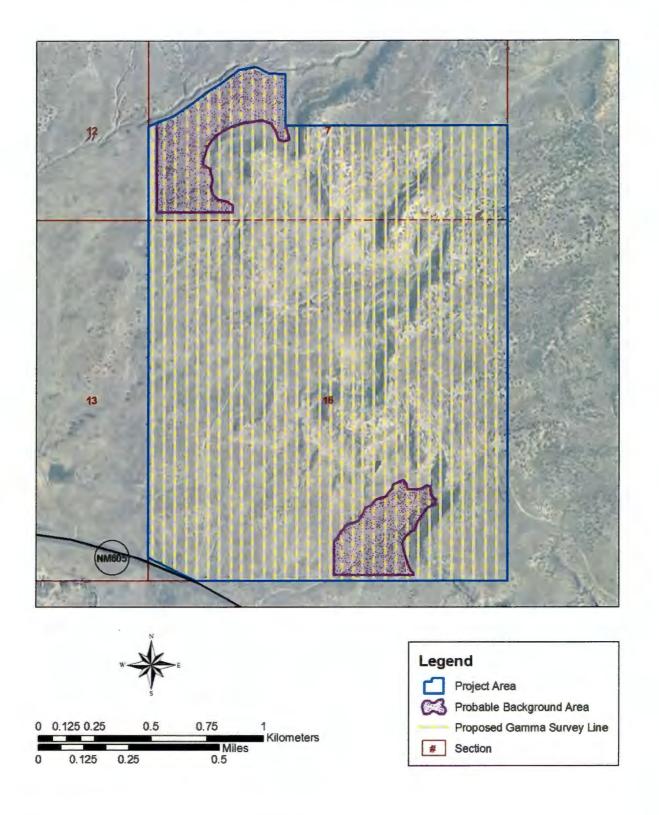


Figure 3. Proposed gamma survey area with 50 meter transects.

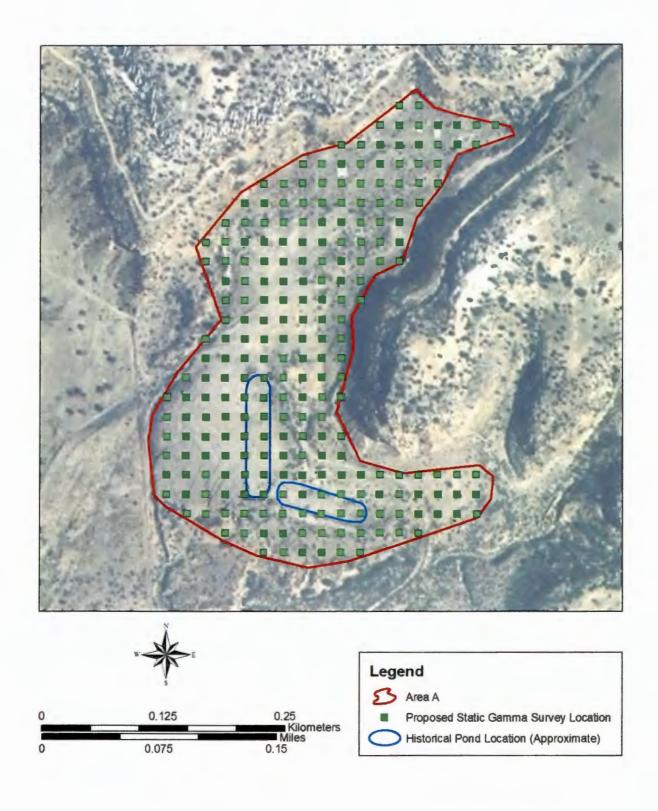


Figure 4. Proposed static gamma survey locations (20-meter square grid nodes) in Area A.

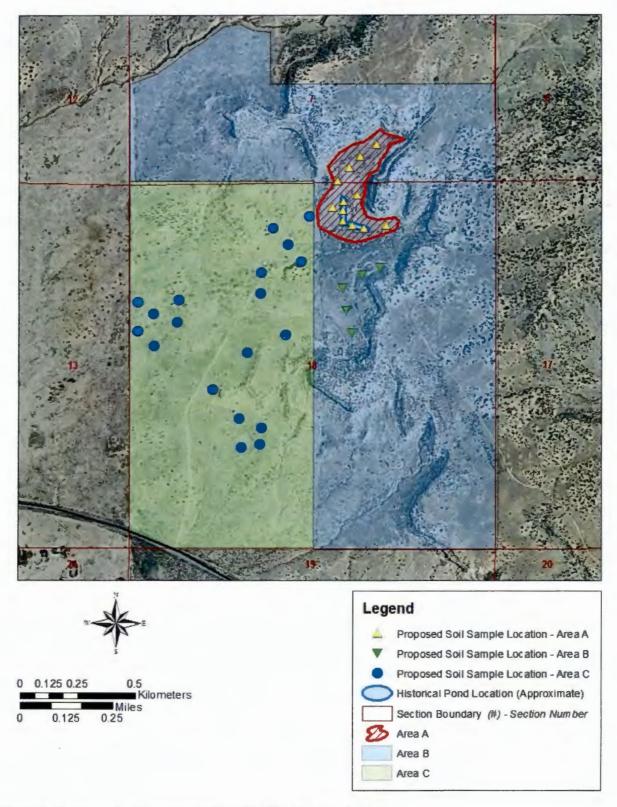


Figure 5. Proposed soil sample locations for the project area.

Johnny M Mine/ Rancher's Johnny M Mine Site Ambrosia Láke District, Section 7 and E1/2 Section18, T13N, R. 8W McKinley County, New Mexico Source Material License SUA – 1472; Docket No. 040-8914

Summary

- Johnny M Mine located at the eastern-end of the Ambrosia Lake District, Section 7 and E1/2 Section 18, T13N, R. 8W McKinley County.
 - Area is part of the San Juan Basin
 - No surface waters or wells are reportedly utilized for domestic or commercial use within 1 km radius of the site.
- Mine actively operated for over ten (10) years (1972 until early-1982) until ore reserves were exhausted.
 - Ranchers Exploration and Development Corporation, a lessee, commenced operations in 1972.
 - Operation consisted of only ore removal
 - · Ore milling was not conducted at the mine nor were any ore milling facilities on-site
 - Ore was shipped off-site to the Kerr McGee (now Quivira Mining Co.) Ambrosia Lake Facility.
- Approximately 286,000 tons of tailings sands from the Kerr McGee Mill was used to backfill mine stopes at depths ranging from 1134-1148', 1162 1183' or 1100-1300' depending on terrain
 - Backfilling of tailings at that time was innovative process employed to prevent caving and reducing the vulnerability of possible breaks in the Dakota aquifer located above the mine.
 - Backfilling of mine stopes occurred between the Dakota Formation and Westwater Canyon
 Member of the Morrison Formation. The area in question totaled approximately two (2) acres.
 - Both aguifers are separated vertically by 80 vertical feet of shale
 - 8000 tons of tailings per month transported from Kerr McGee/Quivira Mine to Johnny M. Mine site.
- Backfilling operations occurred for 5 years (August 1977 to January 1982)
- New Mexico began licensing the Johnny M Mine site in 02/1978 in response to the request from Ranchers Exploration and Development Corporation to backfill mine stopes with by-product material from the Kerr McGee/Quivira Mine
- Between 1978 and 1984, fourteen (14) license amendments issued by NMEID after NM-RED-MB-00
- 1982 1987. Reclamation of mine property began under New Mexico's jurisdiction. This included backfilling of mine out area with tailings material and as result of this operation two (2) small surface locations were required for the storage of the backfill material.
- 1984. Ranchers Exploration and Development Corporation merged with Hecla Mining Co.
- 1986. Licensing authority for the extraction/concentration of source material and disposal of the resulting by-product material was returned to the NRC. However the State's license remained in effect until the NRC had an opportunity to evaluate the license for regulatory compliance.
- 1987, NRC met with Hecla Mining to discuss site surveys and cleanups.
- 1988. NRC issued a source material license SUA-1482 to Hecla Mining Co. for the Johnny Mine Site
- 1987 -1992. NRC approved reclamations plans, and oversaw removal activities.

- 1991. NRC deliberated terminating the Johnny M Mine source material license SUA-1482. Hecla Mining was instructed to annotate in the public record that licensable by-product material remained on-site buried at depth and that no surveillance would be required once release standards were met.
- 1993. NRC terminated Johnny M Mine Site Source Material License under Amendment No. 4.

Synopsis of Ownership for the Johnny M Mine Site

Docket No. 040- 8914	Synopsis of Owners Mine Operators Lessee	Property Owners/ Surface Owner	Mineral Estate Owner /Subsurface	Mineral Interest
Johnny M Mine Site Section 7, T13N, R. 8W McKinley County.	Ranchers Development & Exploration Co. leased mineral rights from Cerrillos Land Co. Mine operated circa 1972 – 1982	Fernandez Company Ltd. – holds surface rights Section 7, T13N, R. 8W McKinley County.	Santa Fe Pacific Railroad Co. – holds mineral estate under Section 7, Township 13N, Range 8W	Cerrillos Land Co. leased mineral interest to mine Ur ore in Section 7, T13N, R. 8W.
& E ½ Section 18, T13N, R. 8W McKinley County.	Backfilling operations 1977 - 1982 Ranchers Development & Exploration Co. issued notice of intent to vacate premises - 01/1982 01/16/1982. NMEID concurred on general mine cleanup plan. 05/1982 thru 09/1982. Reclamation activities were implemented and NMEID conducted several independent surveys. Ranchers Development & Exploration Co. issued termination report to NMEID 08/23/1983 01/03/1984. NMEID recommended license termination after reseeding/vegetation. 1984 Ranchers Development & Exploration Co. merged with Hecla Mining	& E 1/2 Section 18, T13N, R. 8W McKinley County.	& Federal government. - holds mineral estate under E1/2 Section 18, Township 13N, Range 8W	Cerrilos Land Co letter 09/13/1991to NRC . As owner of all mineral rights at Johnny M Mine Site, they were unwilling to sell or sever the mineral rights to Hecla
	Co. Hecla Mining Company leased mineral rights at Johnny M Mine (date?) 05/1996. NMEID notified Hecla that NRC will assume licensing authority. 06/01/1986. NRC assume jurisdiction over the Johnny M Mine site. 10/1987. Hecla submit to NRC-URFO a Work Plan for Site Survey & Cleanup — Oct. 17, 1987 091988 Hecla submit Reclamation Plan — Sept. 26, 1988 to NRC-URFO May 4, 1990. Hecla requested an NRC License Amendment and review of the Reclamation Plan, Revision No. 1, February 15, 1990. 10/1990. NRC —URFO approved Hecla's revised reclamation plan. 05/1993 NRC letter to Hecla terminated Johnny M Mine Source Material License OSUA-1482 —Amendment No. 4.	03/1991. Hecla letter to NR Section 18, Township 13N, Santa Fe Pacific holds min 05/1991 Cerrillos Land Co. Company does not wish to 09/1991. Hecla revised and Section 7, T13N, R. 8W &	ndez Co. Ltd to NRC. Jo RC. Federal gov. holds in Range 8W. eral estate under Section notified NRC-URFO that transfer mineral rights to notation to public record E ½ Section 18, T13N, I dfilling was buried deep.	n 7, Township 13N, Range 8W at in Section 7, T13N, R. 8W. be the Fed for the legal property boundary R. 8W McKinley. "byproduct NRC will require no ongoing

