MK016PR POISON CANYON MINE



NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS and NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

GARY E. JOHNSON Governor Jennifer A. Salisbury Cabinet Secretary Douglas M. Bland Director Mining and Minerals Division

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February 8, 2001

David Baker Vice President Environmental Affairs 1700 Lincoln St. Denver, Co. 80203

Re: Release of the Poison Canyon Mine from the New Mexico Mining Act

Dear Mr. Baker,

The Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) has previously received a request for release of the Poison Canyon Mine site north of Grants, NM. It was determined at that time, that though the site met the established vegetation standards, it did not meet substantive requirements pursuant to Subpart 5 because of the presence of a large erosion gully capable of negatively impacting reclamation. Therefore it could not be released from responsibilities under the New Mexico Mining Act (NMMA).

Newmont Mining Company (Newmont) understood that in order to be released from the NMMA, it had to take measures necessary to mitigate and control the large erosion gully. This requirement was conveyed to Newmont by MMD in a letter dated September 8, 2000. Newmont subsequently agreed to perform erosion control work at the site in January 2001.

This work was in fact completed on January 10, 2001. An MMD staff member inspected the erosion control work on that day and documented by digital camera, the quality and apparent effectiveness of the measures taken by Newmont. After review of the inspection report and photos, MMD has made the determination that the reclamation work performed at Poison Canyon Mine has met the requirements of the NMMA §69-36-7U and §510 of the NMMA Rules.

MMD would like to commend Newmont Mining Company for their timely and professional cooperation in completing the requirements for release of the mine site.

February 8, 2001 Page 2

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By Order of the Director, MMD hereby releases the Poison Canyon Mine site from further duties under the NMMA in accordance with §510 of the Mining Act Rules.

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Douglas M.Bland Division Director Mining and Minerals Division



NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS and NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

GARY E. JOHNSON Governor Jennifer A. Salisbury Cabinet Secretary Douglas M. Bland Director Mining and Minerals Division

MEMO

Date:	February 6, 2001
То:	Doug Bland, Division Director
From:	Karen Garcia, Permit Lead
Thru:	Fernando R. Martinez, Program Manager
Subject:	Release of Poison Canyon Mine Prior Rec site.

You'll find attached the documentation necessary to make the release determination for the prior rec site mentioned above. They completed the erosion control work as we requested. Mickey's inspection report and photos are attached as well as our previous letter. They did an extraordinarily good job on laying back slopes and riprapping the erosion gully that we identified as a problem.

I believe, as you'll see by the attached photos that they have indeed met their obligation and have completed reclamation on this site. It appears appropriate to for MMD to now release this site.

If you need further information please contact me.

Attachments: Release Letter (suggested) MMD's September 8th letter Inspection Report Before and After photos

STATE OF NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT Director Mining and Minerals Division 2040 South Pacheco St. Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505 Telephone: (505) 827-5970

MINING INSPECTION REPORT

Name of Operator:	Newmont Min	ning Company
Name of Mine:	Poison Canyo	on Mine (North of Grants)
Address:		
Permit Number:	Prior Reclama	ation
Commodity:	Uranium	X_SURFACEUNDERGROUND
Date of Inspection:		1/10/01
Time of On-Site Ins	pection:	9:00 am to 12:00 pm
Weather Conditions	5:	Cool and cloudy, ~35*, light snow on ground
Purpose of Inspecti	on:	Prior reclamation Release inspection
Lead Inspector:		Mickey Jojola
Present During Insp	pection:	Mickey Jojola, Joe Pollara (Newmont)
CESSATION ORDER	[ION: # R:	None YES:NO:X YES:NO:X Review:1Travel:3Report Writing:0.5
TOTAL INSPECTION		
NOTE:		

Bond Release Inspection 1/10/01 Poison Canyon Mine Newmont Mining Corporation

NARRATIVE:

I met with Joe Pollara in Grants prior to visiting the site to be inspected. I was briefed as to what work was to be done and the expected completion time. From Grants we headed north to the site. When we arrived at the site work had already begun adding rock to the erosional gully. A non-woven geotextile was placed under the rock to inhibit further erosion. Slopes within the gully were reduced considerably to approximately 5 to 1 or less. A minor erosional channel to the east of the main gully was also reduced and rock was placed within that area to eliminate any undercutting of the area which was being reclaimed. Photos were taken to show the areas that were being riprapped.

The work was well underway when we left the site with minimal rock left to be hauled and placed, disturbed area (area where the loader had driven) disked, and seed to be spread.

MAINTENANCE ITEMS:	None
ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS TAKEN:	None
INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: Mickey Joiola DATE:	2/6/01

DEVERE EROSION CHUSED BY RUAD BUILDING - WEST SIDE OF PITS











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Newmont Mining Corporation

Fax

To:	Kare	en Garcia		From:	Joe Pollara	
Fax	505	-827-7195		Pages:	6	
Phone	:			Date:	12/04/00	
Re:	Pois	on Canyon Stabiliz	ation	CC:	<u></u>	
🗆 Urg	ent	× For Review	🛛 Please (Comment	🛛 Please Reply	🗌 Please Recycle

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Karen:

Please take a look at this design for stabilizing the erosion feature at the Poison Canyon mine site and let me know if you have any comments. I will try to complete this work the last week of December.

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Joe

SHEPHERD MILLER, INC. Environmental and Engineering Consultants

MEMORANDUM

DATE: 9-Nov-00

SMI # 100735

Joe Pollara, NGC (EDE) 837-5154 TO:

FROM: Phil Leonhardt

SUBJECT: Poison Canyon Head Cut (p:\100735\joepollara.doc)

COPY: Toby Wright

Joe, this memo summarizes an approach to stabilizing a headcut in the Poison Canyon area near grants N.M. Given information is as follows:

design storm is the 100 year-24 hr = 2.8 in drainage area is 160 acres main stem length is 3000 ft slope - 5%

Requested information included a riprap and filter fabric specification for a trapezoidal channel design. Hand-drawn sketches of the design were also requested.

Based on the photos supplied, I assumed that the gully is about four feet deep, 8 to 10 feet wide at the base and 100 feet long.

Hydrology

I calculated a 100yr-1 hr rainfall of 1.8 inches/hour using guidelines in the NOAA Atlas for New Mexico. Using the rational formula Q=Cia, where C= 0.82, i=1.8 in/hr, and a=160 acres; Qpeak = 236 cfs.

Hydraulics

Our recommended approach to stabilize the headcut is to flatten the slopes in the area of the head of the gully and cover the regraded area with riprap. This would stabilize the headcut but not change the gully downstream of the end of the trapezoidal channel. I don't believe this presents any stability issues but may not be desirable from an aesthetic standpoint. The sideslopes of the gully will erode to some semi-stable slope with time.

Channel design was done using Flowmaster software. Assuming a trapezoidal channel with a 6foot bottom width, the flow depth would be 2.17 feet and the flow velocity would be 10.53 fps. Riprap sizing calculations followed FHA procedures presented in Hahn and Barfield (1994).

P1100735 Jocpolian doc

3801 Automation Way, Suite 100, Fort Collins, Colorado 80525 Telephone (970) 223-9600 / FAX (970) 223-7171

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Specifications, Quantities and Construction

Sketches and calculations are attached to this memo. A brief summary of the design and specifications is provided below:

1. Regrade the nick point area to 4:1 and cover with a heavy-duty non-woven geotextile (minimum weight of 80z. per square yard). Over the geotextile place a 2-foot thick layer of riprap (D_{50} = 12 inches, D_{100} = 18 inches, D_{30} = 8 inches). The riprap shall be a hard, durable stone and have a specific gravity greater than 2.5. Thicken the upstream edge of the riprap to 3 feet as shown on section D - D'.

2. Transition into a riprap-lined (same spec as above) trapezoidal channel with 2:1 sideslopes, a bottom width about equal to the width of the existing gully, and 3 feet deep, then

3. End the channel after about 10 feet with a thickened edge as shown on section C - C'.

A medium-sized hydraulic excavator is the ideal equipment for the required regrading and rock placement. The rock reinforcement should not be placed on fill since it is unlikely that the contractor would have equipment available to adequately compact any fill. Filter fabric should be overlapped at least 6 inches and shingled (upstream piece over downstream piece). At the upstream edge of the 4:1 area, the filter fabric should be well anchored at the bottom of the trench for the thickened edge. Also at the upstream edge, the shape of the reinforced area may need to be modified to fit field conditions and ensure that all flow in the gully enters the ripraped area.

Approximately 50 cy of soil will need excavating. Approximately 80 cy of riprap and 1200 sq.ft of filter fabric is needed.

P:\100735\joepollam.doe



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CLIENT NGC PROJECT POISON CANYON DATE 11/9/00 DATE CHECKED COMPUTED BY P $d_{max} = 5 \frac{D_{50}}{XS} = 67.4 S = 0.05$ dmux = 1.6 Dso V= 1.486 R23 S12 R= hydraulic radius V= 37.7 R^{2/3} S^{1/2} - Manning egen w/ n= 0.0395 Doo assume R= clmax $V = \frac{37.7}{D_{0}\%} (1.6 D_{50})^{2} (0.05)^{2}$ V= 115 Don'z Q = UA236= 11.5), o 22.4 A=22,4 AE Dso= 0,88 Ft= 10,6in ruy 12" (Leek n= 0.0395 D50"6 n= 0.639 - assumed 0.04 0.K $D_{100} = 1.5 \ D_{50} = 18''$ $D_{30} = 0.66 \ D_{50} = 8''$ Quantitier 4=1 area = TT 18 x 2 = 127 pt2 transition 20×31 = 620 ft2 Channel 10×25 250 Aren= 997 Ft2 × 2' thick × = 74 ey THICKEND = (1'x3'x40') = 120'= 4.5cy RIRRAP SOCY 1200 st- Filter FABRIC

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Trapezoidal Channel Analysis & Design Open Channel - Uniform flow

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Worksheet Name: Poison Canyon

Comment:

Solve For Depth

Given Input Data:

Bottom Width	6.00 ft
Left Side Slope	2.00:1 (H:V)
Right Side Slope.	2.00:1 (H:V)
Manning's n	0.040
Channel Slope	0.0500 ft/ft
Discharge	236.00 cfs

Computed Results:

Depth	2.17 ft
Velocity 1	0.53 fps
Flow Area 2	2.41 sf
Flow Top Width 1	4.67 ft
Wetted Perimeter. 1	5.70 ft
Critical Depth	2.70 ft
	0.0210 ft/ft
Froude Number	1.50 (flow is Supercritical)

A= 2.17×6 + 2.172×2 = 224

2.17 (2.17)2



hydraulic radius = $\frac{22.4}{4.85(2)+6}$ = 1.43

Open Channel Flow Module, Version 3.21 (c) 1990 Haestad Methods, Inc. * 37 Brookside Rd * Waterbury, Ct 06708

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NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS and NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

GARY E. JOHNSON Governor Jennifer A. Salisbury Cabinet Secretary Douglas M. Bland Director Mining and Minerals Division

September 8, 2000

David Baker Vice President Environmental Affairs 1700 Lincoln St. Denver, Co. 80203

Re: Release of the Poison Canyon Mine from the New Mexico Mining Act

Dear Mr. Baker,

On May 30, 1996 Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation applied for a variance requesting an extension of time to allow the Poison Canyon Mine site's re-vegetation to become established. The Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) granted the variance on June 24, 1996 for a period of 5 years. Newmont Mining Company, current owner of the mine, contacted MMD earlier this summer to request an inspection for release of the site. MMD staff conducted an inspection at the reclaimed mine site on August 16, 2000.

In accordance with the NMMA § 69-36-7U, and § 510 of the NMMA Rules, the Mining and Minerals Division has made a decision regarding release of the Poison Canyon Mine from further requirements of the NMMA.

In order for a site to be released from further requirements of the NMMA under prior reclamation, the standards set in the NMMA Rules § 510.B must be met. The Rule states, "The director shall release the owner or operator from further requirements of the Act and of this Part if, after an inspection of the reclaimed areas, he determines that the reclamation measures satisfy the requirements of the Act and the substantive requirements for reclamation pursuant to this Part." The substantive requirements for reclamation in Part 5 of the Rules in part can be found in § 506.J.3. which states, "the work to be done will reclaim disturbed areas within the permit area to a condition that allows for re-establishment of a self sustaining ecosystem on the permit area following closure, appropriate for the life zone of the surrounding area..."

Inspections, including vegetative sampling were conducted in September 1995 and recently on August 16, 2000. It was noted during the 1995 inspection that the Poison

Poison Canyon September 8, 2000

Canyon Mine reclamation showed significant signs of invasion by undesirable weedy species of plants and lack of plant diversity. Therefore, the site was not released at that time. During the August 2000 inspection, MMD staff reported that native perennial grass, shrub and forb species have successfully established dominance of the site. Please refer to the attached 1995 and August 2000 inspection reports.

The well established four-wing saltbush (*Atriplex spp.*) western wheatgrass (*Agropyron Smithii*)/ blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*) community now inhabiting the site make up the majority of the vegetative cover. This is consistent with the natural vegetation composition in the surrounding undisturbed areas adjacent to the mine site. Though there is a small pocket of sunflower (*Heliantus spp.*), an undesirable annual forb, persisting in the pit bottom, indications are that the sunflower population has been receding and will continue to do so as it is replaced by more permanent perennial species.

The results of the recent August vegetative survey conducted by MMD staff show that the agreed upon vegetative standard of 75% of the Range Site Description (RSD) was met. Please refer to the attached August 2000 Inspection Report for details. The standard included a 13.5% average canopy cover (75%RSD) and a diversity index equal to the RSD. The site contains an average of 34% cover, well over the minimum standard.

While the vegetative requirements have been met, MMD also must consider all aspects including substantive requirements as stated above, when determining eligibility for release. This includes overall stability of the site demonstrated by the lack of erosion features. During the August inspection, MMD staff noted a particularly severe erosion gully which appears to be actively growing and has potential to compromise the reclamation at the mine site.

In order for MMD to determine that the site is releasable in accordance with the NMMA, we must determine that the site has met the substantive requirements pursuant to Subpart 5. Reclamation measures must include, as defined by 107.HH of the Mining Act Rules, stabilization of a permit area following closure. The presence of a 4 ft erosion gully capable of negatively impacting reclamation at the site prevents us from making that determination at this time.

Therefore, MMD requests that Newmont Mining Company take steps to control further erosion in the above mentioned gully. In discussions with Newmont Mining Co. personnel regarding this issue, it appears that mitigation of the gully erosion is possible without creating a larger disturbance. Once this has been accomplished and MMD staff have inspected the site, it may then be appropriate to immediately release the site from further requirements of the NMMA. Please notify our office at least one week prior to estimated completion of work at the site so that MMD staff can have an opportunity to inspect the adequacy of the erosion control measures taken. At that time MMD will reevaluate appropriateness of release of the site. We are available to discuss some possible erosion control measures that could be implemented that would satisfy Mining Act requirements. Poison Canyon September 8, 2000

> Please respond to this request by October 7, 2000. If the site has not been released by June 24, 2001, Newmont Mining Company may be required to permit the mine site in accordance with Subpart 5 of the NMMA.

> Please feel free to call Karen Garcia at (505) 827-5982 or me at (505) 827-5974 if you have questions or wish to discuss the terms of release of the Poison Canyon Mine.

Sincerely,

Ambld

Douglas M. Bland Division Director

cc: VKaren W. Garcia, Permit Lead Fernando R. Martinez, Program Manager Kerrie E. Neet, Bureau Chief, Mine Regulatory Bureau

PRIOR RECLAMATION INSPECTION REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION FOR RELEASE OR PERMIT REQUIREMENT

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of New Mexico Mining Act Section 69-36-7 U., Prior Reclamation

New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department Mining and Minerals Division Mining Act Reclamation Bureau

September 29, 1995

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Introduction

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The purpose of this study was to determine if reclamation measures at 11 mines, for which Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requested prior reclamation inspections, satisfy the requirements of the New Mexico Mining Act and substantive requirements for reclamation pursuant to the New Mexico Mining Act Rules. The sites are tabulated in Table I. Figures 1 and 2 are maps showing the locations of the mine sites.

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation (Santa Fe) is the owner of the mineral rights at all the mine sites mentioned above, with the possible exception of the mine on Section 17 T13N R9W. Santa Fe Pacific Gold was not the operator any of the sites, but has reclaimed the sites (Santa Fe, 1994) to remove any further liabilities relative to the New Mexico Mining Act. Santa Fe is not the surface owner of any of the sites. This has hindered reclamation activities because Santa Fe cannot restrict grazing by surface owners on reclaimed areas. The known surface owners are listed in Table I.

Inspection Procedures

On August 31, 1995 Santa Fe Pacific Gold escorted MMD personnel on a quick inspection of 8 of 11 sites for which Santa Fe submitted prior reclamation inspection requests. Ms. Denise Gallegos, Manager-Environmental Compliance and Audits, Mr. Paul Eby, Director-Field Operations, Mr. Lee Simpkins and Mr. Larry Taylor, Contractor, represented Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation. Mr. Robert Young, Environmental Engineer and Robyn Tierney, Reclamation Specialist represented the New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division. On September 12 Mr. Robert Young and Mr. Fernando Martinez, Reclamation Specialist revisited six of the above sites to take additional measurements. The site on Section 1 T13W R9W was inspected on September 13 by Mr. Robert Young and Mr. Fernando Martinez, Reclamation Specialist. Another site on Section 13 T1N R6W was inspected September 21, 1995 by Robert Young and Holland Shepherd, Mining Act Bureau Chief. Santa Fe Pacific Gold did not attend the inspections of the sites on Sections 1 T13W R9W or Section 13 T1N R6W. Another site on Section 17 T13N R9W, for which a prior reclamation inspection was requested (Santa Fe, 1994), was searched for, but could not be found. Without an inspection of the site, no evaluation could be made regarding prior reclamation status.

Inspections of each mine site consisted of a review of information submitted by the mine operator, subsequent discussion with the operator pertaining to mining and reclamation at each site, inspection of the condition of the reclaimed mine sites, line-intercept sampling for estimates of vegetative cover, compilation of plant species lists, measurement of reclaimed soil depths, and photo-documentation. Each of the mine sites was visually inspected for erosion features and hydrologic stability. During a walkover of each site, all slopes, areas of water concentration (ponds, diversions and areas where disturbed areas enter undisturbed lands) were visually inspected for stability. Topsoil placement and distribution also were evaluated at each site. Sampling for topsoil depth consisted of randomly digging a series of holes to identify the depth of topsoil and the presence or absence of potentially toxic wasterock at rooting depth. Grading of all wasterock piles and borrow areas was visually inspected. Placement and closure of portals and vent shafts were verified in the field.

The establishment and relative percent cover of reseeded and native plant species were evaluated in randomly placed transects. Fifty foot transects were evaluated at each mine site using the line intercept method (Bonham 1989). These transects were used to estimate the relative percent cover of each plant species intercepted at 3' intervals along a transect. A total of 17 points per transect was recorded. In addition, a list of species present within a 50' X 6' belt transect adjacent to each transect was compiled. These sampling procedures, however, do not meet sample adequacy. These procedures were conducted to estimate the relative percent cover and to evaluate the diversity of species present at each of the eight mine sites. Additional resources would be needed to fully evaluate the vegetation of these prior reclamation sites to a level of sample adequacy and would require at least 24 additional man-hours of inspection time per site. If it was apparent sufficient vegetation existed on site, or insufficient vegetation existed, no transect evaluations were made. Photos were taken, in these situations, to document the vegetation cover.

Name of Mine	Location of Mine	Operator	Surface Owner	Inspected
Unknown	SW1/4 Section 13 T13N R11W	Todilto Exploration	Cerrillos Land Company	Aug. 31, 1995 Young & Tierney
Unknown	Section 13 T1N R6W	M. P. Grace	Unknown	Sept. 21, 1995 Young & Shepherd
Unknown	Section 1 T13W R9W	Kerr-McGee	Sonny Marquez	Sept. 13, 1995 Young & Martinez
Unknown	Section 17 T13N R9W	United Nuclear Corp.	Unknown	Could not be located in field
Haystack	Section 19 T13N R10W	Todilto Exploration	S. Farthree and McKingen	Aug. 31, 1995 Young & Tierney
Section 25 Mine	Section 25 T13N R10W	Reserve Oil and Minerals	S. Berryhill Ranch	Aug. 31, 1995 Young & Tierney
Unknown	Section 31 T13N R9W	United Nuclear Corp.	Unknown	Aug. 31, 1995 Young & Tierney
Faith Mine	Section 29 T13N R9W	Ranchers Exploration	Unknown	Aug. 31, 1995 Young & Tierney
Isabella Mine	Section 7 T13N R9W	Ranchers Exploration	Unknown	Aug. 31, 1995 Young & Tierney
Marquez Mine	Section 23 T13N R9W	United Nuclear Corp.	Sonny Marquez	Aug. 31, 1995 Young & Tierney
Poison Canyon Mine	Section 19 T13N R9W	Reserve Oil and Minerals	Cerrillos Land Company	Aug. 31, 1995 Young & Tierney

 Table I

 Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation Prior Reclamation Inspection Sites

Results and Discussion

SW1/4 Section 13 T13N R11W

This was a surface mine, located approximately 27 miles north west of the City of Grants, New Mexico. The mine is characterized by red Entrada Sandstone cliffs that tower above it. The uranium mineralization occurred in Todilto Limestone just below the Entrada Sandstone. A barbed wire fence surrounded the site. All structures, trash or junk had been removed from the site. There were no piles or accumulations of toxic or waste material on the site. There were no apparent hazards that could affect public health and safety. Photos documenting vegetation and the general condition of the site are in Appendix A. The site was reclaimed in 1994 and reseeded in the fall of 1994 by Santa Fe Pacific Gold (Eby, 1995). The regrading included, at the request of the surface owner, the construction of six depressions to impound rainwater for livestock (Eby, 1995). There were minor rills from water flowing into these depressions. Topsoil depths across the site averaged 6 inches.