UNITED STATES



NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV

URANIUM RECOVERY FIELD OFFICE BOX 25325 DENVER, COLORADO 80225

MAY 2 4 1993

Docket No. 40-8914 SUA-1482, Amendment No. 4 04008914090E X60611

Hecla Mining Company
ATTN: Larry A. Drew, Manager
Environmental Affairs
6500 Mineral Drive
Box C-8000
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814-1931

Dear Mr. Drew:

We are in receipt of your letter dated October 18, 1990, requesting termination of your Source Material License SUA-1482 for the Johnny M Mine, McKinley County, New Mexico. Based upon NRC's assessment of your Environmental Report and verification that surface reclamation efforts had been successful, it was determined that the proper action was to issue a finding of no significant impact in the Federal Register. A final finding of no significant impact was published in the Federal Register (58 FR 29641) on May 21, 1993.

Therefore, pursuant to 10 CFR Part 40, Source Material License SUA-1482 is terminated by deleting License Condition Nos. 6 through 11 and modifying License Condition No. 4 to read as follows:

4. Terminated

The license is being reissued to reflect this change. This licensing action was discussed between you and Dawn L. Jacoby on May 24, 1993. If you have any questions or comments regarding this action, please notify her at (303) 231-5815.

Sincerety,

Ramon E. Hall

Director

Enclosure:

Source Material License SUA-1482

cc:

B. Garcia, RCPD, NM E. Montoya, NMED

NEC	Form	374
15-84	١	

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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PAGE		OF	1	PAGES

MATERIALS LICENSE

Pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-438), and Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, Chapter I, Parts 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 40 and 70, and in reliance on statements and representations heretofore made by the licensee, a license is hereby issued authorizing the licensee to receive, acquire, possess, and transfer byproduct, source, and special nuclear material designated below; to use such material for the purpose(s) and at the place(s) designated below; to deliver or transfer such material to persons authorized to receive it in accordance with the regulations of the applicable Part(s). This license shall be deemed to contain the conditions specified in Section 183 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, and is subject to all applicable rules, regulations and orders of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission now or hereafter in effect and to any conditions specified below.

Y MONDING THOM ON THE ON THE ONE THOM ON THE ONE THOM ON THE ONE THOM ON THE ONE THOM ON THE ONE THE ON THE ONE THE ON Licensee 3. License number 1. Hecla Mining Company SUA-1482, Amendment No. 4 2. 6500 Mineral Drive 4. Expiration date Terminated P.O. Box C-8000 5. Docket or 83814-1931 Coeur d'Alene, Idaho Reference No. 40-8914

6. Byproduct, source, and/or special nuclear material

7. Chemical and/or physical form

8. Maximum amount that licensee may possess at any one time under this license

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Ramon E. Hall, Director Uranium Recovery Field Office

21, 1993. Copies of these petitions are available for inspection at that address.

Dated: May 14, 1993.

Patricia W. Silvey,

Director, Office of Standards, Regulations and Variances.

[FR Doc. 93-12131 Filed 5-20-93; 8:45 am]

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

Performance Review Board

AGENCY: National Endowment for the Humanities, NFAH.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a revision in the membership of the SES Executive Resources and Performance Review Board.

Effective May 14, 1993, Michael S.
Shapiro, General Counsel, Office of the
General Counsel/Congressional Liaison,
has been designated to replace Anne D.
Neal, General Counsel, Office of General
Counsel/Congressional Liaison, as a
Member of the SES Performance Review
Board. Mr. Shapiro will serve the
unexpired portion of Anne D. Neal's
term through December 31, 1993.
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Timothy G. Connelly, Director of Personnel, National Endowment for the Humanities, 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW., Washington, D.C. 20506.

Donald Gibson,

Acting Chairperson.

[FR Doc. 93-12129 Filed 5-20-93; 8:45 am]

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Special Emphasis Panel in Research, Evaluation, and Dissemination; Meeting

In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92– 463, as amended), the National Science Foundation announces the following meeting.

Date and Time: June 7-8, 1993; 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Place: The River Inn, 924 Twenty Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC.

Type of Meeting: Closed.
Contact Person: Ms. Barbara Lovitts,
Division of Research, Evaluation and
Dissemination, rm. 1227, National Science
Foundation, 1800 G Street, NW., Washington,
DC 20550, Telephone (202) 357-7071.

Purpose of Meeting: To provide advice and recommendations concerning proposals submitted to NSF for financial support.

Agenda: To review and evaluate research proposals submitted to the Research in

Teaching and Learning Program as part of the selection process for awards.

Reason for Closing: The proposals being reviewed include information of a proprietary or confidential nature, including technical information; financial data, such as salaries; and personal information concerning individuals associated with the proposals. These matters are exempt under 5 U.S.C. 552b(c), (4) and (6) of the Government in the Sunshine Act.

Dated: May 18, 1993.

M. Rebecca Winkler,

Committee Management Officer.
[FR Doc. 93–12132 Filed 5–20–93; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 7555–01–M

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 40-8914]

Hecla Mining Co.; Final Finding of No Significant Impact Regarding the Termination of a Source Material License for Hecla Mining Company, Johnny M Mine Site, McKinley County, New Mexico

AGENCY: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of final finding of no significant impact.

1. Proposed Action

The proposed administrative action is to terminate the source material license authorizing Hecla Mining Company (Hecla) to possess byproduct material at the Johnny M Mine, McKinley County, New Mexico.

2. Reasons for the Final Finding of No Significant Impact

The Johnny M Mine located near San Mateo, New Mexico, was operated by Ranchers Exploration and Development (predecessor to Hecla Mining Company) from early 1972 to late 1982. The mining operation included backfilling of mined-out areas with mill tailings. The tailings were returned to the site from the mill which processed the ore. An estimated 286,000 tons of tailings were injected into the mine. Disposal depths ranged from 1134 feet to 1148 feet and from 1162 feet to 1183 feet below the surface (using the shaft for datum) or about 1100 to 1300 feet underground, depending on the terrain.

Reclamation of the mine property began in early 1982. The mine shaft was sealed with a 4-foot thick water ring reinforced concrete plug set between the Dakota formation and the Westwater Canyon member of the Morrison formation. The portal was sealed with a 12-inch thick reinforced concrete plug, and a 20-inch diameter capped steel pipe was set in the concrete.

The radiological reclamation plan for the site consisted of removing the remaining surface contamination until appropriate standards were met. The underground tailings were to be left undisturbed. The contaminated meterial was transported to and disposed of at the Quivira Mining Company's Pond 2 disposal area.

The NRC staff evaluated an Environmental Report, submitted by the licensee on February 26, 1993, addressing the effect of the proposed action on the environment.

In accordance with Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 51, Section 51.21, NRC prepared an environmental assessment addressing the proposed termination of the license. As a result of that assessment, the NRC has determined that an environmental impact statement is not required for this proposed licensing action. The following statements support the Finding of No Significant Impact and summarize the environmental assessment:

A. In accordance with 10 CFR 51.60(b)(3), the licensee submitted an Environmental Report documenting the potential environmental effects of the proposed change.

B. The closure of site meets all the criteria of 10 CFR Part 40, appendix A. It was determined that the ground water has not been significantly affected by the tailings. Surface reclamation has been verified by soil sampling. The deed to the land has been annotated to indicate that the tailings are present and that they are subject to an NRC general license under Title 10, Part 40, Code of Federal Regulations, prohibiting the disruption and disturbance of the tailings.

C. The site has been reclaimed to the requirements of 10 CFR Part 40, Paragraph 40.42, and is suitable for release for unrestricted use.

D. There is no need for long-term surveillance of the site due to the location of the tailings in the mine.

In accordance with 10 CFR 51.34(a), the Director, Uranium Recovery Field Office (URFO), made the determination to issue a final finding of no significant impact in the Federal Register. Source Material License SUA—1482 for the Johnny M Mine will be terminated upon publication in the Federal Register.

The environmental evaluations setting forth the basis for the finding are available for public inspection and copying at the Commission's Uranium Recovery Field Office at 730 Simms Street, Golden, Colorado, and at the

Commission's Public Document Room at 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC.

Dated at Denver, Colorado, this 13th day of May 1993.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Ramon E. Hall,

Director, Uranium Recovery Field Office.
[FR Doc. 93-12090 Filed 5-20-93; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 7560-01-14

Northeast Nuclear Energy Co.; Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

[Docket No. 50-245]

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory
Commission (the Commission) is
considering issuance of an amendment
to an exemption from the requirements
of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J,
Paragraph III.C.1 issued to the Northeast
Nuclear Energy Company (NNECO or
the licensee) for Millstone Nuclear
Power Station, Unit 1, located in New
London County, Connecticut.