Cattle, sheep, goats, and wildlife have heavily grazed the reclaimed portions of this site and the vegetation showed signs of drought stress. Line-intercept transects showed perennial cover to be approximately 12 percent (Tierney, 1995). The results of the vegetation measurements are presented in Table II. This site was evaluated as having an insufficient vegetation cover to qualify for release.

Visual	Transect
Ambrosia dumosa	BG
Papaver sp.	BG
Oryzopsis hymenoides	BG
Cleome serrulata	Atriplex canescens
Atriplex canescens	BG
Gutierrezia sarothrae	BG
	BG

TABLE II SW1/4 Section 13 T13N R11W Vegetation Measurements

BG
 Oryzopsis hymenoides
Rock

Average Perennial Cover = 12% Rock Cover = 6% BG = Bare Ground

Section 13 T1N R6W

This was a surface mine, located approximately 36 miles north west of the City of Magdalena, New Mexico. The site is within a mile of the Alamo Navajo Indian Reservation. Uranium bearing sandstone was contour-mined along an outcrop in the side of Jaralosa Creek Canyon. The operator, M.P. Grace, operated the mine under a lease from then Santa Fe Pacific Minerals Corporation. The lease was terminated in 1979 and the site was reclaimed in 1980 (Santa Fe, 1994). The total area of disturbance was about 2 acres.

Staff had some difficulty locating this site because natural vegetation had reestablished so well on it. Old mining disturbances were nearly indistinguishable from the natural mounds and ridges of the adjacent undisturbed areas. The mine was located by a red clay uncovered in one pit that was out of place. There was moderate erosion, but the erosion was consistent with that of the surrounding area. A powder magazine, circa 1970's, was left as a mining relic. All other structures, trash and junk had been removed. There were no piles or accumulations of toxic or waste material. There were no apparent hazards that could affect public health or safety.

The site and surrounding area showed signs of grazing impacts. Plant diversity, however, was good with more than 21 native plant species identified on the site. It was very difficult to distinguish this site from the adjacent undisturbed areas, so no transect evaluation was deemed necessary. Photographs documenting vegetation and the general condition of the site are presented in Appendix B. Because of the quality of cover and diversity of plants found on the site, it qualifies for release.

Section 1 T13W R9W

This mine site is located on a shelf in a canyon wall about 50 feet above the canyon floor. The canyon was eroded into Dakota Sandstone. The mine had been operated by Kerr-McGee under a lease agreement with Santa Fe Pacific Gold and was safeguarded by Kerr-McGee upon termination of that agreement (Santa Fe, 1994). All structures, trash or junk had been removed from the site. There were no piles or accumulations of toxic or waste material on the site. A vertical shaft had been backfilled with nontoxic mine waste material.

The site had been safeguarded but not topsoiled or reseeded. The site is characterized by white fine grained sandstone covered by a few inches of fine white sand. The sand is subsequently being eroded away by wind and water. A mine access road had significant erosion. An impoundment had been constructed to impound sediment from the mine site, however, erosion from the access road was bypassing the impoundment and was entering the mine site. Photographs documenting vegetation and the general condition of the site are presented in Appendix C.

Some native plant species from adjoining areas were invading the disturbance area. Line-intercept transects

indicated vegetation cover to be approximately 29 percent (Young, 1995). Vegetation measurements are presented in Table III. Vegetation on this site is dominated by hairy goldenaster (*Heterotheca villosa*), an unpalatable increaser. Indian ricegrass (*Oryzopsis hymenoides*), was also found growing sparsely on the site. Given the sandy nature of these soils, stands of Indian ricegrass and sand dropseed (*Sporobolus cryptandrus*) should be more prevalent here. Because of the overall lack of diversity and the poor establishment of perennial grasses and forbs, this site does not qualify for release.

Visual	Transect #1	Transect #2
Guterrezia sarothrae	BG	Heterotheca villosa
Atriplex canescens	BG	BG
Oryzopsis hymenoides	BG	Heterotheca villosa
Heterotheca villosa	BG	Oryopsis hymenoides
	BG	Heterotheca villosa
	BG	Heterotheca villosa
	BG	BG
	Heterotheca villosa	BG
	BG	Oryzopsis hymenoide
	BG	BG
	Heterotheca villosa	BG
	BG	Heterotheca villosa
	BG	Bedrock
	BG	Bedrock
	Rock	BG
	Heterotheca villosa	BG
	Rock	BG

TABLE III Section 1 T13W R9W Vegetation Measurements

Average Vegetative Cover = 29%

Section 17 T13N R9W

This site was not shown to MMD staff by Santa Fe Pacific Gold personnel and could not be located in the field. Without a formal inspection of this mine site, no evaluation could be made by MMD personnel regarding the mine's prior reclamation status. This site cannot be released at this time. Haystack Mine (Section 19 T13N R10W)

Haystack Mine (Section 19 T13N R10W)

This mine was the original Paddy Martinez discovery. It was a surface mine located approximately 27 miles northwest of Grants, New Mexico. The mine was operated under an agreement with Santa Fe Pacific Minerals Corporation. The uranium mineral was found in the Todilto Limestone. Santa Fe Pacific Gold began reclamation of this site in 1990 under an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) action that concluded in 1991 (Santa Fe, 1994). At the time of this inspection, Santa Fe claimed to have a letter of release from the EPA (Gallegos, pers. comm.), and indicated that a copy would be sent to MMD. MMD never received this copy.

A barbed wire fence surrounded the site. All structures, trash or junk had been removed from the site. There were no piles or accumulations of toxic or waste material on the site. There were no apparent hazards that could affect public health or safety. There were no erosion features. Photographs documenting the vegetation and the general condition of the site are presented in Appendix E. Topsoil depths across the site ranged from four to six inches.

Grazing by domestic livestock and wildlife has had some impact on the vegetative cover of this reclaimed site. Most of the reclaimed area had been heavily grazed and showed signs of drought stress. Line-intercept transects showed perennial cover to be approximately 32 percent and litter cover 18 percent (Tierney, 1995). Vegetation measurements are presented in Table IV. Because of the perennial quality of plant cover and diversity on this site, staff recommends it for release.

Visual	Transect #1 North side of	Transect #2 On Wasterock
Atriplex canescens	BG	BG
Chrysothamnus nauseosus	Bouteloua gracillis	Bouteloua gracilis
Sporobolus cryptandrus	Bouteloua gracillis	Litter
Juniperus monsperma	BG	Atriplex canescens
Ambrosia dumosa	Bouteloua gracilis	BG
Kochia scoparium	Oryzopsis hymenoides	Oryzopsis hymenoides
Mirabilis sp.	Oryzopsis hymenoides	BG
Phlox sp.	Litter	BG
Mentzelia pungens	Salsola kali	BG
Salsola kali	Litter	BG
Bouteloua gracilis	BG	BG
Oryzopsis hymenoides	BG	BG
	Litter	Bouteloua gracilis

TABLE IV Haystack Mine Vegetation Measurements

Agropyron sp.	Sporobolus cryptandrus
Oryzopsis hymenoides	Oryzopsis hymenoides
Litter	Litter
Litter	Litter

Average Perennial Cover = 32% Litter Cover = 21% BG = Bare Ground

Section 25 Mine

The Section 25 mine is located 14 miles northwest of Grants, New Mexico. This 8-acre site was a surface mine operated by Reserve Oil and Minerals. It was reclaimed and reseeded by Santa Fe Pacific Gold in 1993. Additional reclamation activities were performed in 1994. A barbed wire fence surrounded the site. All structures, trash or junk had been removed from the site. There were no piles or accumulations of toxic or waste material on the site. There were no apparent hazards that could affect public health and safety. There were several topsoil mounds left by Santa Fe because small mammals had extensively burrowed into them and were using them for habitat. Photographs documenting the vegetation and the general condition of the site are presented in Appendix F. The regrading included construction of three large depressions that impounded rainwater for livestock. There was one significant erosion feature and several areas of minor erosion on the sides of these depressions. Topsoil depths across the site were greater than 12 inches. An earthworm found while measuring soil depths at this site is a good sign that the soils are generally nontoxic.

Portions of the reclaimed vegetation have been heavily grazed by wildlife and domestic livestock; however, native plant species were invading the area. Twenty-six native species of plants were identified. Line-intercept transects showed average perennial vegetation cover to be approximately 22 percent (Young, 1995). Vegetation measurements are presented in Table V. Despite the slight increase in the number of perennial species invading this site from adjacent areas, there was poor establishment of the perennial grasses, forbs, and shrubs on the slopes of the depressions and topsoil mounds. Because of the lack of adequate cover, this site does not qualify for release at this time.

Visual	Transect #1 West Depression (Soil Depth +1')	Transect #2 Middle of Site (Soil Depth +1')	Transect #3 East Side of Site (Soil Depth +1')
Mirabilis multiflora	BG	BG	Oryzopsis hymenoides
Aster sp.	Erigeron sp.	BG	BG
Lepidium sp.	BG	BG	Rock
Cleome serrulata	Senecio longilobus	BG	BG
Sphaeralcea incana	BG	Mentzelia sp.	BG
Senecio longilobus	BG	BG	BG

TABLE V Section 25 Mine Vegetation Measurements

Chrysothamnus nauseosus	Oryzopsis hymenoides	BG	Rock
Sporobolus cryptandrus	Litter	BG	BG
Gutierrezia sarothrae	Litter	BG	Oryzopsis hymenoides
Boutelloua gracilis	Cleome serrulata	BG	Rock
Agropyron smithii	Oryzopsis hymenoides	BG	BG
Mentzelia decapetala	Oryzopsis hymenoides	BG	BG
Oryzopsis hymenoides	BG	Agropyron smithii	BG
Atriplex canescens	BG	BG	BG
Sparganium sp.	Cleome serrulata	Agropyron smithii	BG
Atriplex canescens	BG	BG	Rock
Fleabane	BG	BG	BG

Average Vegetative Cover = 22%

Section 31 T13N R9W

This was a surface mine located 14 miles northwest of the Grants, New Mexico. The mine was operated by United Nuclear Corporation until termination of the lease in 1975. The pits were backfilled and otherwise safeguarded in 1987. The site was reclaimed and reseeded by Santa Fe in the fall of 1994 (Santa Fe, 1994). All structures, trash or junk had been removed from the site however, trespass dumping has since taken place. There were no piles or accumulations of toxic or waste material on the site. There were no apparent hazards that could affect public health or safety. There were minor erosion features where water had flowed into depressions. Twenty foot slopes of limestone cobble were left on the south side of the reclaimed area to blend in with a natural limestone outcropping. Several 6 foot high, 50 foot long topsoil stockpiles were left because small animals were burrowing into them and were using them for habitat. Photographs documenting vegetation and general condition of the site are presented in Appendix G.

There was evidence of grazing by livestock and wildlife on this site. Vegetation also showed signs of drought stress. Line-intercept transects showed vegetation cover to be approximately 12 percent (Young, 1995). The results of these vegetation measurements are presented in Table VI. Because of the lack of cover and diversity, staff does not recommend this site for release.

Visual	Transect #1	Transect #2	Transect #3
Mirabilis multiflora	Rock	Oryzopsis hymenoides	BG
Sphaeralcea incana	Rock	Rock	BG
Oryzopsis hymenoides	BG	BG	BG
Senecio longilobus	Rock	BG	BG
Ceratoides lanata	Rock	BG	BG
Salvia sp.	Rock	BG	BG
Gutierrezia sarothrae	BG	BG	BG
Atriplex canescens	BG	BG	Oryzopsis hymenoides
Lycium pallidum	Salvia sp.	BG	BG
Sporobolus airoides	Rock	BG	BG
Bouteloua gracilis	Litter	BG	BG
Mentzelia decapetala	Rock	BG	BG
Agropyron smithii	Rock	BG	Rock
	Rock	Oryzopsis hymenoides	Oryzopsis hymenoides
	Rock	BG	Oryzopsis hymenoides
	Rock	Litter	BG
	Rock	BG	Rock

TABLE VI Section 31 T13N R9W Vegetation Measurements

Average Vegetative Cover = 12%

Faith Mine (Section 29 T13N R9W)

This underground mine was reclaimed in 1986 (Eby, 1995). Native vegetation from adjoining undisturbed lands had invaded the site and it was difficult to tell that a mine had previously existed on this site. Approximately one acre had recently been regraded and reclaimed. The only other indication of the mine presence was a revegetated mound where a vertical shaft had been backfilled with nontoxic mine waste material (Eby, 1995). All structures, trash or junk had been removed from the site. There were no piles or accumulations of toxic or waste material on the site. Similarly, there were no erosion features. Photographs documenting vegetation and general condition of the site are presented in Appendix H. Topsoil depths across the site ranged from 4 to 6 inches.

As with the other mines, the vegetation had been grazed by wildlife and domestic livestock. The vegetation also showed signs of drought stress. The adequate plant cover and diversity made it unnecessary to perform transect evaluations of the plant community. Staff recommends release of this site. The plant community has been documented by photographs (See Appendix H).

Isabella Mine

This was a 2-acre site consisting of a head frame for underground mining. Ranchers Exploration conducted limited operations on this section under a lease from Santa Fe Pacific Minerals Corporation. The site was reclaimed in 1987, but is still accessed by a two-track road from the Old Wilcoxen Ranch. All structures, trash or junk had been removed from the site. The mine shaft had been backfilled with nontoxic mine waste material (Eby, 1995). There were no piles or accumulations of toxic or waste material on the site. There was one erosion feature, 200 feet south of the shaft site, which threatens to cut headward from an unnamed ephemeral tributary of Arroyo del Puerto adjacent to the site. This feature, if left unchecked, will eventually intercept the closed shaft. Mr. Paul Eby said that Santa Fe Pacific Gold would repair it. Photographs documenting the vegetation and the general condition of the site are presented in Appendix I. Topsoil depths across the site ranged from 4 to 6 inches.

The mine site had been grazed by livestock and wildlife and vegetation showed signs of drought stress. Lineintercept transects indicated that vegetation cover was approximately 15 percent (Young, 1995). Results of vegetation measurements are presented in Table VII. Because of the lack of plant cover, this site is not recommended for release.

Visual	Transect #1	Transect #2
Oryzopsis hymenoides	BG	BG
Bouteloua gracilis	Litter	BG
Atriplex canescens	BG	BG
Juniperus sp.	BG	BG
Cleome serrulata	Kochia scoparia	BG
Agropyron smithii	BG	BG
	BG	Salsola iberica
	BG	BG
	BG	BG
	BG	BG
	Salsola iberica	BG
	Litter	BG
	BG	Salsola iberica
	BG	Kochia scoparia
	BG	BG

TABLE VII Isabella Mine Vegetation Measurements

BG	BG
BG	BG

Marquez Mine

This site is reached by a two-track road from a ranching complex known as the Marquez Old Home Place. It was the site of a decline shaft adit below a cliff outcropping of the Dakota Sandstone. United Nuclear leased the section from Santa Fe Pacific Minerals Corporation. Open mine features were backfilled in 1987. The site consists of a mine waste pile backfilling a declined shaft adit. The site lies within San Mateo Creek Canyon where the high and constant winds move soils to form sand dunes. San Mateo Creek is ephemeral at this location and windblown sand from the stream bed forms dunes against the cliff face. All structures, trash or junk had been removed from the site with the exception of some pipe and lumber that was left at the request of the surface lessee, Sonny Marquez (Eby, 1995). There were no piles or accumulations of toxic or waste material on the site. Photographs documenting the vegetation and general condition of the site are presented in Appendix J. The decline shaft had been backfilled with nontoxic mine waste material. Regrading of the site also included construction of terraces to break up slopes.

Topsoil depths across the site were greater than 12 inches, but consisted entirely of windblown sand. This area was essentially barren with most of the seed and mulch blown away before vegetation could be established. Native species such as Indian ricegrass (*Oryzopsis hymenoides*), from adjoining areas were starting to invade the disturbance area (Young, 1995). Because of the obvious lack of plant cover at the site no transects were attempted. Staff does not recommend release of this site.

Poison Canyon Mine

This site is characterized by an abundance of sunflowers and locoweed. The locoweed accumulates selenium for which the canyon (also known as 'Sheep Kill Canyon') was probably named. Reserve Oil and Minerals operated the mine under a lease from Santa Fe Pacific Minerals Corporation. Open mine features were backfilled and the mine reclaimed in 1987 upon termination of the lease. Additional reclamation of the site was conducted in 1993 and 1994 (Santa Fe, 1994). A barbed wire fence surrounded the site. All structures, trash or junk had been removed from the site. There were no piles or accumulations of toxic or waste material on the site. There were a few erosion features including one that was significant. Photographs documenting vegetation and general condition of the site are presented in Appendix K. An inclined shaft portal had been backfilled with nontoxic mine waste material (Santa Fe, 1994). The regrading of this site included construction of mounds, berms, terraces and depressions that impounded rainwater for livestock.

Topsoil depths across the site were approximately 4 inches. Line-intercept transects indicated that perennial vegetative cover was approximately 31 percent. The results of these vegetation measurements are presented in Table VIII. Because of the overall lack of diversity and the poor establishment of perennial grasses and forbs, this site does not qualify for release.

Visual	Transect #1	Transect #2	Transect #3
Agropyron sp.	Rock	Rock	BG
Aster bigolovii	BG	BG	Rock
Agropyron smithii	Helianthus sp.	BG	Helianthus sp.
Oxytropis lambertii	Helianthus sp.	BG	BG
Mentzelia decapetala	Rock	BG	BG
Gutierrezia sarothrae	BG	Atriplex canescens	Rock
Linum perenne lewisii	BG	Agropyron smithii	Rock
Cleome serrulata	BG	Litter	Helianthus sp.
Melilotus officinalis	BG	Atriplex canescens	Agropyron smithii
Sphaeralcea coccinea	Oryzopsis hymenoides	Salsola iberica	BG
Helianthus sp.	BG	BG	BG
Oryzopsis hymenoides	BG	Atriplex canescens	BG
Hordeum jubatum	Helianthus sp.	Kochia scoparia	BG
Senecio longilobus	Rock	Oryzopsis hymenoides	BG
Sphaeralcea incana	Rock	BG	Helianthus sp.
Atriplex canescens	BG	BG	Helianthus sp.
	BG	Litter	BG

TABLE VIII Poison Canyon Vegetation Measurements

Average Vegetative Cover = 27 % BG = Bare Ground

Conclusions and Recommendations

Based on the inspection of the 11 mine sites and review of inspection information with Mining and Minerals Division staff it is recommended that:

Section 19(T13N R10W, a.k.a. Haystack Mine), Section 13 (T 1N R 6W) and Section 29 (T13N R9W, a.k.a. Faith Mine)

be released from further requirements of the New Mexico Mining Act. The other mine sites:

SW1/4 of Section 13 (T 13N R11W), Section 1 (T 13W R 9W), Section 31 (T 13N R 9W), Section 7 (T13N R 9W, a.k.a. Isabella Mine), Section 23 (T 13N R 9W, a.k.a. Marquez Mine), Section 25 (T 13N R 10W), and Section 19 (T 13N R9W, a.k.a. Poison Canyon Mine)

do not meet the environmental conditions that allow for the development of a 'self-sustaining ecosystem' as defined in Rule 1. and put forth in Rule 5.7A of the New Mexico Mining Act. Some of these sites were reclaimed in July 1994, so it is difficult to determine vegetation success. One season of growth in the areas under evaluation does not provide sufficient time to make this determination. The sites remain at a very early successional stage and contain mostly weedy species or no species.

Based on oral communications with the operator, and on the inspected condition of these remaining reclaimed sites as documented by this inspection report, it is clear that the operator has made an effort to complete the required reclamation. It is recommended that the Director of MMD give a variance to Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation from meeting the deadline of September 30, 1995 for prior reclamation under the New Mexico Mining Act Rules for: the SW1/4 of Section 13 (T 13N R11W), Section 1(T 13W R 9W), Section 31 (T 13N R 9W), Section 7 (T13N R 9W, a.k.a. Isabella Mine), Section 23 (T 13N R 9W, a.k.a. Marquez Mine), and Section 19 (T 13N R9W, a.k.a. Poison Canyon Mine) mine sites. This variance would stipulate that inspections will be conducted by MMD during the late summer of 1997 at each of these remaining sites to determine if the conditions necessary for development of a 'sustainable ecosystem' are then present on-site, and if any further actions including (but not limited to) reseeding or interseeding by the operator is necessary.

The Section 17 (T 13N R 9W) mine site was not adequately identified by Santa Fe Pacific Gold for inspection by MMD. The Mining and Minerals Division attempted to locate the site, but was unable to do so. Therefore, no inspection for prior reclamation status was made. This site could also be addressed under a variance.

References

Bonham, C. D. 1989. Measurements for Terrestrial Vegetation. Wiley-Interscience. 338 pp.

- Eby, Paul G. 1995. Director-Field Operations, Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation, Personal Communication.
- Santa Fe (Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation) 1994. Prior Reclamation Request.
- Tierney, Robyn 1995. Reclamation Specialist, MMD, Field Notes.

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Young, Robert S. 1995. Environmental Engineer, MMD, Field Notes.
Poison Canyon Inspection Report

Date of Inspection:

August 16, 2000

Present during inspection:

MMD representatives: Karen Garcia, Holland Shepherd, Newmont Mining Co. representatives: Joe Pollara

Background

Reclamation at the Poison Canyon Mine site occurred during the spring of 1994. Santa Fe Pacific Gold, the company that owned the mine at that time, applied to the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) for a release from the New Mexico Mining Act (NMMA) under the Prior Reclamation provision in Subpart 510. After conducting an inspection in September of 1995, MMD determined that the site could not be released at that time. Santa Fe Pacific Gold then applied for a variance in May 1996 to allow more time for their reclamation efforts to show results. MMD granted the variance on July 24, 1996 for a period up to 5 years. In early summer of 2000, MMD was contacted by Newmont Mining Company, who now owns the mine, to request an inspection by MMD for release of the site.

On August 16, 2000, Karen Garcia and Holland Shepherd of the Mining and Minerals Division met with Joe Pollara a representative from Newmont Mining Company to inspect and conduct vegetative surveys of the Poison Canyon Mine reclamation.

The site is located in Township 13N Range 9W Central portion of Section 19, about 15 miles north of Grants NM, (See attached map). The road going into the site disappears near a large arroyo at a fence line about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from the actual mine site. It appears that the roadbed had been built on top of an existing arroyo or drainage, and now has been washed away and severely eroded.

The mine was a combination open pit and underground operation. The adit and shafts were apparently covered, as we found no signs of their existence. We noted two main pit areas along with two overburden piles that had been reclaimed and seeded. We began by surveying the southern pit area.

Methodology and Results

The methodology used to conduct the vegetative survey included using random numbers to pick a transect location in the reclaimed area. Then a random compass direction was

Poison Canyon Inspection Report August 2000

chosen to determine direction of transect. A 100 ft. tape was used to obtain percent relative cover data by identifying plant 'hits' every 2 ft. Five transects were run, four in the southern pit and one in the southwest pit area. The survey results are shown on the attached Vegetation Survey Results form. The statistical adequacy formula $s^2t^2/(.1x)^2$ was used to ensure that an adequate number of transects had been conducted. In fact the variability was so low that 3 transects would have been adequate.

In order to determine if seeding efforts were successful MMD must measure against either a reference area or a technical standard agreed upon with the mine operator. In this case the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Range Site Description (RSD) Sandy (WP-2) was determined to be an appropriate standard. It was agreed that the percent cover value at the site must be at least 75% of the RSD for perennial grasses and forbs. The RSD contained a value of 18%, therefore, the site must have at least a 13.5% canopy cover of perennial grasses and forbs. The survey results indicate an average cover of 34%, well over the minimum value required. The cover values ranged from 32% up to 40% canopy cover. Indian rice grass dominated the dryer upper slopes with western wheat grass dominating the lower slightly wetter environments.

In addition, the site must contain a diversity of plant species indicative of a healthy and stable plant community. Again, referring to the RSD as a guide, the site should contain at least 2 cool season and 2 warm season grasses, as well at least one shrub and forb species. As can be seen in the vegetative survey results, the site does meet the diversity standard as well. Western Wheatgrass and Indian Rice grass being the cool season grasses.

Overall, the site contains a well established four-wing saltbush (*Atriplex spp.*) western wheatgrass (*Pascopyrum Smithii*)/ Blue Grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*) community. This is consistent with the natural vegetation composition in the surrounding undisturbed areas adjacent to the mine site. Though there is a small pocket of sunflower (*Heliantus spp.*), an undesirable annual forb, persisting in the pit bottom, indications are that the sunflower population has been receding and will continue to do so as it is replaced by more permanent perennial species.

Erosion Control

The only area of concern that would inhibit classification as a site allowing for a self sustaining ecosystem would be the presence of a very deep (4 ft) erosion gully now encroaching into the reclamation area. The gully may have been caused by lack of erosion control and maintenance of an old roadbed that was built at the time the mine was active. The 1995 inspection report made mention of, "...a few erosion features including one that was significant". Since there has been no erosion control or maintenance of the site since the reclamation work in 1994, these erosion features are still present. The rills and small gullys noted on side slopes of the pit area will, in all likelihood, fill in and vegetate naturally. The large gully west of the pit, however, has the potential to continue headcutting up into the reclaimed area.

Poison Canyon Inspection Report August 2000

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Recommendations

The results of the vegetative survey clearly show that the site meets the cover and diversity standard agreed upon by MMD and the operator. Because the gully erosion at the site may compromise the stability of the reclamation, it is the recommendation of this inspector to have the operator take action to prevent the gully from causing further damage in the area. This could be accomplished by bringing in a dozer to riprap the sides and headcut portion of the gully. It would be of minimal cost and disturbance but would ensure that the largely successful reclamation efforts made in the past would not be negatively impacted. Once that is completed, it would be appropriate to release the site.

Attachments:

Vegetative Survey Results Field Data Sheets NRCS Range Site Description

Vegetative Survey Results Poison Canyon August 16, 2000

Summary

	Transect # 1	Transect # 2	Transect # 3	Transect #4	Transect # 5
Perennial grass/forbs	32%	32%	40%	36%	30%
Litter	14%	2%	12%	12%	20%
Bareground	54%	64%	48%	40%	50%

Key to Abbreviations Used in this Evaluation

- Rock = Rock with diameter > 2 inches
- BG = Bare Ground
- Litter = Plant Litter
- Agsm = Agropyrom smithii
- Bogr = Bouteloua gracilis
- Bocu = Bouteloua curtipendula
- Atca = Atriplex canescens
- Clse = Cleome serrulata
- Orhy = Oryzopsis hymeniodes
- Hean = Helianthus annus
- Pefo = unknown perennial forb

Site Name: <u>Poison Canyon Mine</u> Data Sheet No. <u>1</u> of <u>5</u>

Date: 8/16/00 Location: Bottom of South Pit Transect: 1 Degrees: 73

Line Length: 100 ft Investigators: Karen and Garcia and Holland Shepherd

1. BG	21. Litter	41. Bocu
2. Bogr	22. Litter	42. Bocu
3. BG	23. BG	43. BG
4. Orhy	24. Litter	44. Bocu
5. Atca	25. BG	45. BG
6. Bogr	26. BG	46. BG
7. BG	27. BG	47. BG
8. Bocu	28. BG	48. Litter
9. BG	29. Agsm	49. Bocu
10. BG	30. Agsm	50. Litter
11. BG	31. BG	
12. BG	32. Litter	
13. BG	33. Litter	
14. BG	34. BG	
15. BG	35. BG	
16. BG	36. BG	
17. Orhy	37. Atca	
18. Orhy	38. BG	
19. Orhy	39. BG	
20. Orhy	40. Bogr	

 Total Rock %
 0

 Total Bare Ground %
 54

 Total Plant Cover %
 32

 Perennial %
 32

 Annual %
 0

Site Name: <u>Poison Canyon Mine</u> Data Sheet No. <u>2</u> of <u>5</u>

Date: <u>8/16/00</u> Location: <u>Bottom of South Pit</u> Transect: <u>2</u> Degrees: <u>163</u>

Line Length: <u>100 ft</u> Investigators: <u>Karen Garcia and Holland Shepherd</u>

1.	BG	21. BG	41. BG
2.	BG	22. BG	42. BG
1	Rock	23. BG	43. Pefo
4.	BG	24. BG	44. BG
5.	Bocu	25. BG	45. BG
6.	BG	26. BG	46. Agsm
7.	BG	27. Agsm	47. BG
1	BG	28. Orhy	48. BG
_	BG	29. Agsm	49. Litter
	Orhy	30. Atca	50. BG
	Orhy	31. Atca	
	Bocu	32. BG	
	Orhy	33. BG	
	BG	34. BG	
	Rock	35. BG	
	Atca	36. BG	
	Agsm	37. BG	
18.	Atca	38. BG	
19.	Atca	39. BG	
20.	BG	40. BG	

Total Rock %2				
Total Bare Ground % <u>64</u>				
Total Plant Cover % 32	Perennial %	32	Annual %	0
Total Litter % 2				

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 Site Name:
 Poison Canyon Mine
 Data Sheet No.
 3_of
 5____

 Date:
 <u>8/16/00</u>
 Location:
 Bottom of South Pit
 Transect:
 3____
 Degrees:
 123____

Line Length: <u>100</u> Investigators: <u>Karen Garcia and Holland Shepherd</u>

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1. BG	21. BG	41. Clse
2. Atca	22. BG	42. BG
3. Litter	23. BG	43. BG
4. BG	24. BG	44. Clse
5. Litter	25. Atca	45. BG
6. Atca	26. Bogr	46. BG
7. BG	27. BG	47. BG
8. BG	28. BG	48. BG
9. BG	29. BG	49. Litter
10. Atca	30. Agsm	50. BG
11. BG	31. BG	
12. Bocu	32. Bocu	
13. BG	33. Atca	
14. Bogr	34. Atca	
15. Atca	35. Atca	
16. Litter	36. Agsm	
17. Orhy	37. Atca	
18. Litter	38. Atca	
19. BG	39. BG	
20. Litter	40. Agsm	

 Total Rock %
 0

 Total Bare Ground %
 48

 Total Plant Cover %
 40

 Perennial %
 40

 Annual %
 0

 Total Litter %
 12

 Site Name:
 Poison Canyon Mine
 Data Sheet No.
 4 of 5

 Date:
 8/16/00
 Location:
 Bottom of South Pit Transect:
 4
 Degrees:
 140

Line Length: 100 Investigators: Karen Garcia and Holland Shepherd

1. BG	21. Agsm	41. Agsm
2. BG	22. Agsm	42. Litter
3. BG	23. Agsm	43. Litter
4. BG	24. BG	44. Agsm
5. BG	25. Agsm	45. BG
6. BG	26. Hean	46. Agsm
7. BG	27. Clse	47. Litter
8. Bogr	28. Hean	48. Litter
9. Bogr	29. Hean	49. BG
10. Litter	30. Hean	50. BG
11. Atca	31. BG	
12. BG	32. Hean	
13. BG	33. BG	
14. Litter	34. BG	
15. BG	35. BG	
16. Atca	36. BG	
17. Atca	37. Agsm	
18. Atca	38. BG	
19. Atca	39. Agsm	
20. Atca	40. BG	

 Total Rock %
 0

 Total Bare Ground %
 40

 Total Plant Cover %
 46

 Perennial %
 36

 Annual %
 10

Site Name: Poison Canyon Mine Data Sheet No. 5 of 5

Date: 8/16/00 Location: Bottom of Southwest Pit Transect: 5 Degrees: 241

Line Length: 100 ft Investigators: Karen Garcia and Holland Shepherd

1. Litter	21. Agsm	41. BG
2. BG	22. BG	42. BG
3. BG	23. BG	43. BG
4. Orhy	24. BG	44. BG
5. Litter	25. BG	45. BG
6. BG	26. Agsm	46. Orhy
7. BG	27. Litter	47. BG
8. BG	28. Litter	48. BG
9. BG	29. Litter	49. Bocu
10. BG	30. BG	50. Litter
11. Litter	31. Agsm	
12. BG	32. Agsm	
13. Litter	33. Agsm	
14. BG	34. BG	
15. BG	35. Agsm	
16. Agsm	36. Litter	
17. Agsm	37. Orhy	
18. BG	38. Orhy	
19. BG	39. Orhy	
20. BG	40. Orhy	

Total Rock %0Total Bare Ground %50Total Plant Cover %30Total Litter %20

Perennial % 30 Annual %

1	Bonlawon		Data Sheet No. 2 of		Sec Twp
ine Length	100 Location	Investigators	Quadrant 2 I 56	Degrees 10.50	Rng
36	2 <u>1</u> 1310	<u>41</u> K(g	61	81	
BG	2 <u>2</u> B(a	42 \$6	<u>62</u>	82	
Rock	2 <u>3</u> Kle	12	Pe-20 63	83	
B6	24 Blo	44 B6	<u>64</u>	<u>84</u>	
Bacu	25 B6	45 Blo	<u>65</u>	85	
Bla	26 B (9	46 Ausm	<u>66</u>	86	
B (9	27 AIGM	47 36	67	87	
Fie	28 Otay	48 B (2	<u>68</u>	88	
Bla	29 (tasm	49 Litter	<u>- 69</u>	89	
orhu	30 Atca	50 Eb	70	90	
Orhu	31 A+10	51	71	91	
Bour	32 B(r	52	72	92	
Orhy	33 56	53	73	93	
Bla	34 56	54	74	94	
Rack	35]/r	55	75	<u>95</u>	
Atra	36 24	56	76	<u>96</u>	
Aasma	37 Bb	57	77	<u>97</u>	
Atra	38 B6-	58	78	<u>98</u>	
Atu	39 BG	<u>59</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>99</u>	
Ble	40 R6	<u>60</u>	<u>80</u>	100	

Site Name	Poison C.	any in	Data Sheet No.	<u>3</u> of	Sec
Date 5/14 Line Length	Location	Investigators	Quadrant	Degrees 12.3	Twp Rng

1	01	21	0.4	41	11	<u>61</u>	81
1	136		BG		atome	<u>62</u>	82
2	ATCa	22	BG	42	BG		
3	BG ATCa Lit	<u>23</u>	BG BG BG	<u>43</u>	16	<u>63</u>	83
4	BG Lir	24	BG	44	Cleome	<u>64</u>	84
5	Lir	25	ATCa	45	1.6	<u>65</u>	85
6	Atca	<u>26</u>	Bobr	46	BG	<u>66</u>	<u>86</u>
2	RG	27	BG	47	F.G	<u>67</u>	<u>87</u>
8	Atca BG BG BG KG Atca Bb	28	Bobr BG BE BG	<u>48</u>	RG	<u>68</u>	88
2	KG	<u>29</u>	<u>B6</u>	<u>49</u>	1,2	<u>69</u>	<u>89</u>
<u>10</u>	Atca	<u>30</u>	AgSm	<u>50</u>	BG	<u>70</u>	<u>90</u>
11	Bb	<u>31</u>	RG-	<u>51</u>		<u>71</u>	<u>91</u>
12	Bola.	<u>32</u>		<u>52</u>		<u>72</u>	<u>92</u>
<u>13</u>	84	<u>33</u>	Atia	53		73	<u>93</u>
14	Bebr	<u>34</u>	Rocini Africa Africa	<u>54</u>		74	<u>94</u>
<u>15</u>	85 Beier Atca Lit	<u>35</u>	Atla.	55		<u>75</u>	<u>95</u>
<u>16</u>	Lir	<u>36</u>	Azioni.	56		<u>76</u>	<u>96</u>
17	Orhy	<u>37</u>	ATCa.	<u>57</u>		77	<u>97</u>
18	Lit	<u>38</u>	Azioni ATCa ATCa	58		<u>78</u>	<u>98</u>
<u>19</u>	BG	<u>39</u>	Bla	<u>59</u>		<u>79</u>	<u>99</u>
<u>20</u>	LIT	<u>40</u>	Afon	<u>60</u>		<u>80</u>	100

Site Name/	Polson Ca		Sheet No. <u>4</u> of	Twn
Date	Location In	Quad vestigators KG	trant <u>4</u> D	egrees Rng _
Luie Lengur	- Voor			
	1			1.01
1 R(r	$\frac{21}{1}$	41 Harm	<u>61</u>	81
2	22 A	42	62	82
= Ra	Airm	1991		
3	23	<u>43</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>83</u>
156	Alim	147.11	64	84
$\frac{4}{K}$	24 20	44 Abron	<u>64</u>	04
5	25	45	65	85
Bla	Hason	K 19		
6 Bla	26	46 Arhan	<u>66</u>	86
<u>D'9</u>	101 <u>1</u>	47 11/	67	87
BG	alone	- Litter		
8	28	48	<u>68</u>	88
Boar	Iten	49 Litter	69	89
2 Boat	29 Hean	=== T(+	02	<u>07</u>
10	30	50	<u>70</u>	90
- 65/11/	Aean	- Elr		01
11 Atu	$\frac{31}{1}$ $\mathbb{I}(\mathbf{y})$	51	71	<u>91</u>
12	22	52	72	92
25	Hearn			
<u>13</u> J(r	3 <u>3</u> J(r	<u>53</u>	73	93
<u>14</u>	<u>34</u>	54	74	94
Liter	K(g	-	-	
15	35 B(2	55	75	<u>95</u>
Bfr	<u>36</u>	56	76	<u>96</u>
16 Atta	I IG	<u>56</u>	10	20
17	37 0	57	77	<u>97</u>
17/1	MASM			
18 A.t.a	38 BG	58	<u>78</u>	<u>98</u>
<u>19</u> /	39	59	<u>79</u>	99

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Total Rock (R) %					
Total Bare Ground (BG)%	6 1		1. 11		a
Total Plant Cover %	460	Perennial	36/2	Annual	1920
Total Litter (L)%					

Site Name	POISON Canyo	O Data Sł	neet No. <u>5</u> of _		Sec
Date 8/10 Line Length	Location Inv	QuadraQuadra	nt_5 De	grees <u>241</u>	Twp Rng
1 Lin	21 Ar for	41 BG.	61	81	
² P/4	22 BG -	42 BG.	<u>62</u>	82	
3 BC= -	23 BG -	43 BG.	<u>63</u>	<u>83</u>	
4 (rhy	24 BG.	44 EG.	<u>64</u>	84	
5 hir	²⁵ BG -	45 R.2.	<u>65</u>	85	
BE-	26 Harbon	46 Orican	<u>66</u>	86	
Z BL	27 Lit	147 BG:	<u>67</u>	87	
<u>8</u> B6 -	28 Lit	<u>48</u> BG -	<u>68</u>	88	
2 BG-	29 Lit	49 Loli	<u>69</u>	<u>89</u>	
10 BG	³⁰ B6 -	50 Li-	<u>70</u>	<u>90</u>	
" Lit	31 Agom	51	71	<u>91</u>	
¹² BG -	32 Arom	52	72	<u>92</u>	
13 Lit	33 An Com	53	73	<u>93</u>	
14 BG.	34 BG -	54	74	<u>94</u>	
<u>15</u> Ble -	35 Agiam	55	75	<u>95</u>	
A AGM	36 LIT	56	76	<u>96</u>	
Arisan	³⁷ Orhy	57	77	<u>97</u>	
18 BC	38 Crhy	58	78	<u>98</u>	
19 BG.	39 Firhy	<u>59</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>99</u>	
BG BG	40 Grhy	<u>60</u>	80	100	

Total Rock (R) % _____ Total Bare Ground (BG)% _____ Total Plant Cover % _____ Total Litter (L)% _____ Perennial Annual _

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RANGE SITE DESCRIPTION

Section II E, Technical Guide

A. SITE NO. 036-113-N

Sandy (WP-2)

B. PHYSIOGRAPHIC FEATURES

This site usually occurs on level to gently sloping or undulating topography of upland plains. Slopes average less than 10 percent. Elevations range from about 6,000 feet to just over 7,200 feet.

C. CLIMATIC FEATURES

1. Average annual precipitation varies from about 10 inches to just over 16 inches. Fluctuations ranging from about 5 inches to 25 inches are not uncommon. The overall climate is characterized by cold dry winters in which winter moisture is less than summer. As much as half or more of the annual precipitation can be expected to come during the period of July through September. Thus, fall conditions are often more favorable for good growth of cool-season perennial grasses, shrubs, and forbs than are those of spring.

2. The average frost-free season is about 120 days and extends from approximately mid-May to early or mid-September. Average annual air temperatures are 50° F. or lower, and summer maximums rarely exceed 100° F. Winter minimums typically approach or go below zero. Monthly mean temperatures exceed 70° F. for the period of July and August.

3. Rainfall patterns generally favor warm-season perennial vegetation, while the temperature regime tends to favor cool-season vegetation. This creates a somewhat complex community of plants on a given range site which is quite susceptible to disturbance and is at or near its productive potential only when both the natural warm- and cool-season dominants are present.

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0. SOILS

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1. The soils of this site are moderately deep to deep, well drained, and may or may not be calcareous throughout. Typically, the surface layer is a sandy loam, fine sandy loam, or loamy fine sand at least 5 or 6 inches thick over sandy loam to clay loam subsoils. Permeability is moderately slow to moderately rapid, and the available water capacity is moderate to high.

The soils of this site are subject to soil blowing.

2. Characteristic soils are:

Telescope loamy fine sand

3. Other soils included are:

Royosa fine sand

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E. POTENTIAL NATURAL PLANT COMMUNITY

This site is characterized by both warm- and cool-season grasses, 1. scattered shrubs, half-shrubs, and forbs. Blue grama and western wheatgrass are co-dominants, with Indian ricegrass and dropseed closely associated. Principal shrubs and half-shrubs include fourwing saltbush, winterfat, and sand sagebrush. Rocky Mountain beeplant is often the most noticeable forb. Broom snakeweed is most common in certain wet years and when the plant community deteriorates from its potential.

Composition of Potential Plant Community 2.

Approximate percentage of total annual herbage production.

Grasse	s and	l Grasslike	- 75-85%	vines	s, half-shr and trees) - 10=15%	ubs,	Forbs - 5-10%	
Blue g Indian Needle Bottle New Me Sand d Spike Gallet Ring m Sandhi	rama a rice andth brush xico dropse dropse dropse ll mu buffa wns s grama	read feathergras eed) ieed) hly) lograss) pp.)	15-20 25-30 5-10) ail) 5-10 55) 10-15 1-5 3-5 1-5 1-5 1-3	Winter Bigelow Broom Rabbith Sand sa	w sagebrush snakeweed) 5-10)-5))1-3	Perennials Annuals	3-8 1-5
	-	_	py Cover					
	Shr	ubs and hal	f-shrubs - 5	% @	75% -		5 K	
		4. <u>Grou</u>	<u>nd Cover</u> (Av	erage Pe	rcent of Su	irface Area)		
	Suri Suri	e ground face grave] face cobble ter - percer	like, forbs and stones of of area epth in cm.		18 @ 7: 69 1 0 12 2	5% →	13.5%	
	F.	TOTAL ANNU	IAL HERBAGE	RODUCTIO	_	lbs./ac)		
		Favorable	years - 850 e years - 32	(Average	2)	H - 638 /4	ARC.	
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G. SITE INTERPRETATIONS

1. Grazing

This site is suitable for grazing by most kinds and classes of livestock in all seasons of the year but is poorly suited for continuous year-long grazing if potential natural vegetation is to be maintained. Under such use, cool-season grasses, such as western wheatgrass, Indian ricegrass, and needleandthread, may decline or even disappear. If use is heavy and prolonged, many of the more palatable warm-season species will also decline. The site in a typically deteriorated condition may be characterized by low-vigor, sod-like blue grama and possibly some galleta. Further deterioration is characterized by increasing amounts of bare ground, increases in ring muhly, sandhill muhly, threeawns and rabbitbrush, and by certain annual forbs. Production in these instances may be cut to one-third or less of the potential, and soil blowing may become severe. The site, in certain instances, is subject to invasion by woody species such as pinyon pine and juniper.