Environmental Assessment

Identification of the Proposed Action

The proposed action would correct an administrative error. The exemption, which was issued on June 5, 1991, granted exemptions for Penetrations X-25, X-26, X-202E and X-205 from the local leak test (Type C) requirements of 10 CFR part 50, appendix J. section III.C.1. The NRC staff concluded that the proposed alternative test procedures are the most conservative with the existing configuration and will test both valve seals to provide indication of the leak tightness of the containment boundaries. In a letter dated April 15, 1993, NNECO stated that one of the penetrations was not correctly identified, penetration X-202E should have been X-202D, and requested that the exemption be corrected.

The Need for the Proposed Action

The proposed exemption amendment is needed to correctly identify the subject penetration.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The proposed exemption amendment corrects a misidentified penetration and, therefore, does not have any environmental impact. In the June 5, 1991, exemption, Penetration X–202E should have been X–202D. Penetration X–202E is for a vacuum breaker (torus to drywell) and does not require 10 CFR part 50, appendix J testing.

Thus, radiological releases will not differ from those determined previously and the proposed exemption -

amendment does not otherwise affect facility radiological effluents or occupational exposures. With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed exemption amendment does not affect plant nonradiological effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes there are no measurable radiological or nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemption amendment.

Alternative to the Proposed Action

Since the Commission has concluded there is no measurable environmental impact associated with the proposed exemption amendment, any alternative to this amendment will have either no significant different environmental impact or greater environmental impact. The principal alternative would be to deny the exemption amendment requested. Such action would not enhance the protection of the environment and would result in the misidentification of the penetration.

Alternative Use of Resources

This action does not involve the use of resources not considered previously in the Final Environmental Statement for Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit 1.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

The NRC staff reviewed the licensee's request and did not consult other agencies or persons.

Finding of No Significant Impact

Based on the foregoing environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed exemption amendment.

For further details with respect to this proposed action, see the licensee's letter dated April 15, 1993, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC 20555, and at the local public document room located at the Learning Resources Center, Thames Valley State Technical College, 574 New London Turnpike, Norwich, Connecticut 06360.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 13th day of May 1993.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

John F. Stolz, Director,

Project Directorate I-4, Division of Reactor Projects—I/II, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 93-12092 Filed 5-20-93; 8:45 am] BILLING CODE 7590-01-M

[Docket Nos. 50-269, 50-270, and 50-287; License Nos. DRP-38, DPR-47, and DPR-55; EA 92-211]

Duke Power Co., Oconee Nuclear Station; Order Imposing Civil Monetary Penalty

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Duke Power Company (Licensee) is the holder of License Nos. DPR-38, DPR-47, and DPR-55 issued by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or Commission) on February 6, 1973, October 6, 1973, and July 19, 1974, respectively. The licenses authorize the Licensee to operate the Oconee Nuclear Station in accordance with the conditions specified therein.

П

An inspection of the Licensee's activities was conducted on September 26-November 3, 1992. The results of this inspection indicated that the Licensee had not conducted its activities in full compliance with NRC requirements. A written Notice of Violation and Proposed Imposition of Civil Penalty (Notice) was served upon the Licensee by letter dated December 28, 1992. The Notice stated the nature of the violation, the provision of the NRC's requirements that the Licensee had violated, and the amount of the civil penalty proposed for the violation. The Licensee responded to the Notice by letter dated February 25, 1993. In its response, the Licensee requested that the civil penalty be mitigated because the violation was not safety significant and by itself does not warrant significant regulatory concern and that the particular example cited does not adequately consider all of the related information that accompanied the discovery and identification of the degraded Low Pressure Service Water System flow condition.

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After consideration of the Licensee's response and the statements of fact, explanation, and argument for mitigation contained therein, the NRC staff has determined, as set forth in the Appendix to this Order, that the violation occurred as stated and that the penalty proposed for the violation

UNITED STATES



NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV

URANIUM RECOVERY FIELD OFFICE BOX 25325 DENVER, COLORADO 80225

MAY 2 4 1993

Docket No. 40-8914 SUA-1482, Amendment No. 4 04008914090E X60611

Hecla Mining Company
ATTN: Larry A. Drew, Manager
Environmental Affairs
6500 Mineral Drive
Box C-8000
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814-1931

Dear Mr. Drew:

We are in receipt of your letter dated October 18, 1990, requesting termination of your Source Material License SUA-1482 for the Johnny M Mine, McKinley County, New Mexico. Based upon NRC's assessment of your Environmental Report and verification that surface reclamation efforts had been successful, it was determined that the proper action was to issue a finding of no significant impact in the Federal Register. A final finding of no significant impact was published in the Federal Register (58 FR 29641) on May 21, 1993.

Therefore, pursuant to 10 CFR Part 40, Source Material License SUA-1482 is terminated by deleting License Condition Nos. 6 through 11 and modifying License Condition No. 4 to read as follows:

4. Terminated

The license is being reissued to reflect this change. This licensing action was discussed between you and Dawn L. Jacoby on May 24, 1993. If you have any questions or comments regarding this action, please notify her at (303) 231-5815.

Sincerety.

Ramon E. Hall Director

Enclosure:

Source Material License SUA-1482

cc:

B. Garcia, RCPD, NM E. Montoya, NMED

To a		
	NRC Form 374 (5-84)	Mallettan
9	(5-84)	U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COM

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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PAGE		OF		PAGES

MATERIALS LICENSE

Pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-438), and Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, Chapter I, Parts 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 40 and 70, and in reliance on statements and representations heretofore made by the licensee, a license is hereby issued authorizing the licensee to receive, acquire, possess, and transfer byproduct, source, and special nuclear material designated below; to use such material for the purpose(s) and at the place(s) designated below; to deliver or transfer such material to persons authorized to receive it in accordance with the regulations of the applicable Part(s). This license shall be deemed to contain the conditions specified in Section 183 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, and is subject to all applicable rules, regulations and orders of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission now or hereafter in effect and to any conditions specified below.

Licensee 1. 3. License number Hecla Mining Company SUA-1482, Amendment No. 4 2. 6500 Mineral Drive 4. Expiration date Terminated P.O. Box C-8000 5. Docket or 83814-1931 Coeur d'Alene, Idaho Reference No. 40-8914 8. Maximum amount that licensee 6. Byproduct, source, and/or 7. Chemical and/or physical special nuclear material may possess at any one time form inder this license FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY Ramon E. Ball Director Uranium Recovery Field Office

Commission's Public Document Room at 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC.

Dated at Denver, Colorado, this 13th day of May 1993.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Ramon E. Hall,

Director, Uranium Recovery Field Office. [FR Doc. 93-12090 Filed 5-20-93; 8:45 am] BILLING CODE 7590-01-M

Northeast Nuclear Energy Co.; Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

[Docket No. 50-245]

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Commission (the Commission) is
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the licensee) for Millstone Nuclear
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London County, Connecticut.

Environmental Assessment

Identification of the Proposed Action

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Thus, radiological releases will not differ from those determined previously and the proposed exemption -

amendment does not otherwise affect facility radiological effluents or occupational exposures. With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed exemption amendment does not affect plant nonradiological effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes there are no measurable radiological or nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemption amendment.

Alternative to the Proposed Action

Since the Commission has concluded there is no measurable environmental impact associated with the proposed exemption amendment, any alternative to this amendment will have either no significant different environmental impact or greater environmental impact. The principal alternative would be to deny the exemption amendment requested. Such action would not enhance the protection of the environment and would result in the misidentification of the penetration.

Alternative Use of Resources

This action does not involve the use of resources not considered previously in the Final Environmental Statement for Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit 1.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

The NRC staff reviewed the licensee's request and did not consult other agencies or persons.

Finding of No Significant Impact

Based on the foregoing environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed exemption amendment.

For further details with respect to this proposed action, see the licensee's letter dated April 15, 1993, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC 20555, and at the local public document room located at the Learning Resources Center, Thames Valley State Technical College, 574 New London Turnpike, Norwich, Connecticut 06360.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 13th day of May 1993.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

John F. Stolz, Director,

Project Directorate L-4, Division of Reactor Projects—I/II, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 93-12092 Filed 5-20-93; 8:45 am] BILLING CODE 7590-01-M

[Docket Nos. 50-269, 50-270, and 50-287; License Nos. DRP-38, DPR-47, and DPR-55; EA 92-211]

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After consideration of the Licensee's response and the statements of fact, explanation, and argument for mitigation contained therein, the NRC staff has determined, as set forth in the Appendix to this Order, that the violation occurred as stated and that the penalty proposed for the violation

State of New Mexico ENERGY, MINERALS and NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505





BRUCE KING GOVERNOR

December 14, 1994

ANITA LOCKWOOD CABINET SECRETARY

Mr. Tim Leftwich Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corp. P. O. Box 218 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Evaluation Guidelines for Prior Reclamation Sites. RE:

Dear Mr. Leftwich:

The Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) will be conducting inspections for the purposes of prior reclamtion for the site(s) you have requested release. Based on Section 69-36-5 E. of the New Mexico Mining Act, the MMD has developed inventory of items to determine whether the completed reclamation satisfies the requirements of the New Mexico Mining Act and the substantive requirements for reclamation pursuant to the applicable regulatory standards.

This checklist is included for your use to determine if your site meets all of the ten criteria. Based on site-specific information, the MMD will be using this checklist to establish criterion based decisions to release the site from further responsibilities under the Act or not.

MMD will begin inspection of prior reclamtion sites in early 1995 and will make a determination by September 30, 1995. If you have any questions regarding the checklist or questions regarding the inspection of your reclamation sites, please contact me or Joe DeAguero at 505\827-5970.