2. Wood Products

This site has no significant value for wood products.

3. Habitat for Wildlife

This range site provides habitat which supports a resident animal community that is characterized by pronghorn antelope, kit fox, badger, desert cottontail, spotted ground squirrel, Ord's kangaroo rat, white-throated woodrat, Botta's pocket gopher, plains pocket mouse, Northern grasshopper mouse, ferruginous hawk, mourning dove, meadowlark, plains spadefoot toad, Eastern fence lizard, plateau whiptail, short-horned lizard and prairie rattlesnake.

Common raven and prairie falcon hunt over the site.

4. Hydrologic Interpretations

Soil Series	Hydrologic Groups
Telescope Royosa fine sand	B

Runoff curve numbers are determined by field investigations using hydrologic cover conditions and hydrologic soil groups.

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5. Recreation and Natural Beauty

This site offers fair potential for hiking, horseback riding, nature observation, photography, camping, and picnicking. It offers good to excellent potential for hunting of prongnorn antelope.

In years of favorable moisture, colorful wildflowers dot the landscape.

6. Endangered Plants and Animals

To be added as reliable information becomes available.

H. OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION

1. Guide to Suggested Initial Stocking Rate Acres per Animal Unit Month

Range Condition	Ac/Aum	
Excellent (100-76)	3.6-4.7	
Good (75-51)	4.5-7.0	
Fair (50-25)	6.8-12.0	
Poor (25-0)	12.0+	

2. <u>Relative Quality of Plants for Animal Use 1/</u>

(a) Cattle

Primary

Western wheatgrass Indian ricegrass Needleandthread New Mexico feathergrass Winterfat Fourwing saltbush Black grama Bottlebrush squirreltail Secondary Blue grama Galleta Bigelow sagebrush Sand dropseed Threeawns spp. Most perennial forbs Low Value Broom snakeweed Rabbitbrush Spineless horsebrush Sandhill muhly Ring muhly False buffalograss

•

(b) Antelope and Sheep

Primary Winterfat Bigelow sagebrush Western wheatgrass Indian ricegrass Fourwing saltbush Most perennial forbs	Needleandthread	Low Value Broom snakeweed Rabbitbrush Sand sagebrush Sandhill muhly Spineless horsebrush
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- I. IDENTIFICATION AND AUTHORIZATION
 - USDA SCS Albuquerque, NM MLRA 36
 - 2. Field Offices: Reserve Magdalena/Quemado
 - 3. Field Office Sample Location

4. Approved:

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Legend and Definitions for Range Site Descriptions.

1/ This rating system provides general guidance as to animal preference for plant species. It also indicates possible competition between kinds of animals for the various plants. Grazing preference changes from time to time and place to place, depending upon the animals, upon plant palatability and nutritive value, stage of growth and season of use, relative abundance, and associated plants. Grazing preference does not necessarily reflect a plant's ecological place in the climax plant community.

The following definitions apply to cattle, sheep, goats, deer, and antelope grazing:

<u>Primary</u>: These species generally decrease when the climax plant community is subjected to continuous heavy grazing pressure by the animals listed. These species are normally grazed first and preferred by the designated grazing animals when given free choice.

<u>Secondary</u>: These plants usually increase initially, then decrease when the site is subjected to continuous heavy grazing use by the animals listed. These plants are normally grazed after primary plants become scarce under free choice, or along with them under intensive grazing systems.

Low Value: These plants continue to increase with heavy, continuous grazing use of the site. These plants are not normally grazed until primary and secondary species are gone and animals are forced to eat them.

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Poison Canyon Inspection Report

Date of Inspection:

August 16, 2000

Present during inspection: MMD representatives: Karen Garcia, Holland Shepherd, Newmont Mining Co. representatives: Joe Pollara

Background

Reclamation at the Poison Canyon Mine site occurred during the spring of 1994. Santa Fe Pacific Gold, the company that owned the mine at that time, applied to the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) for a release from the New Mexico Mining Act (NMMA) under the Prior Reclamation provision in Subpart 510. After conducting an inspection in September of 1995, MMD determined that the site could not be released at that time. Santa Fe Pacific Gold then applied for a variance in May 1996 to allow more time for their reclamation efforts to show results. MMD granted the variance on July 24, 1996 for a period up to 5 years. In early summer of 2000, MMD was contacted by Newmont Mining Company, who now owns the mine, to request an inspection by MMD for release of the site.

On August 16, 2000, Karen Garcia and Holland Shepherd of the Mining and Minerals Division met with Joe Pollara a representative from Newmont Mining Company to inspect and conduct vegetative surveys of the Poison Canyon Mine reclamation.

The site is located in Township 13N Range 9W Central portion of Section 19, about 15 miles north of Grants NM, (See attached map). The road going into the site disappears near a large arroyo at a fence line about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from the actual mine site. It appears that the roadbed had been built on top of an existing arroyo or drainage, and now has been washed away and severely eroded.

The mine was a combination open pit and underground operation. The adit and shafts were apparently covered, as we found no signs of their existence. We noted two main pit areas along with two overburden piles that had been reclaimed and seeded. We began by surveying the southern pit area.

Methodology and Results

The methodology used to conduct the vegetative survey included using random numbers to pick a transect location in the reclaimed area. Then a random compass direction was

Poison Canyon Inspection Report August 2000

chosen to determine direction of transect. A 100 ft. tape was used to obtain percent relative cover data by identifying plant 'hits' every 2 ft. Five transects were run, four in the southern pit and one in the southwest pit area. The survey results are shown on the attached Vegetation Survey Results form. The statistical adequacy formula $s^2t^2/(.1\bar{x})^2$ was used to ensure that an adequate number of transects had been conducted. In fact the variability was so low that 3 transects would have been adequate.

In order to determine if seeding efforts were successful MMD must measure against either a reference area or a technical standard agreed upon with the mine operator. In this case the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Range Site Description (RSD) Sandy (WP-2) was determined to be an appropriate standard. It was agreed that the percent cover value at the site must be at least 75% of the RSD for perennial grasses and forbs. The RSD contained a value of 18%, therefore, the site must have at least a 13.5% canopy cover of perennial grasses and forbs. The survey results indicate an average cover of 34%, well over the minimum value required. The cover values ranged from 32% up to 40% canopy cover. Indian rice grass dominated the dryer upper slopes with western wheat grass dominating the lower slightly wetter environments.

In addition, the site must contain a diversity of plant species indicative of a healthy and stable plant community. Again, referring to the RSD as a guide, the site should contain at least 2 cool season and 2 warm season grasses, as well at least one shrub and forb species. As can be seen in the vegetative survey results, the site does meet the diversity standard as well. Western Wheatgrass and Indian Rice grass being the cool season grasses.

Overall, the site contains a well established four-wing saltbush (*Atriplex spp.*) western wheatgrass (*Pascopyrum Smithii*)/ Blue Grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*) community. This is consistent with the natural vegetation composition in the surrounding undisturbed areas adjacent to the mine site. Though there is a small pocket of sunflower (*Heliantus spp.*), an undesirable annual forb, persisting in the pit bottom, indications are that the sunflower population has been receding and will continue to do so as it is replaced by more permanent perennial species.

Erosion Control

The only area of concern that would inhibit classification as a site allowing for a self sustaining ecosystem would be the presence of a very deep (4 ft) erosion gully now encroaching into the reclamation area. The gully may have been caused by lack of erosion control and maintenance of an old roadbed that was built at the time the mine was active. The 1995 inspection report made mention of, "...a few erosion features including one that was significant". Since there has been no erosion control or maintenance of the site since the reclamation work in 1994, these erosion features are still present. The rills and small gullys noted on side slopes of the pit area will, in all likelihood, fill in and vegetate naturally. The large gully west of the pit, however, has the potential to continue headcutting up into the reclaimed area.

Poison Canyon Inspection Report August 2000

Recommendations

The results of the vegetative survey clearly show that the site meets the cover and diversity standard agreed upon by MMD and the operator. Because the gully erosion at the site may compromise the stability of the reclamation, it is the recommendation of this inspector to have the operator take action to prevent the gully from causing further damage in the area. This could be accomplished by bringing in a dozer to riprap the sides and headcut portion of the gully. It would be of minimal cost and disturbance but would ensure that the largely successful reclamation efforts made in the past would not be negatively impacted. Once that is completed, it would be appropriate to release the site.

Attachments:

Vegetative Survey Results Field Data Sheets NRCS Range Site Description

Vegetative Survey Results Poison Canyon August 16, 2000

Summary

	Transect # 1	Transect # 2	Transect # 3	Transect #4	Transect # 5
Perennial grass/forbs	32%	32%	40%	36%	30%
Litter Bareground	14%	2%	12%	12%	20%
Bareground	54%	64%	48%	40%	50%

Key to Abbreviations Used in this Evaluation

- Rock = Rock with diameter > 2 inches
- BG = Bare Ground
- Litter = Plant Litter
- Agsm = Agropyrom smithii
- Bogr = Bouteloua gracilis
- Bocu = Bouteloua curtipendula
- Atca = Atriplex canescens
- Clse = Cleome serrulata
- Orhy = Oryzopsis hymeniodes
- Hean = Helianthus annus
- Pefo = unknown perennial forb

Site Name: <u>Poison Canyon Mine</u> Data Sheet No. <u>1</u> of <u>5</u>

Date: <u>8/16/00</u> Location: <u>Bottom of South Pit</u> Transect: <u>1</u> Degrees: <u>73</u>

Line Length: 100 ft Investigators: Karen and Garcia and Holland Shepherd

1. BG	21. Litter	41. Bocu
2. Bogr	22. Litter	42. Bocu
3. BG	23. BG	43. BG
4. Orhy	24. Litter	44. Bocu
5. Atca	25. BG	45. BG
6. Bogr	26. BG	46. BG
7. BG	27. BG	47. BG
8. Bocu	28. BG	48. Litter
9. BG	29. Agsm	49. Bocu
10. BG	30. Agsm	50. Litter
11. BG	31. BG	
12. BG	32. Litter	
13. BG	33. Litter	
14. BG	34. BG	
15. BG	35. BG	
16. BG	36. BG	
17. Orhy	37. Atca	
18. Orhy	38. BG	
19. Orhy	39. BG	
20. Orhy	40. Bogr	

 Total Rock %
 0

 Total Bare Ground %
 54

 Total Plant Cover %
 32

 Perennial %
 32

 Annual %
 0

Site Name: <u>Poison Canyon Mine</u> Data Sheet No. <u>2</u> of <u>5</u>

Date: 8/16/00 Location: Bottom of South Pit Transect: 2 Degrees: 163

Line Length: 100 ft Investigators: Karen Garcia and Holland Shepherd

1. BG	21. BG	41. BG
2. BG	22. BG	42. BG
3. Rock	23. BG	43. Pefo
4. BG	24. BG	44. BG
5. Bocu	25. BG	45. BG
6. BG	26. BG	46. Agsm
7. BG	27. Agsm	47. BG
8. BG	28. Orhy	48. BG
9. BG	29. Agsm	49. Litter
10. Orhy	30. Atca	50. BG
11. Orhy	31. Atca	
12. Bocu	32. BG	
13. Orhy	33. BG	
14. BG	34. BG	
15. Rock	35. BG	
16. Atca	36. BG	
17. Agsm	37. BG	
18. Atca	38. BG	
19. Atca	39. BG	
20. BG	40. BG	

Total Rock %		
Total Bare Ground % 64		
Total Plant Cover % 32	Perennial % 32	Annual % 0
Total Litter % 2		

 Site Name:
 Poison Canyon Mine
 Data Sheet No.
 3 of
 5

 Date:
 8/16/00
 Location:
 Bottom of South Pit
 Transect:
 3
 Degrees:
 123

Line Length: 100 Investigators: Karen Garcia and Holland Shepherd

1. BG	21. BG	41. Clse
2. Atca	22. BG	42. BG
3. Litter	23. BG	43. BG
4. BG	24. BG	44. Clse
5. Litter	25. Atca	45. BG
6. Atca	26. Bogr	46. BG
7. BG	27. BG	47. BG
8. BG	28. BG	48. BG
9. BG	29. BG	49. Litter
10. Atca	30. Agsm	50. BG
11. BG	31. BG	
12. Bocu	32. Bocu	
13. BG	33. Atca	
14. Bogr	34. Atca	
15. Atca	35. Atca	
16. Litter	36. Agsm	
17. Orhy	37. Atca	
18. Litter	38. Atca	
19. BG	39. BG	
20. Litter	40. Agsm	

 Total Rock %
 0

 Total Bare Ground %
 48

 Total Plant Cover %
 40

 Perennial %
 40

 Annual %
 0

 Total Litter %
 12

Site Name:	Poison Canyon Min	Data Sheet No. <u>4</u> of <u>5</u>
Date: <u>8/16/00</u>	Location:	Bottom of South Pit Transect: 4 Degrees: 140
Line Length: _	100 Investigator	s: Karen Garcia and Holland Shepherd

1. BG	21. Agsm	41. Agsm
2. BG	22. Agsm	42. Litter
3. BG	23. Agsm	43. Litter
4. BG	24. BG	44. Agsm
5. BG	25. Agsm	45. BG
6. BG	26. Hean	46. Agsm
7. BG	27. Clse	47. Litter
8. Bogr	28. Hean	48. Litter
9. Bogr	29. Hean	49. BG
10. Litter	30. Hean	50. BG
11. Atca	31. BG	
12. BG	32. Hean	
13. BG	33. BG	
14. Litter	34. BG	
15. BG	35. BG	
16. Atca	36. BG	
17. Atca	37. Agsm	
18. Atca	38. BG	
19. Atca	39. Agsm	
20. Atca	40. BG	

 Total Rock % __0

 Total Bare Ground % __40

 Total Plant Cover % __46

 Perennial % __36

 Annual % __10

Site Name: <u>Poison Canyon Mine</u> Data Sheet No. <u>5</u> of <u>5</u>

Date: 8/16/00 Location: Bottom of Southwest Pit_ Transect: 5 Degrees: 241

Line Length: 100 ft Investigators: Karen Garcia and Holland Shepherd

. .

1. Litter	21. Agsm	41. BG
2. BG	22. BG	42. BG
3. BG	23. BG	43. BG
4. Orhy	24. BG	44. BG
5. Litter	25. BG	45. BG
6. BG	26. Agsm	46. Orhy
7. BG	27. Litter	47. BG
8. BG	28. Litter	48. BG
9. BG	29. Litter	49. Bocu
10. BG	30. BG	50. Litter
11. Litter	31. Agsm	
12. BG	32. Agsm	
13. Litter	33. Agsm	
14. BG	34. BG	
15. BG	35. Agsm	
16. Agsm	36. Litter	
17. Agsm	37. Orhy	
18. BG	38. Orhy	
19. BG	39. Orhy	
20. BG	40. Orhy	

 Total Rock %
 0

 Total Bare Ground %
 50

 Total Plant Cover %
 30

 Perennial %
 30

 Annual %

Site Name	nison Canyo	M Data S	Sheet No. 1 of	Sec
Date <u>9/6/00</u> Line Length Intervisit	Location Inv	Quadr vestigators Kard	ant 1 Deg m Holland	rees <u>73</u> Twp Rng
Intervial 1 BG	²¹ Litter	41 Ball	<u>61</u>	<u>81</u>
2 personal	22 Lit	41 Bolu 42 Bolu	<u>62</u>	<u>82</u>
3 36	23 BE	43 BG -	<u>63</u>	83
4 Urhy	24 Lir	44 Boln	<u>64</u>	84
5 Atcan	25	45 BG.	<u>65</u>	85
6 p.g.	2 <u>6</u> BG	<u>46</u> BG .	<u>66</u>	86
² B6	2 <u>7</u> BG	47 BG.	<u>67</u>	87
 Bolic. B.6 	28 BE.	48	<u>68</u>	88
² B6	29 KgEm	49 Kola	<u>69</u>	89
10 B6	30 Azishi	50 Lit	<u>70</u>	<u>90</u>
11 BG	<u>31</u> B6	51	71	<u>91</u>
12 BG	32 47	52	72	92
13 BG	<u>33</u> <u>34</u> 26	53	73	<u>93</u>
50	ne	54	74	<u>94</u>
15 BA	<u>35</u> 136	55	75	<u>95</u>
16 36	<u>36</u> <u>37</u> <u>37</u>	56	76	<u>96</u> 97
17 Orhy 18 DC	37 ATEA	<u>57</u> <u>58</u>	77 78	<u>97</u> <u>98</u>
$\frac{10}{19}$ p_{G}	×6 ·	59	78	99
Urny	66.			
20 Orhy	Dergi.	<u>60</u>	80	100

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Total Rock (R) %		
Total Bare Ground (BG)% 549.	,	
Total Plant Cover % 32.7.	Perennial	Annual
Total Litter (L)%		

	1 .		mpn		Data	Sheet No. 2	N	Sec Twp
)ate	Length	Loca	atidn Ir	vestigato	Qua rs HS f(drant 2	Degrees 1630	Rng
		1 les						
	PI	21		41	471	<u>61</u>	81	
	<u>B6</u>	22	Blo	42	B6	<u>62</u>	82	
-		23	Blo	43	Atta Te.	$\beta_{a} = \frac{63}{2}$	<u>83</u>	
	Rock	24	R1.	44	1180 10. BG	<u>64</u>	<u>84</u>	
	B6	25	Blo	45		<u>65</u>	<u>85</u>	
-	Bocu	26	BG	46	36	<u>66</u>	<u>86</u>	
-	Bla	27	Bo	47	Aasm	<u>67</u>	<u>87</u>	
-	B(9	28	AIGM	48	BG E	<u>68</u>	88	
	Fle	29	Othy	49	E6	<u>69</u>	<u>89</u>	
)	36	30	(tasm'	50	Litter .	70	<u>90</u>	
1	orty	31	Atca	51	Eb	71	<u>91</u>	
2	Orm	32	14+10	52		72	92	
1	Bour	33	Bir	53		73	93	
	Orhy	34	56	54		74	94	
5	Blo	35	The	55		75	<u>95</u>	
	Rack		EG					
	Atra	36	36	<u>56</u>		76	<u>96</u>	
	Aagm	37	Bb	<u>57</u>		77	<u>97</u>	
	Atra	38	Bb	58		<u>78</u>	<u>98</u>	
	Atu	39	BG	<u>59</u>		<u>79</u>	<u>99</u>	
	Bl	40	RG	60		80	100	

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Site	Name	Pois	on Cany.	~	Data Sh	eet No. 0	of		Sec
Dat Line	e <u>5/14</u> e Length	Loca	tion Inve	stigato	Quadra	nt	Degrees	12.3	Twp Rng
1	RA	21	BG	41	1 det march	<u>61</u>		<u>81</u>	
2	B6 ATCa	22	BG	42	BG	<u>62</u>		82	
3	Lit	23	BG	43	B6	<u>63</u>		<u>83</u>	
4	BG	24	BG	44	Cleome	<u>64</u>		<u>84</u>	
5	Lir	25	ATCa	45	R4	<u>65</u>		85	
<u>6</u>		26	Ат Са Воб-г	46	BG	66		86	
7	Atca BG	27	P.G	47	ÊĞ	<u>67</u>		87	
8	BG	28	RE	48	EG.	<u>68</u>		88	
2	K6	29	RE BG Ag Son RG	49	lit	<u>69</u>		<u>89</u>	
<u>10</u>		30	Aston	50	36	70		<u>90</u>	
11	Atca Bb	31	P.T.	51		71		<u>91</u>	
<u>12</u>	Bola.	32	Eschi.	<u>52</u>		72		<u>92</u>	
13	86	33	Atia	53		73		<u>93</u>	
14	Brér	34	Arca	<u>54</u>		74		<u>94</u>	
15	Atc	35	Atca.	55		75		<u>95</u>	
<u>16</u>	Lit	36	Az Com.	<u>56</u>		76		<u>96</u>	
<u>17</u>	Dichy	37	ATLa.	<u>57</u>		77		<u>97</u>	
<u>18</u>	Lit	38	ATCA	<u>58</u>		78		<u>98</u>	
<u>19</u>	BG	<u>39</u>	BG	<u>59</u>		<u>79</u>		<u>99</u>	
<u>20</u>	LIT	40	Ajon	<u>60</u>		80		100	

Site Name Date		Mym Data Qua vestigators KG			Sec Twp Rng
ine Length	100 gr In	vestigators K6	1K		
BG	21 Arim	41 Karm	<u>61</u>	81	
R'a	22 Arm	42	<u>62</u>	82	
71	23 Arm	43	<u>63</u>	83	
Bla Bla	24 30	44 Alern	<u>64</u>	84	
Bla	25 Aasan	45 F 9	<u>65</u>	85	
Bla	26 40.10	46 fahn	<u>66</u>	86	
BG	27 aune	47 John	<u>67</u>	87	
Boar	$\frac{28}{1100}$	48 4405	<u>68</u>	88	
Boar	29 Han	49 J(r	<u>69</u>	89	
0 Stri	30 Heen	<u>50</u> [lr	70	<u>90</u>	
1 Atca	<u>31</u> FG	51	71	91	
2 Bb	32 Hearn	52	72	92	
3 B(r	33 D(r	53	73	<u>93</u>	
4 Liter	34 Bly	54	74	<u>94</u>	
<u>s</u> Bfr	35 Blo	55	75	<u>95</u>	
6 Atu	<u>36</u> IG	56	76	<u>96</u>	
Z A-La	37 Angm	57	77	<u>97</u>	
8 Atla	38 BG	58	78	<u>98</u>	
2 Atia	39 An4m	<u>59</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>99</u>	
o Atra	40 Br	<u>60</u>	<u>80</u>	100	

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Total Rotk (R) % Total Bare Ground (BG)% Total Plant Cover % 4 60/0 Total Litter (L)% Annual 18% 34% Perennial

Site Name	POISON Canyo	n Data	Sheet No. 5	of	Sec
Date Slig Line Length	LocationInv	Quad	rant_5	Degrees <u>241</u>	Twp Rng
1 bir	21 As Som	41 BG	<u>61</u>	81	
$\frac{R}{2}$ R/4	22 B.G.	42 BG.	<u>62</u>	82	
3 R/2	23 P/2 -	43 BG	<u>63</u>	83	
4 Crhu	$\frac{24}{BF}$	44 EG.	<u>64</u>	<u>84</u>	
5 /17	25 RG -	45 R.C.	<u>65</u>	85	
6 B6 -	26	46 Orican	<u>66</u>	86	
BL.	27	47 262	<u>67</u>	<u>87</u>	
BG-	28 Lit	48 B/2	<u>68</u>	88	
BG.		49 Boli	<u>69</u>	89	
10 BG	30 B6 -	50 / j.	70	<u>90</u>	
Lit	<u>31</u> A6C	51	71	<u>91</u>	
BG.	32 Ar C	52	72	92	
13 Lir	33 A.C.	53	73	<u>93</u>	•
14 BG .	34 RA	<u>54</u>	74	<u>94</u>	
15 BG -	35 ptijam	55	75	<u>95</u>	
16 Q./.	36	<u>56</u>	<u>76</u>	<u>96</u>	
Z 12.60	37 01	<u>57</u>	77	<u>97</u>	
18 26-	38 Cichan	58	<u>78</u>	<u>98</u>	
19 P.C.	$\frac{2}{39}$ (refus	<u>59</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>99</u>	
20 BC	40 Grhy	<u>60</u>	80	100	

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RANGE SITE DESCRIPTION

Section II E, Technical Guide

A. SITE NO. D36-713-N

Sandy (WP-2)

B. PHYSIOGRAPHIC FEATURES

This site usually occurs on level to gently sloping or undulating topography of upland plains. Slopes average less than 10 percent. Elevations range from about 6,000 feet to just over 7,200 feet.

C. CLIMATIC FEATURES

1. Average annual precipitation varies from about 10 inches to just over 16 inches. Fluctuations ranging from about 5 inches to 25 inches are not uncommon. The overall climate is characterized by cold dry winters in which winter moisture is less than summer. As much as half or more of the annual precipitation can be expected to come during the period of July through September. Thus, fall conditions are often more favorable for good growth of cool-season perennial grasses, shrubs, and forbs than are those of spring.

2. The average frost-free season is about 120 days and extends from approximately mid-May to early or mid-September. Average annual air temperatures are 50° F. or lower, and summer maximums rarely exceed 100° F. Winter minimums typically approach or go below zero. Monthly mean temperatures exceed 70° F. for the period of July and August.

3. Rainfall patterns generally favor warm-season perennial vegetation, while the temperature regime tends to favor cool-season vegetation. This creates a somewhat complex community of plants on a given range site which is quite susceptible to disturbance and is at or near its productive potential only when both the natural warm- and cool-season dominants are present.

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D. SOILS

1. The soils of this site are moderately deep to deep, well drained, and may or may not be calcareous throughout. Typically, the surface layer is a sandy loam, fine sandy loam, or loamy fine sand at least 5 or 6 inches thick over sandy loam to clay loam subsoils. Permeability is moderately slow to moderately rapid, and the available water capacity is moderate to high.

The soils of this site are subject to soil blowing.

2. Characteristic soils are:

Telescope loamy fine sand

3. Other soils included are:

Royosa fine sand



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POTENTIAL NATURAL PLANT COMMUNITY Ε.

This site is characterized by both warm- and cool-season grasses, 1. scattered shrubs, half-shrubs, and forbs. Blue grama and western wheatgrass are co-dominants, with Indian ricegrass and dropseed closely associated. Principal shrubs and half-shrubs include fourwing saltbush, winterfat, and sand sagebrush. Rocky Mountain beeplant is often the most noticeable forb. Broom snakeweed is most common in certain wet years and when the plant community deteriorates from its potential.

Composition of Potential Plant Community 2.

Approximate percentage of total annual herbage production.

	Grasses and Grasslike - 75-85% Western wheatgrass(Shrubs, half-shrubs, vines and trees) Woody - 10-15%Forbs - 5-10%Blue grama25-30Winterfat)5-10Indian ricegrass5-10Bigelow sagebrush1-5Needleandthread)Broom snakeweed)Bottlebrush squirreltail)5-10Rabbitbrush)1-3Sand dropseed)10-15Spineless horsebrush)Galleta1-5Ring muhly)3-5ialse buffalograss)1-5Black grama1-5	3-8 1-5
	Spike muhly 1-3	
	3. Canopy Cover	
	Shrubs and half-shrubs - 5% \bigcirc 75% \longrightarrow 3.75%	
•	4. Ground Cover (Average Percent of Surface Area)	
	Grasses, grasslike, forbs $18 \ C \ 75\% \longrightarrow 13.5\%$ Bare ground69Surface gravel1Surface cobble and stones0Litter - percent of area12av. depth in cm.2	
	F. TOTAL ANNUAL HERBAGE PRODUCTION (Air-dry, 1bs./ac.)	
	Favorable years - 850 (Average) Unfavorable years - 325 (Average) 244 - 638 /4ac.	
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G. SITE INTERPRETATIONS

1. <u>Grazing</u>

This site is suitable for grazing by most kinds and classes of livestock in all seasons of the year but is poorly suited for continuous year-long grazing if potential natural vegetation is to be maintained. Under such use, cool-season grasses, such as western wheatgrass, Indian ricegrass, and needleandthread, may decline or even disappear. If use is heavy and prolonged, many of the more palatable warm-season species will also decline. The site in a typically deteriorated condition may be characterized by low-vigor, sod-like blue grama and possibly some galleta. Further deterioration is characterized by increasing amounts of bare ground, increases in ring muhly, sandhill muhly, threeawns and rabbitbrush, and by certain annual forbs. Production in these instances may be cut to one-third or less of the potential, and soil blowing may become severe. The site, in certain instances, is subject to invasion by woody species such as pinyon pine and juniper.

2. Wood Products

This site has no significant value for wood products.

3. Habitat for Wildlife

This range site provides habitat which supports a resident animal community that is characterized by pronghorn antelope, kit fox, badger, desert cottontail, spotted ground squirrel, Ord's kangaroo rat, white-throated woodrat, Botta's pocket gopher, plains pocket mouse, Northern grasshopper mouse, ferruginous hawk, mourning dove, meadowlark, plains spadefoot toad, Eastern fence lizard, plateau whiptail, short-horned lizard and prairie rattlesnake.

Common raven and prairie falcon hunt over the site.

4. <u>Hydrologic Interpretations</u>

<u>Soil Series</u>	Hydrologic Groups
Telescope Royosa fine sand	В

Runoff curve numbers are determined by field investigations using hydrologic cover conditions and hydrologic soil groups.

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5. Recreation and Natural Beauty

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This site offers fair potential for hiking, horseback riding, nature observation, photography, camping, and picnicking. It offers good to excellent potential for hunting of prongnorn antelope.

In years of favorable moisture, colorful wildflowers dot the landscape.

Endangered Plants and Animals

To be added as reliable information becomes available.

H. OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION

1. Guide to Suggested Initial Stocking Rate Acres per Animal Unit Month

Range ConditionAc/AumExcellent (100-76)3.6-4.7Good (75-51)4.5-7.0Fair (50-26)6.8-12.0Poor (25-0)12.0+

2. Relative Quality of Plants for Animal Use 1/

(a) Cattle

Primary

Western wheatgrass Indian ricegrass Needleandthread New Mexico feathergrass Winterfat Fourwing saltbush Black grama Bottlebrush squirreltail Secondary Blue grama Galleta Bigelow sagebrush Sand dropseed Threeawns spp. Most perennial forbs

Low Value Broom snakeweed Rabbitbrush Spineless horsebrush Sandhill muhly Ring muhly False buffalograss

(b) Antelope and Sheep

Primary Winterfat Bigelow sagebrush Western wheatgrass Indian ricegrass Fourwing saltbush Most perennial forbs	<u>Secondary</u> Blue grama New Mexico feathergrass Needleandthread Threeawns spp. Dropseeds	Low Value Broom snakeweed Rabbitbrush Sand sagebrush Sandhill muhly Spineless horsebrush
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FROM : NRCS GRANTS FO

- I. IDENTIFICATION AND AUTHORIZATION
 - 1. USDA SCS Albuquerque, NM MLRA 36
 - 2. Field Offices: Reserve Magdalena/Quemado
 - 3. Field Office Sample Location
 - 4. Approved:

Range Conservationist State Date

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Legend and Definitions for Range Site Descriptions.

1/ This rating system provides general guidance as to animal preference for plant species. It also indicates possible competition between kinds of animals for the various plants. Grazing preference changes from time to time and place to place, depending upon the animals, upon plant palatability and nutritive value, stage of growth and season of use, relative abundance, and associated plants. Grazing preference does not necessarily reflect a plant's ecological place in the climax plant community.

The following definitions apply to cattle, sheep, goats, deer, and antelope grazing:

<u>Primary</u>: These species generally decrease when the climax plant community is subjected to continuous heavy grazing pressure by the animals listed. These species are normally grazed first and preferred by the designated grazing animals when given free choice.

<u>Secondary</u>: These plants usually increase initially, then decrease when the site is subjected to continuous heavy grazing use by the animals listed. These plants are normally grazed after primary plants become scarce under free choice, or along with them under intensive grazing systems.

Low Value: These plants continue to increase with heavy, continuous grazing use of the site. These plants are not normally grazed until primary and secondary species are gone and animals are forced to eat them.

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Poison Canyon Inspection Report

Date of Inspection:

August 16, 2000

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Present during inspection:

MMD representatives: Karen Garcia, Holland Shepherd, Newmont Mining Co. representatives: Joe Pollara

Background

Reclamation at the Poison Canyon Mine site occurred during the spring of 1994. Santa Fe Pacific Gold, the company that owned the mine at that time, applied to the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) for a release from the New Mexico Mining Act (NMMA) under the Prior Reclamation provision in Subpart 510. After conducting an inspection in September of 1995, MMD determined that the site could not be released at that time. Santa Fe Pacific Gold then applied for a variance in May 1996 to allow more time for their reclamation efforts to show results. MMD granted the variance on July 24, 1996 for a period up to 5 years. In early summer of 2000, MMD was contacted by Newmont Mining Company, who now owns the mine, to request an inspection by MMD for release of the site.

On August 16, 2000, Karen Garcia and Holland Shepherd of the Mining and Minerals Division met with Joe Pollara a representative from Newmont Mining Company to inspect and conduct vegetative surveys of the Poison Canyon Mine reclamation.

The site is located in Township 13N Range 9W Central portion of Section 19, about 15 miles north of Grants NM, (See attached map). The road going into the site disappears near a large arroyo at a fence line about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from the actual mine site. It appears that the roadbed had been built on top of an existing arroyo or drainage, and now has been washed away and severely eroded.

The mine was a combination open pit and underground operation. The adit and shafts were apparently covered, as we found no signs of their existence. We noted two main pit areas along with two overburden piles that had been reclaimed and seeded. We began by surveying the southern pit area.

Methodology and Results

The methodology used to conduct the vegetative survey included using random numbers to pick a transect location in the reclaimed area. Then a random compass direction was

Poison Canyon Inspection Report August 2000

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chosen to determine direction of transect. A 100 ft. tape was used to obtain percent relative cover data by identifying plant 'hits' every 2 ft. Five transects were run, four in the southern pit and one in the southwest pit area. The survey results are shown on the attached Vegetation Survey Results form. The statistical adequacy formula $s^2t^2/(.1x)^2$ was used to ensure that an adequate number of transects had been conducted. In fact the variability was so low that 3 transects would have been adequate.

In order to determine if seeding efforts were successful MMD must measure against either a reference area or a technical standard agreed upon with the mine operator. In this case the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Range Site Description (RSD) Sandy (WP-2) was determined to be an appropriate standard. It was agreed that the percent cover value at the site must be at least 75% of the RSD for perennial grasses and forbs. The RSD contained a value of 18%, therefore, the site must have at least a 13.5% canopy cover of perennial grasses and forbs. The survey results indicate an average cover of 34%, well over the minimum value required. The cover values ranged from 32% up to 40% canopy cover. Indian rice grass dominated the dryer upper slopes with western wheat grass dominating the lower slightly wetter environments.

In addition, the site must contain a diversity of plant species indicative of a healthy and stable plant community. Again, referring to the RSD as a guide, the site should contain at least 2 cool season and 2 warm season grasses, as well at least one shrub and forb species. As can be seen in the vegetative survey results, the site does meet the diversity standard as well. Western Wheatgrass and Indian Rice grass being the cool season grasses.

Overall, the site contains a well established four-wing saltbush (*Atriplex spp.*) western wheatgrass (*Pascopyrum Smithii*)/ Blue Grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*) community. This is consistent with the natural vegetation composition in the surrounding undisturbed areas adjacent to the mine site. Though there is a small pocket of sunflower (*Heliantus spp.*), an undesirable annual forb, persisting in the pit bottom, indications are that the sunflower population has been receding and will continue to do so as it is replaced by more permanent perennial species.

Erosion Control

The only area of concern that would inhibit classification as a site allowing for a self sustaining ecosystem would be the presence of a very deep (4 ft) erosion gully now encroaching into the reclamation area. The gully may have been caused by lack of erosion control and maintenance of an old roadbed that was built at the time the mine was active. The 1995 inspection report made mention of, "...a few erosion features including one that was significant". Since there has been no erosion control or maintenance of the site since the reclamation work in 1994, these erosion features are still present. The rills and small gullys noted on side slopes of the pit area will, in all likelihood, fill in and vegetate naturally. The large gully west of the pit, however, has the potential to continue headcutting up into the reclaimed area.

Poison Canyon Inspection Report August 2000

Recommendations

The results of the vegetative survey clearly show that the site meets the cover and diversity standard agreed upon by MMD and the operator. Because the gully erosion at the site may compromise the stability of the reclamation, it is the recommendation of this inspector to have the operator take action to prevent the gully from causing further damage in the area. This could be accomplished by bringing in a dozer to riprap the sides and headcut potion of the gully. It would be of minimal cost and disturbance but would ensure that the largely successful reclamation efforts made in the past would not be negatively impacted. Once that is completed, the site could be released.

Attachments:

Vegetative Survey Results Field Data Sheets NRCS Range Site Description

Vegetative Survey Results Poison Canyon August 16, 2000

Summary

	Transect # 1	Transect # 2	Transect # 3	Transect #4	Transect # 5
Perennial grass/forbs	32%	32%	40%	36%	30%
Litter	14%	2%	12%	12%	20%
Bareground	54%	64%	48%	40%	50%

Key to Abbreviations Used in this Evaluation

- Rock = Rock with diameter > 2 inches
- BG = Bare Ground
- Litter = Plant Litter
- Agsm = Agropyrom smithii
- Bogr = Bouteloua gracilis
- Bocu = Bouteloua curtipendula
- Atca = Atriplex canescens
- Clse = Cleome serrulata
- Orhy = Oryzopsis hymeniodes
- Hean = Helianthus annus
- Pefo = unknown perennial forb

Site Name: <u>Poison Canyon Mine</u> Data Sheet No. <u>1</u> of <u>5</u>

Date: <u>8/16/00</u> Location: <u>Bottom of South Pit</u> Transect: <u>1</u> Degrees: <u>73</u>

Line Length: <u>100 ft</u> Investigators: <u>Karen and Garcia and Holland Shepherd</u>

1. BG	21. Litter	41. Bocu
2. Bogr	22. Litter	42. Bocu
3. BG	23. BG	43. BG
4. Orhy	24. Litter	44. Bocu
5. Atca	25. BG	45. BG
6. Bogr	26. BG	46. BG
7. BG	27. BG	47. BG
8. Bocu	28. BG	48. Litter
9. BG	29. Agsm	49. Bocu
10. BG	30. Agsm	50. Litter
11. BG	31. BG	
12. BG	32. Litter	
13. BG	33. Litter	
14. BG	34. BG	
15. BG	35. BG	
16. BG	36. BG	
17. Orhy	37. Atca	
18. Orhy	38. BG	
19. Orhy	39. BG	
20. Orhy	40. Bogr	

Total Rock %0Total Bare Ground %54Total Plant Cover %32Total Litter %14

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Perennial % 32 Annual % 0

Site Name: <u>Poison Canyon Mine</u> Data Sheet No. <u>2</u> of <u>5</u>

Date: <u>8/16/00</u> Location: <u>Bottom of South Pit</u> Transect: <u>2</u> Degrees: <u>163</u>

Line Length: <u>100_ft</u> Investigators: <u>Karen Garcia and Holland Shepherd</u>

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1. BG	21. BG	41. BG
2. BG	22. BG	42. BG
3. Rock	23. BG	43. Pefo
4. BG	24. BG	44. BG
5. Bocu	25. BG	45. BG
6. BG	26. BG	46. Agsm
7. BG	27. Agsm	47. BG
8. BG	28. Orhy	48. BG
9. BG	29. Agsm	49. Litter
10. Orhy	30. Atca	50. BG
11. Orhy	31. Atca	
12. Bocu	32. BG	
13. Orhy	33. BG	
14. BG	34. BG	
15. Rock	35. BG	
16. Atca	36. BG	
17. Agsm	37. BG	
18. Atca	38. BG	
19. Atca	39. BG	
20. BG	40. BG	

 Total Rock %
 2

 Total Bare Ground %
 64

 Total Plant Cover %
 32

 Perennial %
 32

 Annual %
 0

 Site Name:
 Poison Canyon Mine
 Data Sheet No.
 3 of
 5

 Date:
 <u>8/16/00</u>
 Location:
 <u>Bottom of South Pit</u> Transect:
 3
 Degrees:
 123

Line Length: <u>100</u> Investigators: <u>Karen Garcia and Holland Shepherd</u>

. .

1. BG	21. BG	41. Clse
2. Atca	22. BG	42. BG
3. Litter	23. BG	43. BG
4. BG	24. BG	44. Clse
5. Litter	25. Atca	45. BG
6. Atca	26. Bogr	46. BG
7. BG	27. BG	47. BG
8. BG	28. BG	48. BG
9. BG	29. BG	49. Litter
10. Atca	30. Agsm	50. BG
11. BG	31. BG	
12. Bocu	32. Bocu	
13. BG	33. Atca	
14. Bogr	34. Atca	
15. Atca	35. Atca	
16. Litter	36. Agsm	
17. Orhy	37. Atca	
18. Litter	38. Atca	
19. BG	39. BG	
20. Litter	40. Agsm	

Total Rock %0Total Bare Ground %48Total Plant Cover %40Perennial %40Annual %0Total Litter %12

 Site Name:
 Poison Canyon Mine
 Data Sheet No.
 4 of
 5

 Date:
 8/16/00
 Location:
 Bottom of South Pit
 Transect:
 4
 Degrees:
 140

Line Length: 100 Investigators: Karen Garcia and Holland Shepherd

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1. BG	21. Agsm	41. Agsm
2. BG	22. Agsm	42. Litter
3. BG	23. Agsm	43. Litter
4. BG	24. BG	44. Agsm
5. BG	25. Agsm	45. BG
6. BG	26. Hean	46. Agsm
7. BG	27. Clse	47. Litter
8. Bogr	28. Hean	48. Litter
9. Bogr	29. Hean	49. BG
10. Litter	30. Hean	50. BG
11. Atca	31. BG	
12. BG	32Hean	
13. BG	33. BG	
14. Litter	34. BG	
15. BG	35. BG	
16. Atca	36. BG	
17. Atca	37. Agsm	
18. Atca	38. BG	
19. Atca	39. Agsm	
20. Atca	40. BG	

 Total Rock % _____
 0

 Total Bare Ground % _____
 40

 Total Plant Cover % _____
 46

 Perennial % _____
 36

 Annual % ______
 10

Site Name: <u>Poison Canyon Mine</u> Data Sheet No. <u>5</u> of <u>5</u>

Date: <u>8/16/00</u> Location: <u>Bottom of Southwest Pit</u> Transect: <u>5</u> Degrees: <u>241</u>

Line Length: 100 ft Investigators: Karen Garcia and Holland Shepherd

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1. Litter	21. Agsm	41. BG
2. BG	22. BG	42. BG
3. BG	23. BG	43. BG
4. Orhy	24. BG	44. BG
5. Litter	25. BG	45. BG
6. BG	26. Agsm	46. Orhy
7. BG	27. Litter	47. BG
8. BG	28. Litter	48. BG
9. BG	29. Litter	49. Bocu
10. BG	30. BG	50. Litter
11. Litter	31. Agsm	
12. BG	32. Agsm	
13. Litter	33. Agsm	
14. BG	34. BG	
15. BG	35. Agsm	
16. Agsm	36. Litter	
17. Agsm	37. Orhy	
18. BG	38. Orhy	
19. BG	39. Orhy	
20. BG	40. Orhy	