Sincerely,

Holland Shepherd

Bureau Chief

Mine Act Reclamation Bureau Mining and Minerals Division

VILLAGRA BUILDING - 408 Galisteo

Forestry and Resources Conservation Division P.O. Box 1948 87504-1948 827-5830

> Park and Recreation Division P.O. Box 1147 87504-1147 827-7465

2040 South Pacheco

Office of the Secretary 827-5950

Administrative Services 827-5925

LAND OFFICE BUILDING - 310 Old Santa Fe Trail Oil Conservation Division

P.O. Box 2088 87504-2088 827-5800

PRIOR RECLAMATION GUIDELINES FOR RELEASE FROM REQUIREMENTS OF THE NEW MEXICO MINING ACT.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS CHECKLIST IS TO EQUITABLY CONDUCT EACH INSPECTION OF RECLAIMED AREAS TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE COMPLETED RECLAMATION SATISFIES THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE NEW MEXICO MINING ACT AND THE SUBSTANTIVE REQUIREMENTS FOR RECLAMATION PURSUANT TO THE APPLICABLE REGULATORY STANDARDS. IF THE DIRECTOR DETERMINES THAT THOSE REQUIREMENTS ARE MET, THE OPERATOR OR OWNER SHALL BE RELEASED FROM FURTHER REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE NEW MEXICO MINING ACT.

YES	NO	
	1)	Have all disturbed or affected areas of the mining operation been mitigated?
	2)	Has there been topdressing or topsoil replacement? If yes, approximate depth:
	3)	Is the material on the ground surface suitable for the re- establishment of vegetation and the post mining land use?
	4)	Is the reclaimed surface devoid of waste, ore or other mining debris (e.g. equipment & structures) that would hinder revegetation.
 	5)	Has the mitigated area been stabilized to effectively control erosion which would either disrupt the post-mining land use or the re-establishment of vegetation?
	6)	Do the reclaimed areas, to the extent practicable, provide stabilization that will minimize future impacts to the environment and protect air and water resources
	7)	Are the reconstructed slopes at lengths and gradients sufficient to allow vegetation establishment without excess erosion?
	8)	Do reconstructed drainages discharge onto undisturbed areas in a manner that will not cause accelerated erosion?
	9)	If rip-rap has been placed on reconstructed drainages, has it been placed correctly and is it of durable material and of suitable size?
	10	Has the disturbed area been reclaimed to a condition that will allow a self-sustaining ecosystem to establish as defined in Rule 1



BOX 27019 ALBUQUERQUE NEW MEXICO 87125 6200 UPTOWN BLVD NE SUITL 400 ALBUQUERQUE NM 87110 TEL 505-880-5300 FAX 505-880-5435

November 8, 1994

Mr. Holland Shephard Chief, Mining Act Reclamation Bureau 2040 Pacheco Drive Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505



Re: Request for additional information concerning prior reclamation

Dear Mr. Shephard:

I have received your September 19, 1994 letter requesting additional information on the sites potentially eligible for prior reclamation which we brought to your attention in our letter of August 31, 1994. With this letter we attempt to provide some of the information requested as to some of the sites. As in your August 31, 1994 letter, however, Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation ("SFPGC") again preserves all of its positions relating to the Act. Also, by providing certain information that is readily available to us and within the scope of your requests, SFPGC would like to preserve the position that the information requested is not "required" by any statutory or regulatory provision.

As you know, although Santa Fe holds interests in the properties it voluntarily identified in the August 31 letter, it did not own, conduct, or otherwise control any of the operations which were undertaken by third party mining companies pursuant to certain leases. As a result, SFPGC typically is not in a position to describe such things as all waste units, impoundments, stockpiles, leach piles, open pits or adits which may previously have been located at the sites. Similarly, SFPGC did not in many instances conduct the reclamation work, and so is not able to precisely describe such things as seed mixes, reclamation design, etc. Although SFPGC has voluntarily undertaken its own reclamation program at certain sites, (even prior to passage of the New Mexico Mining Act) it has done so voluntarily in the sense that it was motivated by its own corporate philosophy toward the environment rather than pursuant to any statutory, regulatory or other legal obligation.

Enclosed is the additional information we can provide, including what our latest records show as the names and addresses of the operators which should be able to provide the bulk of your desired data. We have also provided names and addresses of surface owners, since they are in the best--if not the only--position to know about post-mining land uses.

I hope this helps the Mining Act Reclamation Bureau. Please give me a call if you or your staff would like to discuss this further.

Very truly yours,

Tim Leftwich

Vice President -

Environmental Quality

TL:pt

Enclosure

State of New Mexico ENERGY, MINERALS and NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT Santa Fe. New Mexico 87505





ANITA LOCKWOOD CABINET SECRETARY

November 3, 1994

Mr. Tim Leftwich Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corp. Post Office Box 27019 Albuquerque, NM 87125

Re: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation's Prior Reclamation

Status, Faith Mine et al, McKinley Mine

Dear Mr. Leftwich:

Thank you for your letter dated August 31, 1994, requesting approval for the prior reclamation of Section's 1, 13, 17, 31, 19, 25 and Faith, Isabella, Johnny M, Marquez, SW 1/4 Sec. 13, and Poison Canyon Mine Areas.

Section 5.10 of the New Mexico Mining Commission Rule 94-1, requires that we conduct an inspection of your mine to determine if the prior reclamation "satisfy the requirements of the Act and the substantive requirements for reclamation pursuant to ..." the rules. In this case the Director of the Mining and Minerals Division will make a determination on the adequacy of your reclamation by September 30, 1995.

Your letter and a subsequent letter did include checks totalling \$3,000.00, since the Mining and Minerals Division has interpreted the rules to require \$250.00 for each mine site. The maps submitted identified the general areas where the mines were located. However, the following information is required before the application for prior reclamation status can be considered complete:

- a map of 1:24000 or larger scale (1:12000) showing the limits of the reclaimed area and the location, and a description, of any waste units, impoundments, stockpiles, leach piles, open pits or adits that are within this area;
- a discussion of post-mining land use for the site reclaimed;

VILLAGRA BUILDING - 408 Galisteo

Forestry and Resources Conservation Division
P.O. Box 1948 87504-1948
827-5830

Park and Recreation Division
P.O. Box 1147 87504-1147
827-7465

2040 South Pacheco

Office of the Secretary

Administrative Services 827-5925

Energy Conservation & Management 827-5900 Mining and Minerals 827-5970 LAND OFFICE BUILDING - 310 Old Santa Fe Trail

Oil Conservation Division P.O. Box 2088 87504-2088 827-5800 Mr. Tim Leftwich November 3, 1994 Page -2-

- a detailed description of the reclamation work performed, including types of reclamation conducted, amount of acres revegetated, the seed mix used, the current condition of the revegetation, etc., and how the reclamation project has been designed to achieve a self-sustaining ecosystem; and,
- 4. if part of the reclamation, a discussion of how the current reclamation of waste units, impoundments, stockpiles, tailings piles open pits or adits, have been designed to ensure compliance with all applicable federal and state standards for air, surface and ground water protection and to eliminate any future hazards to health and public safety.

Please call me at (505)827-5970 if you have any questions concerning the new regulations, the permit process or any other related issues.

Sincerely

HOLLAND SHEPHERD, Bureau Chief Mining Act Reclamation Bureau Mining and Minerals Division

HS/AJ/fg



Gallup Title Company

ABSTRACTS - ESCROWS · TITLE INSURANCE

October 13, 1954

Mr. G.R. Wagner Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corp. 6200 Uptown Blvd., NE, Suite 400 Albuquerque, NM 87110

VIA FAX: (505) 880-5435

Dear George:

Pursuant to your request of October 7, 1994 following are land ownerships and addresses of owners that you asked that I check on for you, to wit:

T.13N., R.EW, Section 7: Fernandez Company

5000 San Mateo

San Mateo, NM 87050

T.13N., R.9W, Sections 1,7,17,21,23,29, and 31:

Isabel 0. Marquez Solomon Marques, trustees of the Isabel O. Marquez

Trust

P.O. Box 3526

Milan, NM 87021

Section 19:

Isabel O. Marquez (above address)

T.13N., R.10W, Section 19:

Donna Jean-McKinnon & Frances Laree Fathree C/O Volton Tietjen

P.O. Box 125

Continental Divide, NM 87312

Section 25:

Berryhill Ranch, Ltd.

7000 W. 66 Ave.

Bluewater, NM 87005

T.13N., R.11W., Section 12(SW1/4):

Elkins Real Estate

P.G. Box 50

Prewitt, NM 84045

Continued...

Continued.....

T.14N., R.10W, Sections 13 & 15:

Jerry & Luann Elkins 1010 W. 66 Ave. Gallup, NM 87301

Sections 23 & 25:

Homestake Mining Co. P.O. Box 98 Grants, NM 87020-0011

If you need anything further, please advise.

Very truly yours

Philip Garcia ar

Sec. 13, TIN, ROW (Socorro Co, NM)

B.L. Henderson P.O. Box 286 Magdelona, n. M. 87825 BOX 27019 ALBUQUERQUE NEW MEXICO 87125 6200 UPTOWN BLVD NE SUITE 400 ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87110 TEL 505-880-5300 FAX 505-880-5435

A Santa Fe Pacific Company

September 19, 1994

Mr. John Lingo, Acting Director Mining and Minerals Division New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department 2040 South Pacheco Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is Santa Fe Pacific's check in the amount of \$3,000 which should have been enclosed with our letter of August 31, 1994 regarding our request for approval of prior reclamation in connection with the 1993 New Mexico Mining Act.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me.

Very truly yours,

G. R. Wagner

Manager - Lease Records

GRW:bls Enclosure

cc: T. J. Leftwich

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SANTA FE PACIFIC GOLD CORP.

THE NORTHERN TRUST COMPANY 2-16 710

No. 191790

Box 27019 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87125-7019 (505) 880-5300 A SANTA FE PACIFIC COMPANY

09/16/94

\$****3,000.00

PAY TO THE ORDER

> F NM ENERGY, MIN. & NAT. RES. DE MINING & MINERALS DIV. 2040 PACHECO STREET SANTA FE, NM 87505

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check # 47 21190907 for \$3,000.00 Corers these mines for prior redomation. arely

REQUESTS FOR PRIOR RECLAMATION

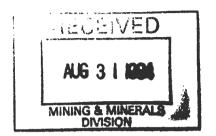
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BOX 27019 ALBUQUERQUE NEW MEXICO 87125 6200 UPTOWN BLVD NE, SUITE 400 ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87110 TEL 505-880-5300 FAX 505-880-5435

A Santa Fe Pacific Company

August 31, 1994 HAND DELIVERED



Mr. John Lingo, Director Mining & Minerals Division Energy, Minerals & Natural Resources Department 2040 Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation's Requests for Approval of Prior Reclamation

Dear Mr. Lingo:

On behalf of Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation, this letter is being hand-delivered along with a series of one-page submittals and accompanying maps identifying certain properties which it believes were previously mined by other companies for recovery of uranium ores. These submissions are made in a spirit of cooperation even though Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation believes it is not required to make the submittals or undertake any other action under the New Mexico Mining Act, if that Act is deemed to apply at all to the uranium operations conducted at the site. Further, these submissions are made with the expectation that they may overlap with submissions by companies which conducted or owned the operations causing any disturbances.