 Total Rock %
 0

 Total Bare Ground %
 50

 Total Plant Cover %
 30

 Perennial %
 30

 Annual %

	,	son Canyo	Data S	Sheet No. 1 of	
	Date 3/16/00	Location	Quadr	ant 1 Degree Molland	s_/ Rng
14	Line Length	<u>nooff</u> inve	estigators Kare	~ Norland	
50	1 BG	21 Litter	41 Bolu	<u>61</u>	<u>81</u>
	2 personal	22 Lit	42 Boly	<u>62</u>	<u>82</u>
	3 B6	23 BG	43 BG -	<u>63</u>	83
	4 Orhy:	24 Lir	44 Bolin	<u>64</u>	84
	5 Atcan	25 BG.	45 BG.	<u>65</u>	85
	6 p.gr.	26 BG	<u>46</u> BG .	<u>66</u>	86
	² B6	27 BG	47 BG .	<u>67</u>	87
	· Bolue.	28 BE.	48 Li	<u>68</u>	88
	² B6	29 AgSm	49 Boln	<u>69</u>	<u>89</u>
	10 B6	30 Az Sm	50 Kir	<u>70</u>	<u>90</u>
	11 BG	<u>31</u> B6	51	71	<u>91</u>
	12 BG	32 Lit	<u>52</u>	72	<u>92</u>
	13 BG	3 <u>3</u> Lir	<u>53</u>	73	<u>93</u>
	14 BG	<u>34</u> BB	<u>54</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>94</u>
	15 B&	35 B6	55	75	<u>95</u>
	16 BG	36 B6	<u>56</u>	76	<u>96</u>
	17 Orhy	37 AtCa	<u>57</u>	77	<u>97</u>
	18 BG	<u>38</u> B6.	58	<u>78</u>	<u>98</u>
	19 Orky	³⁹ BG.	<u>59</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>99</u>
	20 Ach	40 Der m.	<u>60</u>	80	100

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Total Rock (R) %			
Total Bare Ground (BG)% 54%			
Total Plant Cover % 32.7.	Perennial	Annual	
Total Litter (L)%			

Plant Species on Site

Grass Species	Count	Total percentage
	Total	

otal

Shrubs and 1/2 shrubs	Count	Total percentage
	Total	

Total

Forbes	Count	Total percentage	
and an			
	Total		

Total _____

Trees	Count	Total percentage
	Total	

Total

1 .	Bonlaupn		ata Sheet No. 2_ of		Sec Twp
Date <u>8/16/0</u> .ine Length	00 Location	Investigators <u>18</u> 4	uadrant 2 D	egrees here	Rng
Ble	2 <u>1</u> 1310	<u>41</u> K(2	<u>61</u>	81	~
BG	22 D (0	42 BG	<u>62</u>	<u>82</u>	
Rock	23 Ble	43 Atta T	2-la 63	83	
Bla	24 Blo	44 B6	64	<u>84</u>	
Bacu	25 B6	45 Blo	<u>65</u>	<u>85</u>	
Blo	26 BO	46 Agsm	<u>66</u>	86	
B (9	27 Agsm	47 36	<u>67</u>	<u>87</u>	
Rie	28 AHAM	48 Blo	<u>68</u>	88	
Ble	29 Aasm	49 Litter	<u>69</u>	89	
2 1	30 195101	50 B6	70	90	
Orby	31 Ata	51	71	<u>91</u>	
Drhy	32 32 36	52	72	92	
Bour	33 B6	53	73	<u>93</u>	
Urhy R/	<u>34</u> 36	<u>54</u>	74	<u>94</u>	
Blo	35 35 36	55	75	<u>95</u>	
Atra:	36	56	76	<u>96</u>	
2 0	37 37 Bb	<u>57</u>	77	<u>97</u>	
Aggma All	1 38	58	78	<u>98</u>	
Atta	<u>39</u> BG	<u>59</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>99</u>	
B6	40 RG	<u>60</u>	80	100	

Site Name	Poison La	myon	Data Sheet No.	<u>3</u> of	Sec
Date \$14	Location	/	Quadrant	Degrees 123	Twp Rng
Line Length		Investigators			

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1	11	21	0/	41	11.	61	81
2	BG	22	BG BG	42	BG	<u>62</u>	82
3	ATCa	23	BG	43	DG BG	<u>63</u>	83
4	BG	24	BG	44	Cleome	<u>64</u>	<u>84</u>
5	BG Lir	25		45	Blog	<u>65</u>	<u>85</u>
6	Aten	26	Arla Bobr	46	BG	<u>66</u>	86
2	Atca BG	27	BG	47	BG	<u>67</u>	87
8	BG	28	BE	48		<u>68</u>	88
2	16G	<u>29</u>	BG	<u>49</u>	BG. Lit	<u>69</u>	<u>89</u>
10	Atca	30	AgSm	50	BG	<u>70</u>	<u>90</u>
11	Bb	31	BG	51		71	91
12	BoCu.	32	Bolin. Atca	52		72	92
<u>13</u>	86	33	Atca	53		73	<u>93</u>
<u>14</u>	BóGr.	34	Arla:	<u>54</u>		74	<u>94</u>
<u>15</u>	BóGr Atca Lir	35	Atca.	55		75	<u>95</u>
<u>16</u>	Lir	36	Azsm.	<u>56</u>		76	<u>96</u>
17	Orhy	37	ATCA.	57		77	<u>97</u>
18	Lir	38	ATCA	58		<u>78</u>	<u>98</u>
<u>19</u>	BG	<u>39</u>	BG	<u>59</u>		<u>79</u>	<u>99</u>
20	LIT	40	Agom	<u>60</u>		80	<u>100</u>

Site Name Date		Qu vestigators KG			Sec [wp Rng
Line Length	100 pt In	vestigators Kla	5.5		
<u>1</u> BG	21 Aasim	41 Argsm	<u>61</u>	81	
2 7	22 Aasm	42	<u>62</u>	82	
<u>3</u> B(e	23 Alem	43 1-HW	<u>63</u>	83	-
4 B(0	24 30	44 Alen	<u>64</u>	84	
<u>5</u> Blo	25 Aggan	45 K 9	<u>65</u>	85	
6 Blo	26	46 Agen	<u>66</u>	<u>86</u>	
7 BG	27 Clean	47 17	<u>67</u>	87	
BOG'T	28 Hean	48 Litter	<u>68</u>	88	
2 Bogr	29 Hean	49 16	<u>69</u>	<u>89</u>	
10 bothw	30 Hean	50 50	70	<u>90</u>	
11 Atca	<u>31</u> JG	51	71	<u>91</u>	
12 Bb	32 Hearn	52	72	92	
13 36	33 D(r	53	73	<u>93</u>	
14 Litter	34 Bly	54	74	<u>94</u>	
15 Kfr	35 Bla	55	75	<u>95</u>	
16 Atur	<u>36</u> BG	<u>56</u>	76	<u>96</u>	
17	37 Aggm	57	77	<u>97</u>	
18 Atla	38 BG	58	78	98	
19 Atu	39	<u>59</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>99</u>	
20 Ata	40 Anom	<u>60</u>	80	100	

Total Rock (R) %			
Total Bare Ground (BG)%			a
Total Plant Cover % 46/m	Perennial Sulla	Annual	1820
Total Litter (L)%			

Site Name	0130N Canyo	Data :	Sheet No. 5	of Sec Twp
Date 8/16		Quadrestigators	rant_5	Degrees 241 Rng
Line Length	INV			
1 Lit	21 As for	41 BG.	<u>61</u>	81
2 R/4 .	22 BG .	42 BG.	<u>62</u>	82
3 B/4 -	23 BG -	43 BG.	<u>63</u>	83
4 Orhy	24 BG.	44 BG	<u>64</u>	84
5 hir	25 BG -	45 BG	<u>65</u>	85
6 BG -	26 Agam	46 Orhy	66	86
T BS	27 Lit	47 BG	<u>67</u>	87
<u>8</u> B6 -	28 Lir	48 BG .	<u>68</u>	88
9 Bls -	$\frac{29}{Lit}$	49 Bolin	<u>69</u>	89
10 BG	30 B6 -	50 Li.	<u>70</u>	<u>90</u>
11 Lit	31 Agem	51	71	<u>91</u>
12 BG -	32 AgGm	52	72	92
¹³ Lir	33 At Som	53	73	<u>93</u>
14 BG-	34 BG -	<u>54</u>	74	<u>94</u>
<u>15</u> BG -	35 Az Sm	55	75	<u>95</u>
16 AgGm	36 Lit	56	76	<u>96</u>
17 Agilon	37 Orhy	<u>57</u>	77	<u>97</u>
18 BG-	38 Arhy	58	78	<u>98</u>
19 BG.	39 Arha	<u>59</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>99</u>
20 BG	40 Orthan	<u>60</u>	80	100

Total Rock (R) %			
Total Bare Ground (BG)%			
Total Plant Cover % 30	Perennial	Annual	
Total Litter (L)%			

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RANGE SITE DESCRIPTION

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Section II E, Technical Guide

A. SITE NO. 036-113-N

Sandy (WP-2)

B. PHYSIOGRAPHIC FEATURES

This site usually occurs on level to gently sloping or undulating topography of upland plains. Slopes average less than 10 percent. Elevations range from about 6,000 feet to just over 7,200 feet.

C. CLIMATIC FEATURES

1. Average annual precipitation varies from about 10 inches to just over 16 inches. Fluctuations ranging from about 5 inches to 25 inches are not uncommon. The overall climate is characterized by cold dry winters in which winter moisture is less than summer. As much as half or more of the annual precipitation can be expected to come during the period of July through September. Thus, fall conditions are often more favorable for good growth of cool-season perennial grasses, shrubs, and forbs than are those of spring.

2. The average frost-free season is about 120 days and extends from approximately mid-May to early or mid-September. Average annual air temperatures are 50° F. or lower, and summer maximums rarely exceed 100° F. Winter minimums typically approach or go below zero. Monthly mean temperatures exceed 70° F. for the period of July and August.

3. Rainfall patterns generally favor warm-season perennial vegetation, while the temperature regime tends to favor cool-season vegetation. This creates a somewhat complex community of plants on a given range site which is quite susceptible to disturbance and is at or near its productive potential only when both the natural warm- and cool-season dominants are present.



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D. SOILS

1. The soils of this site are moderately deep to deep, well drained, and may or may not be calcareous throughout. Typically, the surface layer is a sandy loam, fine sandy loam, or loamy fine sand at least 5 or 6 inches thick over sandy loam to clay loam subsoils. Permeability is moderately slow to moderately rapid, and the available water capacity is moderate to high.

The soils of this site are subject to soil blowing.

2. Characteristic soils are:

Telescope loamy fine sand

3. Other soils included are:

Royosa fine sand



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POTENTIAL NATURAL PLANT COMMUNITY Ε.

This site is characterized by both warm- and cool-season grasses, 1. scattered shrubs, half-shrubs, and forbs. Blue grama and western wheatgrass are co-dominants, with Indian ricegrass and dropseed closely associated. Principal shrubs and half-shrubs include fourwing saltbush, winterfat, and sand sagebrush. Rocky Mountain beeplant is often the most noticeable forb. Broom snakeweed is most common in certain wet years and when the plant community deteriorates from its potential.

Composition of Potential Plant Community 2.

Approximate percentage of total annual herbage production.

Grasses and Grasslike - 75-85% Western wheatgrass(Shrubs, half-shrubs, vines and trees) Woody - 10-15%Forbs - 5-10%Western wheatgrass15-20Fourwing saltbush) Fourwing saltbush)5-10PerennialsBlue grama25-30Winterfat)PerennialsIndian ricegrass5-10Bigelow sagebrush1-5Needleandthread)Broom snakeweed)Bottlebrush squirreltail)5-10Rabbitbrush)New Mexico feathergrass)Sand sagebrush)Sand dropseed)19-15Spineless horsebrush)Spike dropseed)1-5Biase buffalograss)1-5Black grama1-5Spike muhly1-3	
3. <u>Canopy Cover</u>	-
Shrubs and half-shrubs - 5% $@$ 75% \longrightarrow (3.75%)	
4. Ground Cover (Average Percent of Surface Area)	
Grasses, grasslike, forbs $18 \ 275\% \longrightarrow 13.5\%$ Bare ground 69 Surface gravel 1 Surface cobble and stones 0 Litter - percent of area 12 av. depth in cm. 2	
F. TOTAL ANNUAL HERBAGE PRODUCTION (Air-dry, 1bs./ac.)	
Favorable years = 850 (Average) Unfavorable years = 325 (Average) 244 - 638 14ac.	
USDA, SCS, NM MLRA 36-113-N 3	

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SITE INTERPRETATIONS

]. <u>Grazing</u>

This site is suitable for grazing by most kinds and classes of livestock in all seasons of the year but is poorly suited for continuous year-long grazing if potential natural vegetation is to be maintained. Under such use, cool-season grasses, such as western wheatgrass, Indian ricegrass, and needleandthread, may decline or even disappear. If use is heavy and prolonged, many of the more palatable warm-season species will also decline. The site in a typically deteriorated condition may be characterized by low-vigor, sod-like blue grama and possibly some galleta. Further deterioration is characterized by increasing amounts of bare ground, increases in ring muhly, sandhill muhly, threeawns and rabbitbrush, and by certain annual forbs. Production in these instances may be cut to one-third or less of the potential, and soil blowing may become severe. The site, in certain instances, is subject to invasion by woody species such as pinyon pine and juniper.

2. Wood Products

This site has no significant value for wood products.

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3. <u>Habitat for Wildlife</u>

This range site provides habitat which supports a resident animal community that is characterized by pronghorn antelope, kit fox, badger, desert cottontail, spotted ground squirrel, Ord's kangaroo rat, white-throated woodrat, Botta's pocket gopher, plains pocket mouse, Northern grasshopper mouse, ferruginous hawk, mourning dove, meadowlark, plains spadefoot toad, Eastern fence lizard, plateau whiptail, short-horned lizard and prairie rattlesnake.

Common raven and prairie falcon hunt over the site.

4. Hydrologic Interpretations

Soil Series		Hydrologic Groups
Telescope Royosa fine sand	•	B

Runoff curve numbers are determined by field investigations using hydrologic cover conditions and hydrologic soil groups.

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5. Recreation and Natural Beauty

This site offers fair potential for hiking, horseback riding, nature observation, photography, camping, and picnicking. It offers good to excellent potential for hunting of prongnorn antelope.

In years of favorable moisture, colorful wildflowers dot the landscape.

Endangered Plants and Animals

To be added as reliable information becomes available.

H. OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION

1. Guide to Suggested Initial Stocking Rate Acres per Animal Unit Month

Range ConditionAc/AumExcellent (100-76)3.6-4.7Good (75-51)4.5-7.0Fair (50-26)6.8-12.0Poor (25-0)12.0+

2. <u>Relative Quality of Plants for Animal Use 1/</u>

(a) Cattle

Primary

Western wheatgrass Indian ricegrass Needleandthread New Mexico feathergrass Winterfat Fourwing saltbush Black grama Bottlebrush squirreltail <u>Secondary</u> Blue grama Galleta Bigelow sagebrush Sand dropseed Threeawns spp. Most perennial forbs

Low Value Broom snakeweed Rabbitbrush Spineless horsebrush Sandhill muhly Ring muhly False buffalograss

(b) Antelope and Sheep

Primary Winterfat Bigelow sagebrush Western wheatgrass Indian ricegrass Fourwing saltbush Most perennial forbs

<u>Secondary</u> Blue grama New Mexico feathergrass Needleandthread Threeawns spp. Dropseeds

Low Value Broom snakeweed Rabbitbrush Sand sagebrush Sandhill muhly Spineless horsebrush

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FROM : NRCS GRANTS FO

- I. IDENTIFICATION AND AUTHORIZATION
 - 1. USDA SCS Albuquerque, NM MLRA 36
 - Field Offices: Reserve Magdalena/Quemado
 - 3. Field Office Sample Location
 - 4. Approved:

State Range Conservationist Date

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Legend and Definitions for Range Site Descriptions.

1/ This rating system provides general guidance as to animal preference for plant species. It also indicates possible competition between kinds of animals for the various plants. Grazing preference changes from time to time and place to place, depending upon the animals, upon plant palatability and nutritive value, stage of growth and season of use, relative abundance, and associated plants. Grazing preference does not necessarily reflect a plant's ecological place in the climax plant community.

The following definitions apply to cattle, sheep, goats, deer, and antelope grazing:

<u>Primary</u>: These species generally decrease when the climax plant community is subjected to continuous heavy grazing pressure by the animals listed. These species are normally grazed first and preferred by the designated grazing animals when given free choice.

<u>Secondary</u>: These plants usually increase initially, then decrease when the site is subjected to continuous heavy grazing use by the animals listed. These plants are normally grazed after primary plants become scarce under free choice, or along with them under intensive grazing systems.

Low Value: These plants continue to increase with heavy, continuous grazing use of the site. These plants are not normally grazed until primary and secondary species are gone and animals are forced to eat them.

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POISON Canyon MINE Reclamation - Pit bottom and N.E. Slope



Poison Canyon Mine Reclamation - Lowest point of pir bottom holds last vestige of Helianthus (sunflower)



POISON Canyon MINE Reclamation -Southwestern Dir Area



POISON CANYON MINE RECLAMATION - Pir bottom and S.W. Slope



Poison Canyon Mine Reclamation - gully crosson on west facing slope








Line Length: 100 ft Investigators: Karen and Garcia and Holland Shepherd

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1. BG	21. Litter	41. Bocu
2. Bogr	22. Litter	42. Bocu
3. BG	23. BG	43. BG
4. Orhy	24. Litter	44. Bocu
5. Atca	25. BG	45. BG
6. Bogr	26. BG	46. BG
7. BG	27. BG	47. BG
8. Bocu	28. BG	48. Litter
9. BG	29. Agsm	49. Bocu
10. BG	30. Agsm	50. Litter
11. BG	31. BG	
12. BG	32. Litter	
13. BG	33. Litter	
14. BG	34. BG	
15. BG	35. BG	
16. BG	36. BG	
17. Orhy	37. Atca	
18. Orhy	38. BG	
19. Orhy	39. BG	
20. Orhy	40. Bogr	

 Total Rock %
 0

 Total Bare Ground %
 54

 Total Plant Cover %
 32

 Perennial %
 32

 Annual %
 0

Site Name: <u>Poison Canyon Mine</u> Data Sheet No. <u>2</u> of <u>5</u>

Date: <u>8/16/00</u> Location: <u>Bottom of South Pit</u> Transect: <u>2</u> Degrees: <u>163</u>

Line Length: 100 ft Investigators: Karen and Garcia and Holland Shepherd

1. BG	21. BG	41. BG
2. BG	22. BG	42. BG
3. Rock	23. BG	43. Pefo
4. BG	24. BG	44. BG
5. Bocu	25. BG	45. BG
6. BG	26. BG	46. Agsm
7. BG	27. Agsm	47. BG
8. BG	28. Orhy	48. BG
9. BG	29. Agsm	49. Litter
10. Orhy	30. Atca	50. BG
11. Orhy	31. Atca	
12. Bocu	32. BG	
13. Orhy	33. BG	
14. BG	34. BG	
15. Rock	35. BG	
16. Atca	36. BG	
17. Agsm	37. BG	
18. Atca	38. BG	
19. Atca	39. BG	
20. BG	40. BG	

 Total Rock %
 2

 Total Bare Ground %
 64

 Total Plant Cover %
 32

 Perennial %
 32

 Annual %
 0

 Site Name:
 Poison Canyon Mine
 Data Sheet No.
 3 of 5

 Date:
 8/16/00
 Location:
 Bottom of South Pit
 Transect:
 3
 Degrees:
 123

Line Length: 100 Investigators: Karen and Garcia and Holland Shepherd

1. BG	21. BG	41. Clse
2. Atca	22. BG	42. BG
3. Litter	23. BG	43. BG
4. BG	24. BG	44. Clse
5. Litter	25. Atca	45. BG
6. Atca	26. Bogr	46. BG
7. BG	27. BG	47. BG
8. BG	28. BG	48. BG
9. BG	29. BG	49. Litter
10. Atca	30. Agsm	50. BG
11. BG	31. BG	
12. Bocu	32. Bocu	
13. BG	33. Atca	
14. Bogr	34. Atca	
15. Atca	35. Atca	
16. Litter	36. Agsm	
17. Orhy	37. Atca	
18. Litter	38. Atca	
19. BG	39. BG	
20. Litter	40. Agsm	

 Total Rock %
 0

 Total Bare Ground %
 48

 Total Plant Cover %
 40

 Perennial %
 40

 Annual %
 0

 Total Litter %
 12

Site Name:	Poison Canyon	Mine Data Sheet No4_of _5	
Date: <u>8/16/00</u>	Location:	Bottom of South Pit Transect: _4 Degrees:	140

Line Length: 100 Investigators: Karen and Garcia and Holland Shepherd

1. BG	21. Agsm	41. Agsm
2. BG	22. Agsm	42. Litter
3. BG	23. Agsm	43. Litter
4. BG	24. BG	44. Agsm
5. BG	25. Agsm	45. BG
6. BG	26. Hean	46. Agsm
7. BG	27. Clse	47. Litter
8. Bogr	28. Hean	48. Litter
9. Bogr	29. Hean	49. BG
10. Litter	30. Hean	50. BG
11. Atca	31. BG	
12. BG	32. Hean	
13. BG	33. BG	
14. Litter	34. BG	
15. BG	35. BG	
16. Atca	36. BG	
17. Atca	37. Agsm	
18. Atca	38. BG	
19. Atca	39. Agsm	
20. Atca	40. BG	

 Total Rock %
 0

 Total Bare Ground %
 40

 Total Plant Cover %
 46

 Total Litter %
 12

Perennial % <u>36</u> Annual % <u>10</u>

Site Name: Poison Canyon Mine Data Sheet No. 5 of 5

Date: 8/16/00 Location: Bottom of Southwest Pit_Transect: 5 Degrees: 241

Line Length: 100 ft Investigators: Karen and Garcia and Holland Shepherd

1. Litter	21. Agsm	41. BG
2. BG	22. BG	42. BG
3. BG	23. BG	43. BG
4. Orhy	24. BG	44. BG
5. Litter	25. BG	45. BG
6. BG	26. Agsm	46. Orhy
7. BG	27. Litter	47. BG
8. BG	28. Litter	48. BG
9. BG	29. Litter	49. Bocu
10. BG	30. BG	50. Litter
11. Litter	31. Agsm	
12. BG	32. Agsm	
13. Litter	33. Agsm	
14. BG	34. BG	
15. BG	35. Agsm	
16. Agsm	36. Litter	
17. Agsm	37. Orhy	
18. BG	38. Orhy	
19. BG	39. Orhy	
20. BG	40. Orhy	

 Total Rock %
 0

 Total Bare Ground %
 50

 Total Plant Cover %
 30

 Perennial %
 30

 Annual %

Key to Abbreviations Used in this Evaluation

- Rock = Rock with diameter > 2 inches
- BG = Bare Ground

• • •

- Litter = Plant Litter
- Agsm = Agropyrom smithii
- Bogr = Bouteloua gracilis
- Bocu = Bouteloua curtipendula
- Atca = Atriplex canescens
- Clse = Cleome serrulata
- Orhy = Oryzopsis hymeniodes
- Hean = Helianthus annus
- Pefo = unknown perennial forb



NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS and NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

GARY E. JOHNSON Governor Jennifer A. Salisbury Cabinet Secretary Douglas M. Bland Director Mining and Minerals Division

August 14, 2000

Joe Pollara Newmont Mining Corp. Environmental Department 1700 Lincoln St. Denver, Co. 80203

Re: Prior Reclamation Release of Poison Canyon Mine Site

Dear Mr Pollara,

In follow up to our telephone conversation last Friday, August 11, 2000, I would like to outline an approach in establishing reclamation standards for release of the Poison Canyon Mine site from further requirements under the New Mexico Mining Act (NMMA) Subpart 510.