For each site, Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation would like to request that the Director of the Mining and Minerals Division approve prior reclamation efforts pursuant to the New Mexico Mining Act if the Director believes that the Mining Act may be applicable to the operations previously conducted thereon. Pursuant to our attorney's recent discussions with you, these submissions are made with the express understanding that Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation fully preserves and does not waive any of its positions that it has no obligations whatsoever under the Mining Act with respect to these sites including, but not limited to, the following positions:

Mr. John Lingo, Director August 31, 1994 Page 2

- 1. That any commodities or other materials produced from the properties or activities thereon constitute commodities, materials or activities regulated by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission such that the Mining Act does not apply;
- 2. That minerals were not produced from the properties in marketable quantities for a total of two years since January 1, 1970;
- 3. That as mere owner of mineral interests and lessor under instrument(s) pursuant to which operations owned and conducted by others occurred on the properties, Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation was not and is not an operator or owner of the operations with responsibilities, if there be any, under the Mining Act; and
- 4. That Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has no obligation whatsoever to request approval of prior reclamation or carry out other responsibilities, if there be any, pertaining to the properties in relation to the Mining Act.

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation makes these submissions with the further understanding that neither the submissions themselves, nor anything stated therein, nor the fact of making the submissions shall be advanced in any context, form or respect by the State of New Mexico or any agency or subdivision thereof as evidence or as an admission of any kind on any issue which may exist or hereafter arise in relation to Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation or its mineral properties in connection with the Mining Act. The same understanding applies in all respects to this letter.

With the exception of two mines, Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation believes these submissions cover all of its New Mexico properties that might conceivably be argued as properties on which "existing mining operations" are situated. The first such exception is the Northeast Church Rock Mine in Section 35, Township 17 North, Range 16 West. The Northeast Church Rock Mine was operated by United Nuclear Corporation under a lease with Santa Fe Pacific Minerals Corporation, now Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation. That lease recently terminated after the adoption of the New Mexico Mining Act.

The second uranium mine for which submission is not made with this letter is the Old Church Rock Mine in Section 17, Township 16 North, Range 16 West. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation believes that ongoing mining operations exist or are contemplated at that site by its most current lessee, Hydro Resources, Inc., and is informed that that company is already in contact with MMD

Mr. John Lingo, Director August 31, 1994 Page 3

concerning any Mining Act responsibilities that may be applicable to the operations.

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation's purpose for voluntarily submitting the enclosed requests for approval of prior reclamation, and for identifying in this letter the two leased uranium mine sites for which no submissions are made, is to cooperate fully and in a spirit of good faith so as to assist the Mining and Minerals Division in its tasks of identifying and narrowing down the potential Mining Act-regulated operations that may require a greater level of regulatory involvement.

If you have any questions concerning this letter, the enclosed submissions or the nonwaiver/preservation of rights language included, please do not hesitate to call.

Very truly yours

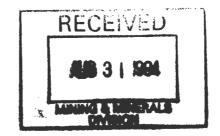
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Request For Approval Of Prior Reclamation

Name Of Mine: Johnny M Mine

Topographic Location Of Mine: Section 7, T.13N., R.8W.



Operator Name: Ranchers Exploration

Description Of Site Condition: Ranchers had limited operations on this section under a lease from Santa Fe Pacific Minerals Corporation. This section was reclaimed in 1987. Surface disturbance areas were revegetated with native species and topography returned to original contour to the extent feasible. Mine features were backfilled or otherwise safeguarded.

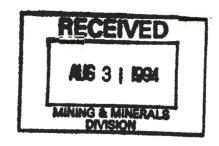
Date Of Request: August 31, 1994

Non-waiver/Preservation Of Rights: This request for approval of prior reclamation is made with the express understanding that Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation fully preserves and does not waive any of its positions that it has no obligations whatsoever under the Mining Act with respect to these sites including, but not limited to, the following positions:

- 1. That any commodities or other materials produced from the properties or activities thereon constitute commodities, materials or activities regulated by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission such that the Mining Act does not apply;
- 2. That minerals were not produced from the properties in marketable quantities for a total of two years since January 1, 1970;
- 3. That as mere owner of mineral interests and lessor under instrument(s) pursuant to which operations owned and conducted by others occurred on the properties, Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation was not and is not an operator or owner of the operations with responsibilities, if there be any, under the Mining Act; and
- 4. That Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has no obligation whatsoever to request approval of prior reclamation or carry out other responsibilities, if there be any, pertaining to the properties in relation to the Mining Act.

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation makes this submission with the further understanding that neither the submission itself, nor anything stated therein, nor the fact of making the submission shall be advanced in any context, form or respect by the State of New Mexico or any agency or subdivision thereof as evidence or as an admission of any kind on any issue which may exist or hereafter arise in relation to Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation or its mineral properties in connection with the Mining Act.





August 30, 1994

Mr. Holland Shepherd Chief, Mining Act Reclamation Bureau Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department State of New Mexico 2040 S. Pacheco Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Hope, Doris, and Johnny M Mines RE:

Dear Mr. Shepherd:

This letter is written to request an inspection for prior reclamation for the Hope and Doris Mines. You will find Hecla's check number 0110-026005 for \$500 enclosed to cover the inspection fees for the two mines.

We will forward the additional information requested in items 1 through 4 of your August 29, 1994, letter to you by October 15, 1994.

Regarding the Johnny M Mine, enclosed is a copy of the May 21, 1993, federal register notice of the NRC's findings of the reclaimed site and their decision to terminate the radioactive materials license.

If you need additional information, please give me a call at (208) 769-4154.

Very truly yours,

Environmental Supervisor

Larry Drew cc:

George Wilhelm

21, 1993. Copies of these petitions are available for inspection at that address.

Dated: May 14, 1993.

Patricia W. Silvey,

Director, Office of Standards, Regulations and Variances.

[FR Doc. 93-12131 Filed 5-20-93; 8:45 am] BILLING CODE 4510-43-P

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

Performance Review Board

AGENCY: National Endowment for the Humanities, NFAH. ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a revision in the membership of the SES Executive Resources and Performance Review Board.

Effective May 14, 1993, Michael S. Shapiro, General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel/Congressional Liaison, has been designated to replace Anne D. Neal, General Counsel, Office of General Counsel/Congressional Liaison, as a Member of the SES Performance Review Board. Mr. Shapiro will serve the unexpired portion of Anne D. Neal's term through December 31, 1993. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Timothy G. Connelly, Director of Personnel, National Endowment for the Humanities, 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW., Washington, D.C. 20506.

Donald Gibson,

Acting Chairperson.

[FR Doc. 93-12129 Filed 5-20-93; 8:45 am] BILLING CODE 7536-01-M

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Special Emphasis Panel In Research, Evaluation, and Dissemination: Meeting

In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, as amended), the National Science Foundation announces the following meeting.

Date and Time: June 7-8, 1993; 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Place: The River Inn, 924 Twenty Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC.

Type of Meeting: Closed. Contact Person: Ms. Barbara Lovitts. Division of Research, Evaluation and

Dissemination, rm. 1227, National Science Foundation, 1800 G Street, NW., Washington, DC 20550, Telephone (202) 357-7071.

Purpose of Meeting: To provide advice and recommendations concerning proposals submitted to NSF for financial support.

Agenda: To review and evaluate research proposals submitted to the Research in

Teaching and Learning Program as part of the selection process for awards.

Reason for Closing: The proposals being reviewed include information of a proprietary or confidential nature, including technical information; financial data, such as salaries; and personal information concerning individuals associated with the proposals. These matters are exempt under 5 U.S.C. 552b(c), (4) and (6) of the Government in the Sunshine Act.

Dated: May 18, 1993.

M. Rebecca Winkler,

Committee Management Officer. [FR Doc. 93-12132 Filed 5-20-93; 8:45 am] BILLING CODE 7555-01-M

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 40-8914]

Hecla Mining Co.; Final Finding of No Significant Impact Regarding the Termination of a Source Material License for Hecla Mining Company, Johnny M Mine Site, McKinley County, New Mexico

AGENCY: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of final finding of no significant impact.

1. Proposed Action

The proposed administrative action is to terminate the source material license authorizing Hecla Mining Company (Hecla) to possess byproduct material at the Johnny M Mine, McKinley County, New Mexico.

2. Reasons for the Final Finding of No Significant Impact

The Johnny M Mine located near San Mateo, New Mexico, was operated by Ranchers Exploration and Development (predecessor to Hecla Mining Company) from early 1972 to late 1982. The mining operation included backfilling of mined-out areas with mill tailings. The tailings were returned to the site from the mill which processed the ore. An estimated 286,000 tons of tailings were injected into the mine. Disposal depths ranged from 1134 feet to 1148 feet and from 1162 feet to 1183 feet below the surface (using the shaft for datum) or about 1100 to 1300 feet underground, depending on the terrain.

Reclamation of the mine property began in early 1982. The mine shaft was sealed with a 4-foot thick water ring reinforced concrete plug set between the Dakota formation and the Westwater Canyon member of the Morrison formation. The portal was sealed with a 12-inch thick reinforced concrete plug,

and a 20-inch diameter capped steel pipe was set in the concrete.

The radiological reclamation plan for the site consisted of removing the remaining surface contamination until appropriate standards were met. The underground tailings were to be left undisturbed. The contaminated material was transported to and disposed of at the Quivira Mining Company's Pond 2 disposal area.