In order for a prior reclamation site to be released, it must be determined through an inspection that the condition of the site will allow for the re-establishment of a self-sustaining ecosystem. In accordance with the NMMA Rules § 510.B, if the site does not meet the requirements of the NMMA, it will have to be permitted through submittal of a permit application and closeout plan with financial assurance.

One tool used to determine if a site will allow for a self-sustaining ecosystem, is to compare a vegetative survey of the site with the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Range Site Description (RSD). This method has been used for other prior reclamation release applications. The Range Site Description is a projection of what the site should look like considering its soils, annual precipitation pattern, topography etc. Generally, the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) has accepted a standard of 75% of the RSD value for relative canopy cover. For example, if the RSD has 18% expected cover value, the operator would have to meet a 13.5 % cover value for that site. MMD also takes into account a species diversity goal for the site based on the RSD. The site should have a mix of cool season and warm season perennial grasses as well as shrubs and forbs. An indication of trend is evaluated by comparing past inspections with current site conditions. MMD will take quantitative as well as qualitative information into account in making our determination for release.

If you choose to use the RSD for the Poison Canyon Mine site please provide MMD with a copy of the RSD as soon as possible so that we can discuss and come to an agreement with you on the vegetative standards to use during our inspection on Wednesday, August 16, 2000.

Your cooperation and assistance in this matter is appreciated. Please call me at 505-827-5982, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

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Karen W. Sarcia

Karen W. Garcia Reclamation Specialist Mining Act Reclamation Program

STATE OF FAX COVER SHEET STATE, DF NEW MEXICO NEW MEXICO ENERGY MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT MINING AND MINERALS DIVISION 2040 S. PACHECO STREET SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87505 (505) 827-5970 FAX (505) 827-7195 DATE: 1000 FAX TO: Newmoni COMPANY: FAX NUMBER: _303-837-6/30 FROM: SUBJECT/COMMENTS crosion. im PAGES TO FOLLOW:

STATE, OF FAX COVER SHEET STATE, OF NEW MEXICO NEW MEXICO ENERGY MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT MINING AND MINERALS DIVISION 2040 S. PACHECO STREET SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87505 (505) 827-5970 FAX (505) 827-7195 DATE: FAX TO: Jor COMPANY: Newmon FAX NUMBER: 303-837-6130 aren FROM: SUBJECT/COMMENTS: Heres the WrKsheets This may help in your calculations Also-made table w/ degen 2 Ind pages

PAGES TO FOLLOW:

PRIOR RECLAMATION SITE SUMMARY

UNITED NUCLEAR CORP.

Contact:	Juan Velasquez
	1720 Louisiana NE
	262-1800

The 3 UNC sites had a variance until the end of 1998. All that is said is that a determination will be made by MMD whether the release criteria are met.

Anna Lee Mine (T14N R9W 28): Total area addressed by Mining Act is 1/10 of an acre. Reseeded in fall, 1994. Inspected July 13, 1995. No perennials growing. Recommendations were to cover slab and reseed. Variance requested by UNC in June, 1997.

John Bill Mine and Sandstone Mine (T14N R9W 34): Total area is approximately 8 acres in two areas. Reseeded in fall, 1994. Inspected July 13, 1995. Vegetation was sparse. Steel scrap and buildings found at sites, presumably at request of leasee. Recomendations were to cover slab and submit a letter from lease requesting that buildings and scrap be left on site. Variance requested by UNC in June, 1997.

<u>HRI</u>

Contact: Mark Pelizza 972-387-7777

Churchrock ISL SEC 17: Disturbed area is approximately 16 acres. HRI purchased property from UNC who did some reclamation work in 1990 or 1991 (removed head frames and most buildings, recontoured ore pads and covered shafts and vents). This is one of HRI's insitue leaching sites. Inspected on August 29, 1995. There were 5 ponds remaining up to this time. HRI agreed to reclaim these ponds in 1997.

NEWMONT GOLD (Santa Fe Pacific Gold)

Contact: Rick River Idarado Mining Co. P.O. Box 584 Ouray, CO 81427 (970) 325-4482 (970) 325-4853



Poison Canyon Mine (T13N R9W 19): The only SFPG prior rec site not released or that falls under the act. Site is 30 acres. MMD letter dated July 24, 1996 gives a 5 year variance from the ~ 1995 date. The letter states that at the end of the 5 year variance "the Director will consider whether to extend this variance". Originally reclaimed in 1987 with additional work in 1993 and 1994. Not released due to lack of diversity and poor establishment of grasses and forbes. SFPG purchased by Newmont (303-837-5069). Fence surrounds site. Topsoil depth presumably 4 inches.

un il i

QUIVIRA

MMD letter dated April 21, 1997 approving the variance request indicated only that sites will be inspected in the summer of 1997 and that those sites not released would be reinspected during the summer of 1998. MMD letter dated October 31, 1997 says that they must apply for another variance. Quivira response states that this was discussed with Holland and that the existing variance is good until end of 1998. No other corespondance on the matter was found.

Section 17 (T14N R9W): 22 acres Section 19 (T14N R9W) 19 acres Section 22 (T14N R10W): 37 acres Section 24 (T14N R10W): 26 acres Section 30 (T14N R9W): 44 acres Section 30W (T14N R9W): 26 acres Section 33 (T14N R9W): 28 acres

Inspected by MMD in 1995, 1997 and 1998.



Jennifer A. Salisbury CABINET SECRETARY

October 7, 1998

Rick River Idarado Mining Co. P.O. Box 584 Ouray, CO 81427

RE: New Mexico Mining Act Rules

Dear Mr. River:

Enclosed you will find a copy of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules. The portion of the Rules that pertains to Newmont Gold's Poison Canyon prior reclamation site is Section 5 for existing mines. In particular, Section 510 addresses Prior Reclamation.

As discussed on the phone, our current plan is to do an inspection of the Poison Canyon site on October 22 of this year to see how the reclamation is progressing. The variance for Poison Canyon does not expire until 2000 at which time an inspection for release will be conducted. However, if it is determined during our October inspection that vegetation is not fairing well, it would suggest that Newmont should take measures now to improve the reclamation condition.

If you have any questions about the Rules or prior reclamation, please call me at (505) 827-1172.

Sincerely,

Rob Pine Hydrologist Mining Act Reclamation Program

Enclosure: NM Mining Act Rules



FACSILIME

USDA - NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE GRANTS FIELD OFFICE 117 NORTH SILVER AVENUE GRANTS, NEW MEXICO 87020 PHONE: (505) 287-4045 FAX: (505) 287-7049

Transmitted By: <u>Kichard Montry</u> Date: Number of Pages: (Including cover sheet)
To:
Fo: Reference To: Action For Information Per Phone Call As Requested Note and File Other For Comment Note and Return
Comments:As Requested Clayey & Seudy Site



NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS & NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

Jennifer A. Salisbury CABINET SECRETARY MINING AND MINERALS DIVISION 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505 (505) 827-5970

Kathleen A. Garland DIVISION DIRECTOR

July 24, 1996

Mr. Tim Leftwich Vice President-Environmental Quality Santa Fe Pacific Gold Box 27019 Albuquerque, NM 87125

Re: Approval of Variance Request, Poison Canyon Mine, Section 19, T13N, R9W

Dear Mr. Leftwich:

This letter confirms the Division's approval of your variance request for the prior reclamation of the mine site identified above.

The Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) has reviewed your May 31, 1996 variance request regarding the Poison Canyon Mine prior reclamation site. This request sought relief from Section 510.B, of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules (Rules). This Section requires that the Director make a determination concerning the prior reclamation status of a site by September 30, 1995 and that the operator provide a permit application within six months after the operator receives notice of the determination.

The Director has determined that the mine site meets the requirements of Sections 1004.B 6 and 7 of the Rules, which discuss the conditions for granting a variance approval.

Under the provisions of this variance, MMD personnel will continue to inspect the site yearly for five years or until it is determined that the site reclamation measures satisfy the requirements of the Act and the substantive requirements of Subpart 5. At the end of five years the Director will consider whether to extend this variance.

By Order of the Director.

Kathleen Garland Director, Mining and Minerals Division

cc. Holland Shepherd, Bureau Chief, MARB MMD John McKay, Permitting Coordinator, MARB MMD



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

June 13, 1996



Mr. Holland Shepherd Mining and Minerals Division New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department 2040 South Pacheco Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

RE: Abandoned Poison Canyon Mine

Dear Mr. Shepherd:

Enclosed you will find a check in the amount of \$522.50 for the variance application fee, copies of the affidavits from the Cibola County and Gallup Independent Newspapers, and copies of Certified Mail return receipts.

If you have questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,

SANTA FE PACIFIC GOLD CORPORATION

Stevich

Tim Leftwich Vice President -Environmental Quality

TL:pt

Enclosures

Index of Correspondence

Addressee	Subject		
Tim Leftwich/From: Kathleen Garland	Reclamation Inspections 9/29/95 ltr. and inspection rpt. on voluntary prior rec. rpts.		
Kathleen Garland/From: Tim Leftwich			
Holland S./From: Tim Leftwich	Poison Canyon Mine		
Tim Leftwich/From:Holland S.	Prior Reclamation		
Director/From: Larry Frank	Requesting a Public Hrg.		
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
	Tim Leftwich/From: Kathleen Garland		

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Larry Frank

Indian Art of North America New Mexico Folk Art P. O. Box 290 Arroyo Hondo, New Mexico 87813 (808) 776-2281 (808) 776-8539

Director, prining and mineral Division, Energy) minerals, and hateral pesources Dept.



1111 1996 20aj 31, 196

23456789

Dear Director, This is the third time I have written your organization requesting a public hearing regarding Lante Fe Pacific Gold Corporations application for a variance (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10). I see no reason to receive another letter telling me I may make Such a request. This letter constitutes my formal request for a public tearing.

Thank Joa in alvance, Hours,

Jory Thanks



STATE OF NEW MEXICO

) SS COUNTY OF McKINLEY

HUBBARD, Freida _____ being duly sworn upon oath, deposes and says:

Legal Clerk As _____ of The Independent, a newspaper published in and having a general circulation in McKinley County, New Mexico and in the City of Gallup, New Mexico and having a general circulation in Cibola County, New Mexico and in the City of Grants, New Mexico and having a general circulation in Apache County, Arizona and in the City of St. Johns and in the City of Window Rock, Arizona therein: that this affiant makes this affidavit based upon personal knowledge of the facts herein sworn to. That the publication, a copy of which is hereto attached was published in said newspaper during the period and time of publication and said notice was published in the newspaper proper, and not in a supplement thereof,

for .	one	time	, the	first	publication being c	on the
	31st	_ day of _	May	r	, 19_96	_ the
sec	ond pub	lication bei	ng on the	;		_ day
of _			, 19)	the third public	cation
on	the	day	of		, 19	
					=	<u></u>
					·····	
and	the las	t publicatio	n being c	n th	ne o	day of
				19		

That such newspaper, in which such notice or advertisement was published, is now and has been at all times material hereto, duly qualified for such purpose, and to publish legal notices and advertisements within the meaning of Chapter 12, of the statutes of the State of New Mexico, 1941 compilation.

Juhons

Notary Publie

Sworn and subscribed to before me this ______31st dav

tore

A.D., 19 96 May

My commission expires

June 22, 1997

of

LEGAL NOTICE Gallup McKinley County New Mexico

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site, located Section 19, T. 121, P. OW in sectors

Canyon mine site, located Section 19, T. 13N., R.9W., in accordance with the provi-sion of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996 (19) NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10). The mine is located in Cibola County in Section 19, T.13N., R9W., New Mexico Principal Meridan. The mine covers ap-proximately thirty (30) acres of land previ-ously disturbed applicable laws and reenously disturbed applicable laws and regu-lations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for up to five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for leas from additional growents and growents. leas from additional revegetation requirements.

The applicants address is: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Interested persons wishing to submit written comments or request for a public hearing on this matter may do so by writing to:

Director, Mining and Minerals Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department

State of New Mexico 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submitted is Monday. July 1, 1996

Copies of the Application for a Variance are available for public inspection at the Mother Wjiteside Public Libruary, Cibola County Clerk's Office, McKinley Public Library and the McKinley County Clerk's Office. Friday, May 31, 1996.

AVISO PUBLICO Santa Fe Facific Gold Corporation ha sometido una SOLICITUD PARA UNA VARIACION para su mina abandonar Poison Canyon cerea de Grants, New Maxim de arterade acto e los quitidos et Mexico, de acnerdo con las provisiones de Subpart 10 de las Reglas del Mineria del estado de Nuevo Mexico, del 15 de Febre-ro de 1996 (NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10). La mina esta situada en Seccion 19, T.13

Norte, Extension 9 Oeste, New Mexico Principal; Meridian. La mine tiene una ex-tension de 30 acres de tierra anteriormente pertubado por la mineria del uranio. Todo el sitio de la mina ha sido rehabilitado conforme a los requisitos de las leyes y reglamentos aplicales. El proposito de la variacion es proveer para que pase cinco mas estaciones de crecimento antes de la determinacion, a ser hecho por la Division de Mineria y Minerales (MMD), que el sitio sumple con los sriterios para releva de las obligaciones de algun requisito adicio-La direccion del suplicante es: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Personas interesadas que descan someter algun escrito, o una suplica para una audiencia publica sobre esta materia, deben dirigir su solicitud escrito a: Director, Mining and Minerals Division 2040 South Pacheco Street

Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

La fecha final para someter propuestas o comentari os es el Lunes, dia 1 de Julio de 1996

Copias de la solicitud para una variacion estan disponibles para inspeccion publica en las Bibliotecas

Publicas en Grants y Gallup, y en las ofici-

nas del Secritario del los Condados de McKinley y Cibola, en Gallup y Grants, New Mexico. Viernes, 31 de Mayo, 1996.

Legal #13013 Published in The Independent May 31, 1996.

PROOF OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

COUNTY OF CIBOLA

James Honeycutt, being duly sworn deposes and says that he is the publishes NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10). THE CIBOLA COUNTY BEACON, a newspaper published in Grants, Cibola County, New Mexico, that the notice of

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Public Notice

a copy of which is hereto attached was first published in said newspaper in i tional growing seasons before issue dated $\frac{5/31}{2}$ and was published in an issue of sa newspaper, once each week, and not in any supplement, thereafter for the fu period of 0ne(1) consecutive weeks, the last publication thereof being an issue dated The applicants address is

Subscribed and sworn to before me on

Notar OFFICIAL SEAL DEBI GONIZALES mmission

My Commission Expires

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

Publisher's Fees $$ 105^{03}$

PUBLIC NOTICE Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARI-ANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon, mine site located Section 19, T.13N, R.9W., in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico- Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996 (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10.

The mine is located in Cibola County in Section 19, T.13N., R9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers approximately thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for up to five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by Division (MMD) that the site requirements.

The applicants address is: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E. Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110 Interested persons wishing to submit written comments or request for a public hearing on this matter may do so by writing to:

Director, Mining and Minerals Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department State of New Mexico 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505 The deadline for submittal

is Monday, July 1, 1996,

9

Copies of the Application for a Variance are available for public inspection at the Mother Whiteside Public Library, Cibola County Clerk's Office, McKinley Public Library and the McKinley County Clerk's Office. Friday, May 31, 1996. AVISO PUBLICO

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation ha sometido una SOLICITUD PARA UNA





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

May 30, 1996



Mr. Holland Shepherd, Mining and Minerals Division New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department 2040 South Pacheco Santa Fe New Mexico 87505

RE: Application For Variance For The Poison Canyon Mine, Section 19, T. 13N., R.9W.

Dear Mr. Shepherd:

Enclosed is Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation's application for a variance for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine. As stated previously, it is Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation's contention that we do not meet the definition of owner operator under the New Mexico Mining Act. However, this submission is done so in the spirit of cooperation with the Mining and Minerals Division. This application is filed in accordance with Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules. As per Subpart 903.A, the following adjacent land owners will be given notice:

In accordance with Subpart 903.B, Cibola County and the Navajo Nation will be given notice. Notices in Spanish and English will be published in the Gallup Independent and the Cibola County Beacon in accordance with Subpart 903.C. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation will post notices in accordance with Subpart 903.D in the Cibola County Clerks Office, the McKinley Public Library, the Mother Whiteside Library and McKinley County Clerks Office. In accordance with Subpart 903.F, notice will be mailed to those interested individuals whose names you provided. Likewise, notice will be mailed to the Environmental Department, State Engineer, Department of Game and Fish, Forestry Division and the State Historic Preservation Division. Letters for proof of notice, copies of returned certified mail receipts and newspaper notice are proof of publication and will be forwarded to you under separate cover.

A check in the amount of \$522.50 for the variance application fee will be submitted within the next two weeks. Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact either me or Denise Gallegos.

Sincerely. Much

Tim Leftwich[/] Vice President-Environmental Quality

Enclosure



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

May 30, 1996

Mr. Irvin Harrison, County Manager 201 W. Hill Avenue Gallup, New Mexico 87301

Dear Mr. Harrison:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine, in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996, (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from an additional revegetation requirement.

The applicants address is:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation Attention: Tim Leftwich 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Interested persons wishing to submit written comments or a request for a public hearing on this matter may do so by writing to:

Director, Mining and Minerals Division Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittals is Monday, July 1, 1996. A copy of the APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE is available for public inspection at the Grants and Gallup Public Libraries and the Cibola and McKinley County Clerks Offices.

Sincerely,

ittuit

Tim Leftwich ' Vice President-Environmental Quality



APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE Pursuant to New Mexico Mining Act Rules Subpart 10

1002.A

- 1. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110
- 2. This application is submitted on May 31, 1996.
- 3. This variance is sought for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine.
- 4. The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W.
- 5. This variance is sought from Subpart 510.B, which requires that a permit application be submitted within 6 months after the owner or operator received notice of the determination. Santa Fe Pacific Gold maintains its position that the company does meet the definition of owner or operator under the New Mexico Mining Act.
- 6. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests variance from Subpart 510.B.
- 6.a. **Background.** The results of a site inspection from the Mining and Minerals Division during the fall of 1995 indicate that the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site does not meet the criteria for a "self sustaining ecosystem under Subpart 507.A. This fact is stated in a report and in subsequent correspondence from the Division to Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation. However, the site was reclaimed during July 1994 and did not have adequate time for re-vegetation efforts to become established at the time of the inspection. Other contributing factors to the lack of reclaim vegetation is a lack of precipitation and the grazing practices the site is subject to, all of which Santa Fe has no control over since the corporation does not control the surface.
- 6.b **Proposal.** Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation believes, based on reclamation experience in the abandoned Poison Canyon area, that the site will meet the criteria under Subpart 507.A., if the area receives adequate precipitation. Additionally, due to the heavy grazing the area receives, several growing seasons should be allowed for vegetation to establish itself. The Poison Canyon site will be inspected by qualified Santa Fe Pacific personnel in accordance with corporate policies twice a year to determine if additional work is required at the site. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests Mining and Minerals inspect the site once a year.



7. If this variance request is not granted, Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation will be forced to apply for a permit pursuant to Subpart 5. and wait 12 years following the issuance of the permit for the site to be released. The cost of compiling a permit is:

Total Cost	\$205,916
Staff Management	\$150,000
Annual Fee	\$23,826
Permit Application Fee	\$2090
Permit Preparation:	\$30,000

(This cost does not include bonding)

- 8. The adit and other mine openings at the abandoned Poison Canyon site have been backfilled and are inspected annually in accordance with corporate policies. The site in its present condition does not pose a threat to human health and safety, nor to the environment. Threats to human health and safety were not identified during the Mining and Minerals inspection.
- 9. Pursuant to Subpart 201.K, the fee for this variance application is \$500. Pursuant to Subpart 205.A, compensation for the Department Game and Fish is 4.5 of the \$500 fee. Total fee payment is \$522.50

PUBLIC NOTICE

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site, located Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996 (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

The mine is located in Cibola County in Section 19, T.13N., R9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers approximately thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for up to five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from additional revegetation requirements.

The applicants address is: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Interested persons wishing to submit written comments or request for a public hearing on this matter may do so by writing to:

Director, Mining and Minerals Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department State Of New Mexico 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittal is Monday, July 1, 1996.