The NRC staff evaluated an Environmental Report, submitted by the licensee on February 26, 1993, addressing the effect of the proposed action on the environment.

In accordance with Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 51, Section 51.21, NRC prepared an environmental assessment addressing the proposed termination of the license. As a result of that assessment, the NRC has determined that an environmental impact statement is not required for this proposed licensing action. The following statements support the Finding of No Significant Impact and summarize the environmental assessment:

A. In accordance with 10 CFR 51.60(b)(3), the licensee submitted an Environmental Report documenting the potential environmental effects of the proposed change.

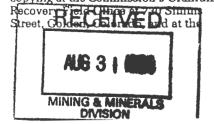
B. The closure of site meets all the criteria of 10 CFR Part 40, appendix A. It was determined that the ground water has not been significantly affected by the tailings. Surface reclamation has been verified by soil sampling. The deed to the land has been annotated to indicate that the tailings are present and that they are subject to an NRC general license under Title 10, Part 40, Code of Federal Regulations, prohibiting the disruption and disturbance of the tailings.

C. The site has been reclaimed to the requirements of 10 CFR Part 40, Paragraph 40.42, and is suitable for release for unrestricted use.

D. There is no need for long-term surveillance of the site due to the location of the tailings in the mine.

In accordance with 10 CFR 51.34(a), the Director, Uranium Recovery Field Office (URFO), made the determination to issue a final finding of no significant impact in the Federal Register. Source Material License SUA-1482 for the Johnny M Mine will be terminated upon publication in the Federal Register.

The environmental evaluations setting forth the basis for the finding are available for public inspection and copying at the Commission's Uranium



Commission's Public Document Room at 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC.

Dated at Denver, Colorado, this 13th day of May 1993.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Ramon E. Hall,

Director, Uranium Recovery Field Office.
[FR Doc. 93-12090 Filed 5-20-93; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 7590-01-M

Northeast Nuclear Energy Co.; Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

[Docket No. 50-245]

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory
Commission (the Commission) is
considering issuance of an amendment
to an exemption from the requirements
of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J,
Paragraph III.C.1 issued to the Northeast
Nuclear Energy Company (NNECO or
the licensee) for Millstone Nuclear
Power Station, Unit 1, located in New
London County, Connecticut.

Environmental Assessment

Identification of the Proposed Action

The proposed action would correct an administrative error. The exemption, which was issued on June 5, 1991, granted exemptions for Penetrations X-25, X-26, X-202E and X-205 from the local leak test (Type C) requirements of 10 CFR part 50, appendix J, section III.C.1. The NRC staff concluded that the proposed alternative test procedures are the most conservative with the existing configuration and will test both valve seals to provide indication of the leak tightness of the containment boundaries. In a letter dated April 15, 1993, NNECO stated that one of the penetrations was not correctly identified, penetration X-202E should have been X-202D, and requested that the exemption be corrected.

The Nued for the Proposed Action

The proposed exemption amendment is needed to correctly identify the subject penetration.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The proposed exemption amendment corrects a misidentified penetration and, therefore, does not have any environmental impact. In the June 5, 1991, exemption, Penetration X–202E should have been X–202D. Penetration X–202E is for a vacuum breaker (torus to drywell) and does not require 10 CFR part 50, appendix J testing.

Thus, radiological releases will not differ from those determined previously and the proposed exemption -

amendment does not otherwise affect facility radiological effluents or occupational exposures. With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed exemption amendment does not affect plant nonradiological effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes there are no measurable radiological or nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemption amendment.

Alternative to the Proposed Action

Since the Commission has concluded there is no measurable environmental impact associated with the proposed exemption amendment, any alternative to this amendment will have either no significant different environmental impact or greater environmental impact. The principal alternative would be to deny the exemption amendment requested. Such action would not enhance the protection of the environment and would result in the misidentification of the penetration.

Alternative Use of Resources

This action does not involve the use of resources not considered previously in the Final Environmental Statement for Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit 1.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

The NRC staff reviewed the licensee's request and did not consult other agencies or persons.

Finding of No Significant Impact

Based on the foregoing environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed exemption amendment.

For further details with respect to this proposed action, see the licensee's letter dated April 15, 1993, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC 20555, and at the local public document room located at the Learning Resources Center, Thames Valley State Technical College, 574 New London Turnpike, Norwich, Connecticut 06360.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 13th day of May 1993.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

John F. Stolz, Director,

Project Directorate I-4, Division of Reactor Projects—I/II, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 93-12092 Filed 5-20-93; 8:45 am]

[Docket Nos. 50–269, 50–270, and 50–287; License Nos. DRP–38, DPR–47, and DPR– 55; EA 92–211]

Duke Power Co., Oconee Nuclear Station; Order Imposing Civil Monetary Penalty

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Duke Power Company (Licensee) is the holder of License Nos. DPR-38, DPR-47, and DPR-55 issued by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or Commission) on February 6, 1973, October 6, 1973, and July 19, 1974, respectively. The licenses authorize the Licensee to operate the Oconee Nuclear Station in accordance with the conditions specified therein.

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An inspection of the Licensee's activities was conducted on September 26-November 3, 1992. The results of this inspection indicated that the Licensee had not conducted its activities in full compliance with NRC requirements. A written Notice of Violation and Proposed Imposition of Civil Penalty (Notice) was served upon the Licensee by letter dated December 28, 1992. The Notice stated the nature of the violation, the provision of the NRC's requirements that the Licensee had violated, and the amount of the civil penalty proposed for the violation. The Licensee responded to the Notice by letter dated February 25, 1993. In its. response, the Licensee requested that the civil penalty be mitigated because the violation was not safety significant and by itself does not warrant significant regulatory concern and that the particular example cited does not adequately consider all of the related information that accompanied the discovery and identification of the degraded Low Pressure Service Water System flow condition.

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After consideration of the Licensee's response and the statements of fact, explanation, and argument for mitigation contained therein, the NRC staff has determined, as set forth in the Appendix to this Order, that the violation occurred as stated and that the penalty proposed for the violation

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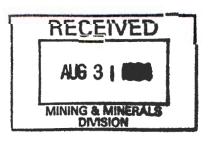
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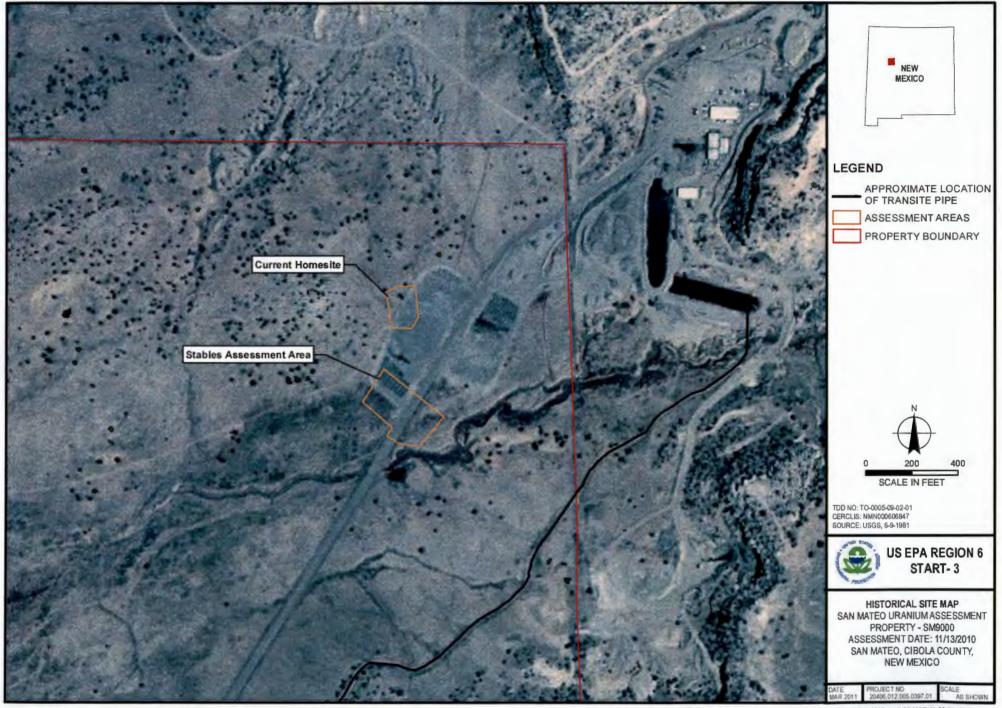
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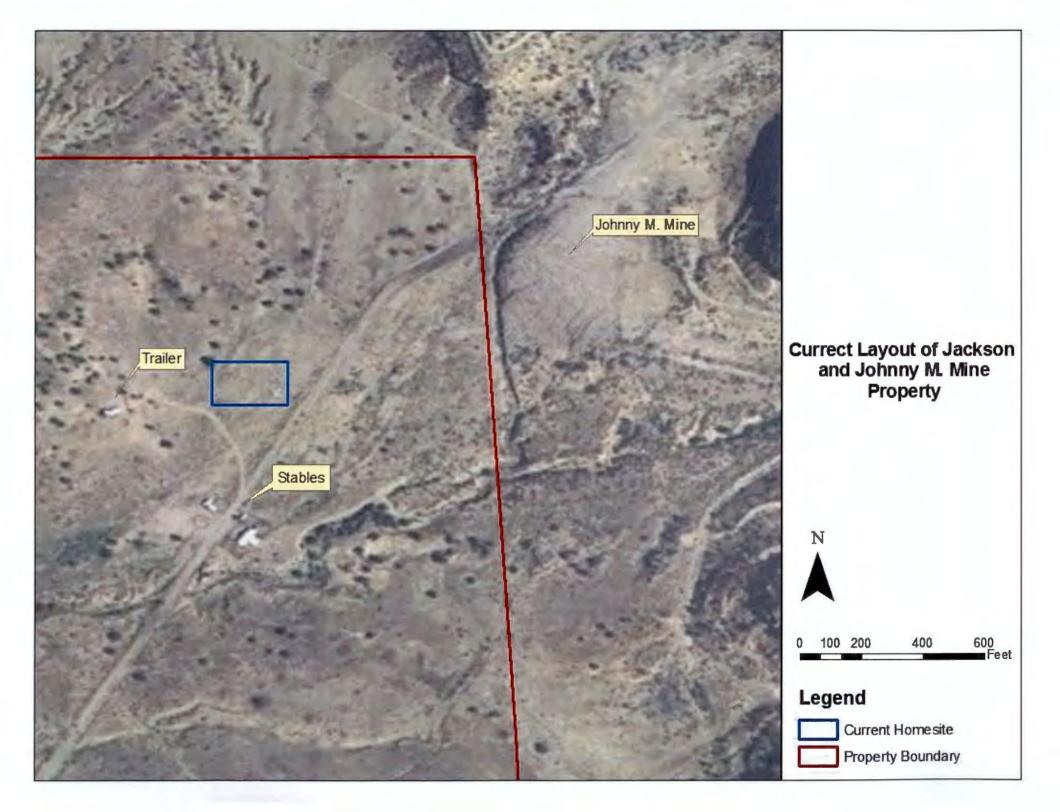
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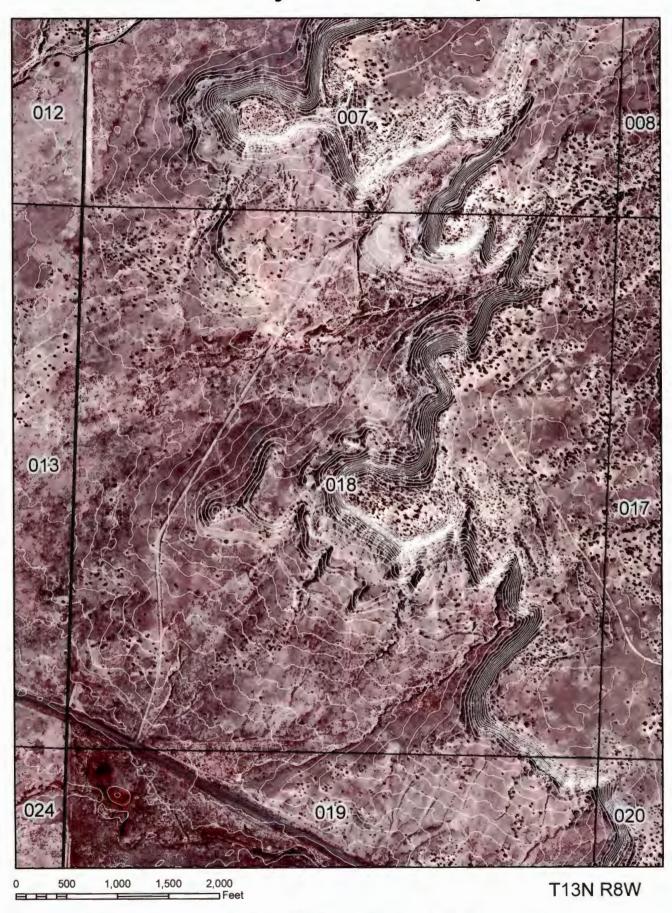
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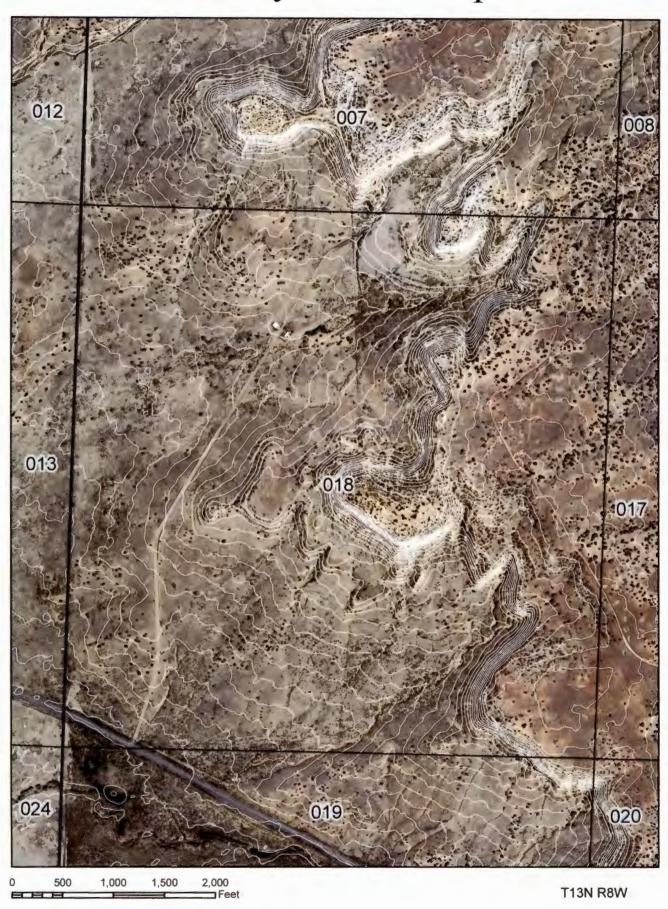






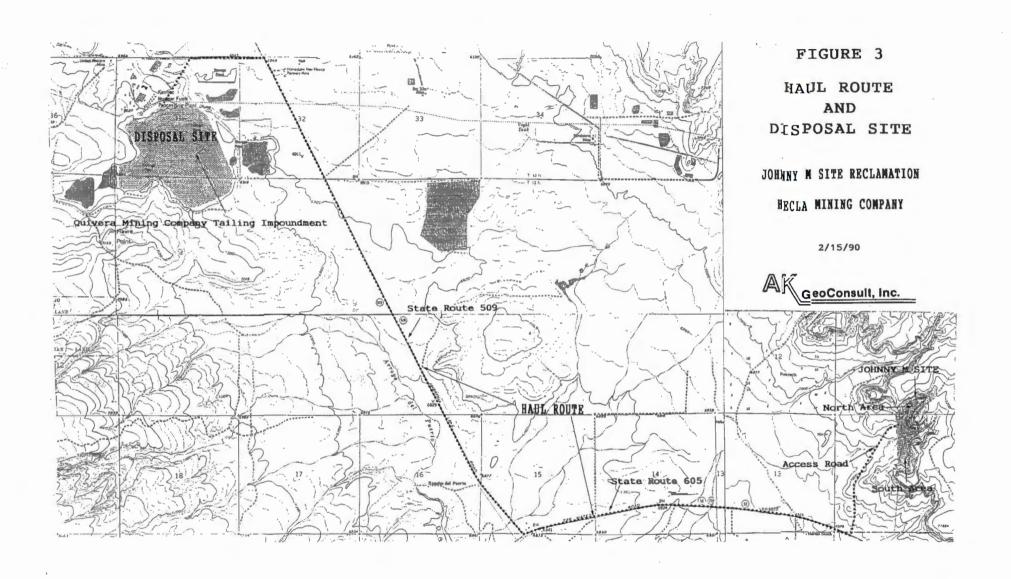


Contour interval (CI) = 10 ft. Contours generated from an enhanced 2005 10m DEM of the San Mateo quadrangle. Imagery is 1m 2005-2006 color infrared (CIR) digital orthophotography of the San Mateo, NM, NW quarter. http://rgis.unm.edu/browsedata is the source for all GIS data.



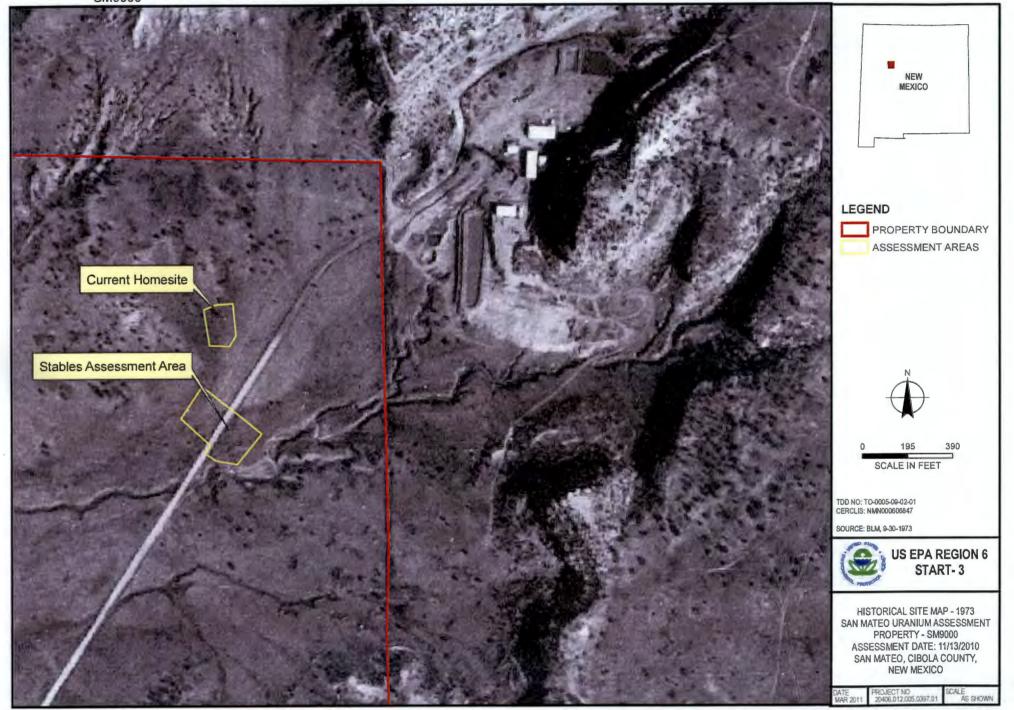
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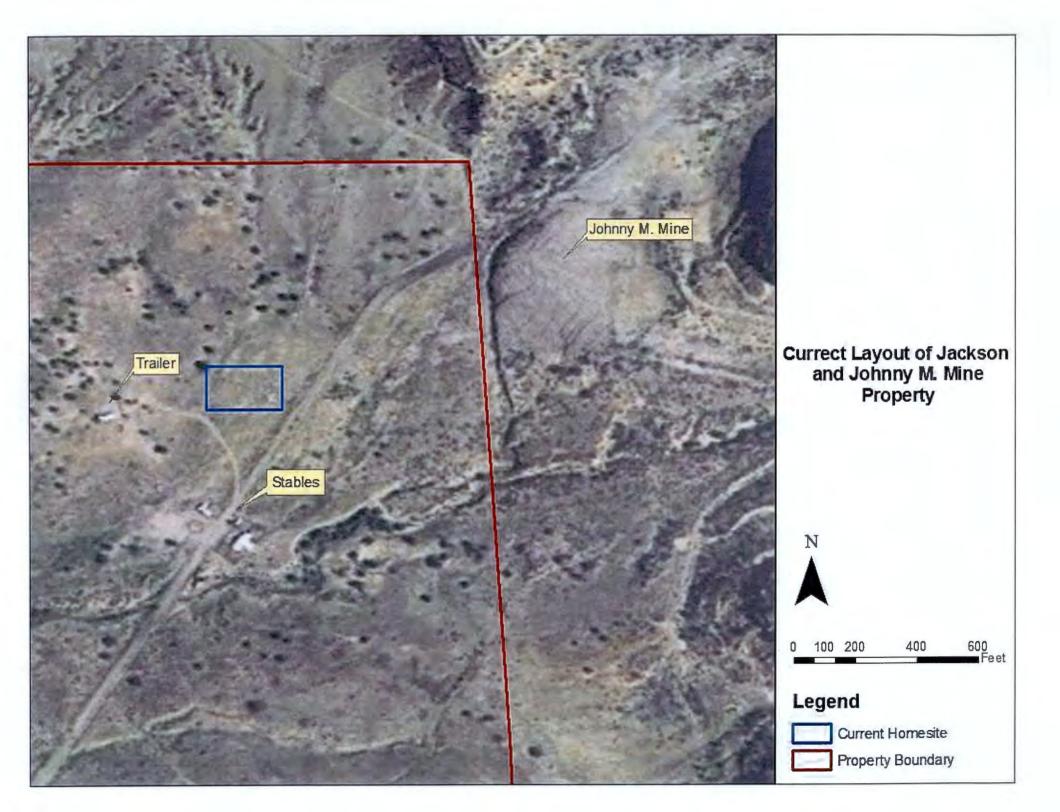
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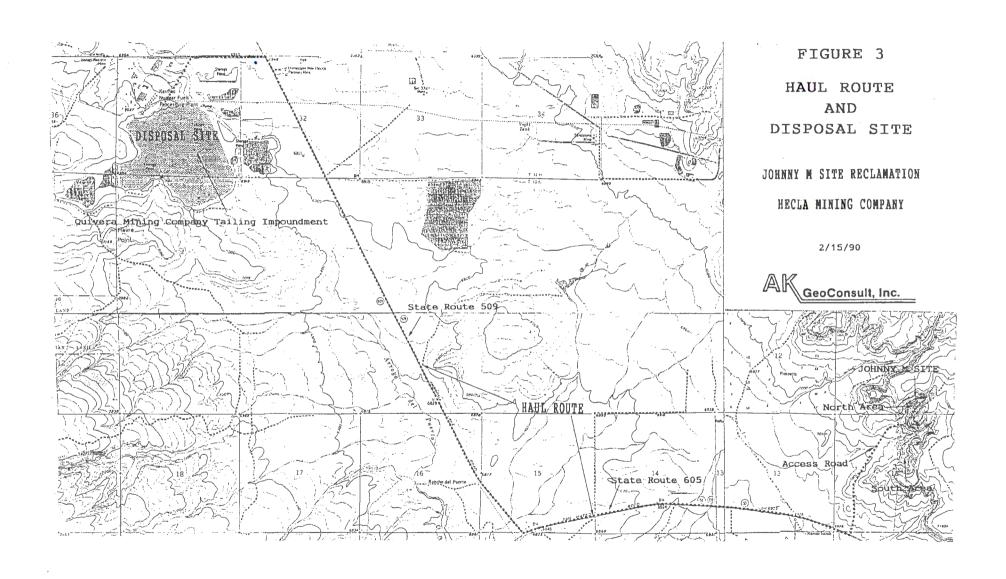


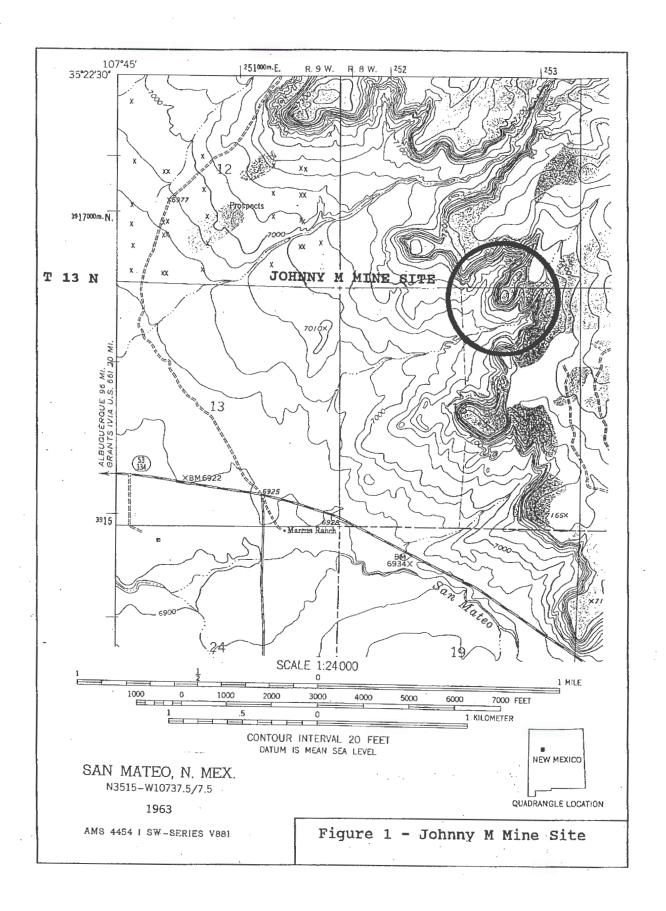
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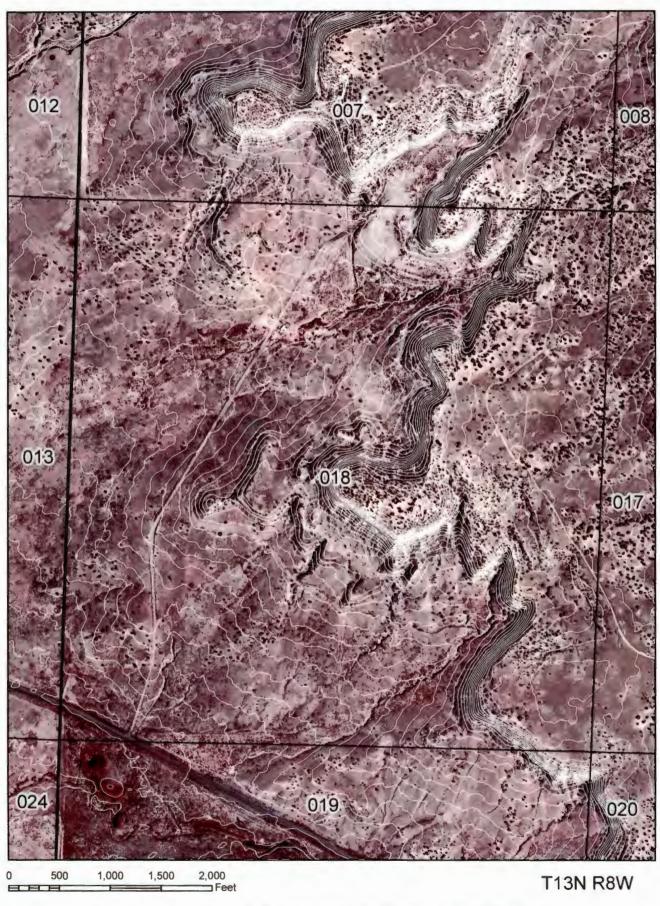




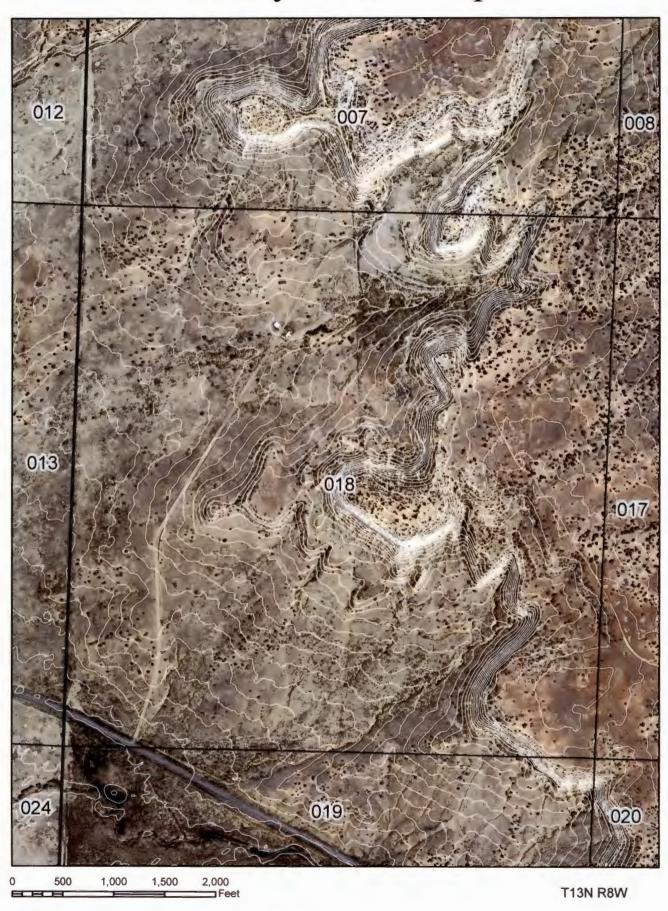








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