Copies of the Application for a Variance are available for public inspection at the Mother Whiteside Public Library, Cibola County Clerk's Office, McKinley Public Library and the McKinley County Clerk's Office. Friday, May 31, 1996

AVISO PULBICO

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation ha sometido una SOLICITUD PARA UNA VARIACION para su mina abandonar Poison Canyon cerca de Grants, New Mexico, de acnerdo con las provisiones de Subparte 10 de las Reglas del Acto de Mineria del estado de Nuevo Mexico, del 15 de Febrero de 1996 (NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

La mina esta situada en Seccion 19, T.13 Norte, Extension 9 Oeste, New Mexico Principal Meridian. La mine tiene una extension de 30 acres de tierra anteriormente pertubado por la mineria del uranio. Todo el sitio de la mina ha sido rehabilitado conforme a los requisitos de las leyes y reglamentos aplicales. El proposito de la variacion es proveer para que pase cinco mas estaciones de crecimento antes de la determinacion, a ser hecho por la Division de Mineria y Minerales (MMD), que el sitio cumple con los criterios para releva de las obligaciones de algun requisito adicional para la revegetacion.

La direccion del suplicante es: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Personas interesadas que desean someter algun escrito, o una suplica para una audiencia publica sobre esta materia, deben dirigir su solicitud escrito a:

Director, Mining and Minerals Division 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

La fecha final para someter propuestas o comentari os es el Lunes, dia 1 de Julio de 1996. Copias de la solicitud para una variacion estan disponibles para inspeccion publica en las Bibliotecas Publicas en Grants y Gallup, y en las oficinas del Secritario del los Condados de McKinley y Cibola, en Gallup y Grants, New Mexico. Viernes, 31 de Mayo, 1996



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

May 30, 1996

McKinley Public Library 215 W. Hill Gallup, New Mexico 86301

RE: Public Notice Concerning The Abandoned Poison Canyon Mine Site

To Whom It May Concern:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests that the attached public notice be posted in the McKinley Public Library, preferably before June 1, 1996. The notice will need to be posted until July 1, 1996.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact me at this office.

Sincerely,

SANTA FE PACIFIC GOLD CORPORATION

Lee A. Dimpkink

Lee R. Simpkins Environmental Specialist

PUBLIC NOTICE

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site, located Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996 (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

The mine is located in Cibola County in Section 19, T.13N., R9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers approximately thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for up to five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from additional revegetation requirements.

The applicants address is: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Interested persons wishing to submit written comments or request for a public hearing on this matter may do so by writing to:

Director, Mining and Minerals Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department State Of New Mexico 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittal is Monday, July 1, 1996.

Copies of the Application for a Variance are available for public inspection at the Mother Whiteside Public Library, Cibola County Clerk's Office, McKinley Public Library and the McKinley County Clerk's Office. Friday, May 31, 1996

AVISO PULBICO

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation ha sometido una SOLICITUD PARA UNA VARIACION para su mina abandonar Poison Canyon cerca de Grants, New Mexico, de acnerdo con las provisiones de Subparte 10 de las Reglas del Acto de Mineria del estado de Nuevo Mexico, del 15 de Febrero de 1996 (NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

La mina esta situada en Seccion 19, T.13 Norte, Extension 9 Oeste, New Mexico Principal Meridian. La mine tiene una extension de 30 acres de tierra anteriormente pertubado por la mineria del uranio. Todo el sitio de la mina ha sido rehabilitado conforme a los requisitos de las leyes y reglamentos aplicales. El proposito de la variacion es proveer para que pase cinco mas estaciones de crecimento antes de la determinacion, a ser hecho por la Division de Mineria y Minerales (MMD), que el sitio cumple con los criterios para releva de las obligaciones de algun requisito adicional para la revegetacion.

La direccion del suplicante es: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Personas interesadas que desean someter algun escrito, o una suplica para una audiencia publica sobre esta materia, deben dirigir su solicitud escrito a:

Director, Mining and Minerals Division 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

La fecha final para someter propuestas o comentari os es el Lunes, dia 1 de Julio de 1996. Copias de la solicitud para una variacion estan disponibles para inspeccion publica en las Bibliotecas Publicas en Grants y Gallup, y en las oficinas del Secritario del los Condados de McKinley y Cibola, en Gallup y Grants, New Mexico. Viernes, 31 de Mayo, 1996



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

May 29, 1996

Gallup Independent Newspaper P.O. Box 1210 Gallup, New Mexico 87305

RE: Public Notice Concerning The Abandoned Poison Canyon Mine Site

Dear Editor:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests that the attached public notice be published in the Gallup Independent Newspaper, preferably before June 1, 1996. The notice will only need to be published in one issue either in the legal or classified section of the newspaper. The bill for services rendered may be sent to the address shown above.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact me at this office.

Sincerely,

SANTA FE PACIFIC GOLD CORPORATION

See R. Dimphink

Lee R. Simpkins Environmental Specialist

PUBLIC NOTICE

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site, located Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996 (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

The mine is located in Cibola County in Section 19, T.13N., R9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers approximately thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for up to five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from additional revegetation requirements.

The applicants address is: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Interested persons wishing to submit written comments or request for a public hearing on this matter may do so by writing to:

Director, Mining and Minerals Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department State Of New Mexico 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittal is Monday, July 1, 1996.

Copies of the Application for a Variance are available for public inspection at the Mother Whiteside Public Library, Cibola County Clerk's Office, McKinley Public Library and the McKinley County Clerk's Office. Friday, May 31, 1996



Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation ha sometido una SOLICITUD PARA UNA VARIACION para su mina abandonar Poison Canyon cerca de Grants, New Mexico, de acnerdo con las provisiones de Subparte 10 de las Reglas del Acto de Mineria del estado de Nuevo Mexico, del 15 de Febrero de 1996 (NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

La mina esta situada en Seccion 19, T.13 Norte, Extension 9 Oeste, New Mexico Principal Meridian. La mine tiene una extension de 30 acres de tierra anteriormente pertubado por la mineria del uranio. Todo el sitio de la mina ha sido rehabilitado conforme a los requisitos de las leyes y reglamentos aplicales. El proposito de la variacion es proveer para que pase cinco mas estaciones de crecimento antes de la determinacion, a ser hecho por la Division de Mineria y Minerales (MMD), que el sitio cumple con los criterios para releva de las obligaciones de algun requisito adicional para la revegetacion.

La direccion del suplicante es: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Personas interesadas que desean someter algun escrito, o una suplica para una audiencia publica sobre esta materia, deben dirigir su solicitud escrito a:

Director, Mining and Minerals Division 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

La fecha final para someter propuestas o comentari os es el Lunes, dia 1 de Julio de 1996. Copias de la solicitud para una variacion estan disponibles para inspeccion publica en las Bibliotecas Publicas en Grants y Gallup, y en las oficinas del Secritario del los Condados de McKinley y Cibola, en Gallup y Grants, New Mexico. Viernes, 31 de Mayo, 1996



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

May 29, 1996

Cibola County Newspaper P.O. Box 579 Grants, New Mexico 87020

RE: Public Notice Concerning The Abandoned Poison Canyon Mine Site

Dear Editor:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests that the attached public notice be published in the Cibola County Newspaper, preferably before June 1, 1996. The notice will only need to be published in one issue either in the legal or classified section of the newspaper. The bill for services rendered may be sent to the address shown above.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact me at this office.

Sincerely,

SANTA FE PACIFIC GOLD CORPORATION

Lee A. Dimpkind

Lee R. Simpkins Environmental Specialist

PUBLIC NOTICE

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site, located Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996 (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

The mine is located in Cibola County in Section 19, T.13N., R9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers approximately thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for up to five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from additional revegetation requirements.

The applicants address is: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Interested persons wishing to submit written comments or request for a public hearing on this matter may do so by writing to:

Director, Mining and Minerals Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department State Of New Mexico 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittal is Monday, July 1, 1996. Copies of the Application for a Variance are available for public inspection at the Mother Whiteside Public Library, Cibola County Clerk's Office, McKinley Public Library and the McKinley County Clerk's Office. Friday, May 31, 1996
Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation ha sometido una SOLICITUD PARA UNA VARIACION para su mina abandonar Poison Canyon cerca de Grants, New Mexico, de acnerdo con las provisiones de Subparte 10 de las Reglas del Acto de Mineria del estado de Nuevo Mexico, del 15 de Febrero de 1996 (NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

La mina esta situada en Seccion 19, T.13 Norte, Extension 9 Oeste, New Mexico Principal Meridian. La mine tiene una extension de 30 acres de tierra anteriormente pertubado por la mineria del uranio. Todo el sitio de la mina ha sido rehabilitado conforme a los requisitos de las leyes y reglamentos aplicales. El proposito de la variacion es proveer para que pase cinco mas estaciones de crecimento antes de la determinacion, a ser hecho por la Division de Mineria y Minerales (MMD), que el sitio cumple con los criterios para releva de las obligaciones de algun requisito adicional para la revegetacion.

La direccion del suplicante es: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Personas interesadas que desean someter algun escrito, o una suplica para una audiencia publica sobre esta materia, deben dirigir su solicitud escrito a:

Director, Mining and Minerals Division 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

La fecha final para someter propuestas o comentari os es el Lunes, dia 1 de Julio de 1996. Copias de la solicitud para una variacion estan disponibles para inspeccion publica en las Bibliotecas Publicas en Grants y Gallup, y en las oficinas del Secritario del los Condados de McKinley y Cibola, en Gallup y Grants, New Mexico. Viernes, 31 de Mayo, 1996



May 30, 1996

Mother Whiteside Public Library 525 W. High Street Grants, New Mexico 87020

Attn: J.L. King

RE: Public Notice Concerning The Abandoned Poison Canyon Mine Site

Dear Mr. King

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests that the attached public notice be posted in the Mother Whiteside Public Library, preferably before June 1, 1996. The notice will need to be posted until July 1, 1996.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact me at this office.

Sincerely,

SANTA FE PACIFIC GOLD CORPORATION

Lea R. Simpkins

Lee R. Simpkins Environmental Specialist

PUBLIC NOTICE

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site, located Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996 (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

The mine is located in Cibola County in Section 19, T.13N., R9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers approximately thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for up to five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from additional revegetation requirements.

The applicants address is: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Interested persons wishing to submit written comments or request for a public hearing on this matter may do so by writing to:

Director, Mining and Minerals Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department State Of New Mexico 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittal is Monday, July 1, 1996.

Copies of the Application for a Variance are available for public inspection at the Mother Whiteside Public Library, Cibola County Clerk's Office, McKinley Public Library and the McKinley County Clerk's Office. Friday, May 31, 1996

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation ha sometido una SOLICITUD PARA UNA VARIACION para su mina abandonar Poison Canyon cerca de Grants, New Mexico, de acnerdo con las provisiones de Subparte 10 de las Reglas del Acto de Mineria del estado de Nuevo Mexico, del 15 de Febrero de 1996 (NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

La mina esta situada en Seccion 19, T.13 Norte, Extension 9 Oeste, New Mexico Principal Meridian. La mine tiene una extension de 30 acres de tierra anteriormente pertubado por la mineria del uranio. Todo el sitio de la mina ha sido rehabilitado conforme a los requisitos de las leyes y reglamentos aplicales. El proposito de la variacion es proveer para que pase cinco mas estaciones de crecimento antes de la determinacion, a ser hecho por la Division de Mineria y Minerales (MMD), que el sitio cumple con los criterios para releva de las obligaciones de algun requisito adicional para la revegetacion.

La direccion del suplicante es: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Personas interesadas que desean someter algun escrito, o una suplica para una audiencia publica sobre esta materia, deben dirigir su solicitud escrito a:

Director, Mining and Minerals Division 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

La fecha final para someter propuestas o comentari os es el Lunes, dia 1 de Julio de 1996. Copias de la solicitud para una variacion estan disponibles para inspeccion publica en las Bibliotecas Publicas en Grants y Gallup, y en las oficinas del Secritario del los Condados de McKinley y Cibola, en Gallup y Grants, New Mexico. Viernes, 31 de Mayo, 1996



May 30, 1996

Cibola County Clerks Office Attn: Georgia 515 W. High Street Grants, New Mexico 87020

Dear Georgia:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine, in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996, (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from an additional revegetation requirement.

The applicants address is:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation Attention: Tim Leftwich 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Interested persons wishing to submit written comments or a request for a public hearing on this matter may do so by writing to:

Director, Mining and Minerals Division Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittals is Monday, July 1, 1996. A copy of the APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE is available for public inspection at the Grants and Gallup Public Libraries and the Cibola and McKinley County Clerks Offices.

Sincerely,

Thuch

Tim Leftwich ⁷ Vice President-Environmental Quality

APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE Pursuant to New Mexico Mining Act Rules Subpart 10

1002.A

- Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110
- 2. This application is submitted on May 31, 1996.
- 3. This variance is sought for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine.
- 4. The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W.
- 5. This variance is sought from Subpart 510.B, which requires that a permit application be submitted within 6 months after the owner or operator received notice of the determination. Santa Fe Pacific Gold maintains its position that the company does meet the definition of owner or operator under the New Mexico Mining Act.
- 6. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests variance from Subpart 510.B.
- 6.a. **Background.** The results of a site inspection from the Mining and Minerals Division during the fall of 1995 indicate that the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site does not meet the criteria for a "self sustaining ecosystem under Subpart 507.A. This fact is stated in a report and in subsequent correspondence from the Division to Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation. However, the site was reclaimed during July 1994 and did not have adequate time for re-vegetation efforts to become established at the time of the inspection. Other contributing factors to the lack of reclaim vegetation is a lack of precipitation and the grazing practices the site is subject to, all of which Santa Fe has no control over since the corporation does not control the surface.
- 6.b **Proposal.** Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation believes, based on reclamation experience in the abandoned Poison Canyon area, that the site will meet the criteria under Subpart 507.A., if the area receives adequate precipitation. Additionally, due to the heavy grazing the area receives, several growing seasons should be allowed for vegetation to establish itself. The Poison Canyon site will be inspected by qualified Santa Fe Pacific personnel in accordance with corporate policies twice a year to determine if additional work is required at the site. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests Mining and Minerals inspect the site once a year.

7. If this variance request is not granted, Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation will be forced to apply for a permit pursuant to Subpart 5. and wait 12 years following the issuance of the permit for the site to be released. The cost of compiling a permit is:

Permit Preparation:	\$30,000
Permit Application Fee	\$2090
Annual Fee	\$23,826
Staff Management	\$150,000
-	

Total Cost \$205,916

(This cost does not include bonding)

- 8. The adit and other mine openings at the abandoned Poison Canyon site have been backfilled and are inspected annually in accordance with corporate policies. The site in its present condition does not pose a threat to human health and safety, nor to the environment. Threats to human health and safety were not identified during the Mining and Minerals inspection.
- 9. Pursuant to Subpart 201.K, the fee for this variance application is \$500. Pursuant to Subpart 205.A, compensation for the Department Game and Fish is 4.5 of the \$500 fee. Total fee payment is \$522.50

PD

PUBLIC NOTICE

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site, located Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996 (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

The mine is located in Cibola County in Section 19, T.13N., R9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers approximately thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for up to five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from additional revegetation requirements.

The applicants address is: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Interested persons wishing to submit written comments or request for a public hearing on this matter may do so by writing to:

Director, Mining and Minerals Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department State Of New Mexico 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittal is Monday, July 1, 1996.

Copies of the Application for a Variance are available for public inspection at the Mother Whiteside Public Library, Cibola County Clerk's Office, McKinley Public Library and the McKinley County Clerk's Office. Friday, May 31, 1996

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation ha sometido una SOLICITUD PARA UNA VARIACION para su mina abandonar Poison Canyon cerca de Grants, New Mexico, de acnerdo con las provisiones de Subparte 10 de las Reglas del Acto de Mineria del estado de Nuevo Mexico, del 15 de Febrero de 1996 (NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

La mina esta situada en Seccion 19, T.13 Norte, Extension 9 Oeste, New Mexico Principal Meridian. La mine tiene una extension de 30 acres de tierra anteriormente pertubado por la mineria del uranio. Todo el sitio de la mina ha sido rehabilitado conforme a los requisitos de las leyes y reglamentos aplicales. El proposito de la variacion es proveer para que pase cinco mas estaciones de crecimento antes de la determinacion, a ser hecho por la Division de Mineria y Minerales (MMD), que el sitio cumple con los criterios para releva de las obligaciones de algun requisito adicional para la revegetacion.

La direccion del suplicante es: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Personas interesadas que desean someter algun escrito, o una suplica para una audiencia publica sobre esta materia, deben dirigir su solicitud escrito a:

Director, Mining and Minerals Division 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

La fecha final para someter propuestas o comentari os es el Lunes, dia 1 de Julio de 1996. Copias de la solicitud para una variacion estan disponibles para inspeccion publica en las Bibliotecas Publicas en Grants y Gallup, y en las oficinas del Secritario del los Condados de McKinley y Cibola, en Gallup y Grants, New Mexico. Viernes, 31 de Mayo, 1996



May 30, 1996

McKinley County Clerks Office Attn: Mary PO Box 1268 Gallup, New Mexico 87305

Dear Mary:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine, in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996, (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from an additional revegetation requirement.

The applicants address is:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation Attention: Tim Leftwich 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Interested persons wishing to submit written comments or a request for a public hearing on this matter may do so by writing to:

Director, Mining and Minerals Division Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittals is Monday, July 1, 1996. A copy of the APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE is available for public inspection at the Grants and Gallup Public Libraries and the Cibola and McKinley County Clerks Offices.

Sincerely,

Thurk

Tim Leftwich ' Vice President-Environmental Quality

APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE Pursuant to New Mexico Mining Act Rules Subpart 10

1002.A

- 1. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110
- 2. This application is submitted on May 31, 1996.
- 3. This variance is sought for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine.
- 4. The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W.
- 5. This variance is sought from Subpart 510.B, which requires that a permit application be submitted within 6 months after the owner or operator received notice of the determination. Santa Fe Pacific Gold maintains its position that the company does meet the definition of owner or operator under the New Mexico Mining Act.
- 6. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests variance from Subpart 510.B.
- 6.a. **Background.** The results of a site inspection from the Mining and Minerals Division during the fall of 1995 indicate that the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site does not meet the criteria for a "self sustaining ecosystem under Subpart 507.A. This fact is stated in a report and in subsequent correspondence from the Division to Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation. However, the site was reclaimed during July 1994 and did not have adequate time for re-vegetation efforts to become established at the time of the inspection. Other contributing factors to the lack of reclaim vegetation is a lack of precipitation and the grazing practices the site is subject to, all of which Santa Fe has no control over since the corporation does not control the surface.
- 6.b **Proposal.** Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation believes, based on reclamation experience in the abandoned Poison Canyon area, that the site will meet the criteria under Subpart 507.A., if the area receives adequate precipitation. Additionally, due to the heavy grazing the area receives, several growing seasons should be allowed for vegetation to establish itself. The Poison Canyon site will be inspected by qualified Santa Fe Pacific personnel in accordance with corporate policies twice a year to determine if additional work is required at the site. Santa Fe proposes giving the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site five years. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests Mining and Minerals inspect the site once a year.

7. If this variance request is not granted, Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation will be forced to apply for a permit pursuant to Subpart 5. and wait 12 years following the issuance of the permit for the site to be released. The cost of compiling a permit is:

Permit Preparation:	\$30,000
Permit Application Fee	\$2090
Annual Fee	\$23,826
Staff Management	\$150,000

Total Cost \$205,916

(This cost does not include bonding)

- 8. The adit and other mine openings at the abandoned Poison Canyon site have been backfilled and are inspected annually in accordance with corporate policies. The site in its present condition does not pose a threat to human health and safety, nor to the environment. Threats to human health and safety were not identified during the Mining and Minerals inspection.
- 9. Pursuant to Subpart 201.K, the fee for this variance application is \$500. Pursuant to Subpart 205.A, compensation for the Department Game and Fish is 4.5 of the \$500 fee. Total fee payment is \$522.50

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site, located Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996 (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

The mine is located in Cibola County in Section 19, T.13N., R9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers approximately thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for up to five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from additional revegetation requirements.

The applicants address is: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Interested persons wishing to submit written comments or request for a public hearing on this matter may do so by writing to:

Director, Mining and Minerals Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department State Of New Mexico 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittal is Monday, July 1, 1996. Copies of the Application for a Variance are available for public inspection at the Mother Whiteside Public Library, Cibola County Clerk's Office, McKinley Public Library and the McKinley County Clerk's Office. Friday, May 31, 1996

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation ha sometido una SOLICITUD PARA UNA VARIACION para su mina abandonar Poison Canyon cerca de Grants, New Mexico, de acnerdo con las provisiones de Subparte 10 de las Reglas del Acto de Mineria del estado de Nuevo Mexico, del 15 de Febrero de 1996 (NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

La mina esta situada en Seccion 19, T.13 Norte, Extension 9 Oeste, New Mexico Principal Meridian. La mine tiene una extension de 30 acres de tierra anteriormente pertubado por la mineria del uranio. Todo el sitio de la mina ha sido rehabilitado conforme a los requisitos de las leyes y reglamentos aplicales. El proposito de la variacion es proveer para que pase cinco mas estaciones de crecimento antes de la determinacion, a ser hecho por la Division de Mineria y Minerales (MMD), que el sitio cumple con los criterios para releva de las obligaciones de algun requisito adicional para la revegetacion.

La direccion del suplicante es: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Personas interesadas que desean someter algun escrito, o una suplica para una audiencia publica sobre esta materia, deben dirigir su solicitud escrito a:

Director, Mining and Minerals Division 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

La fecha final para someter propuestas o comentari os es el Lunes, dia 1 de Julio de 1996. Copias de la solicitud para una variacion estan disponibles para inspeccion publica en las Bibliotecas Publicas en Grants y Gallup, y en las oficinas del Secritario del los Condados de McKinley y Cibola, en Gallup y Grants, New Mexico. Viernes, 31 de Mayo, 1996



May 30, 1996

New Mexico Environment Department Harold Runnels Building 1190 St. Francis Drive Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

To Whom It May Concern:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine, in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996, (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from an additional revegetation requirement.

The applicants address is:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation Attention: Tim Leftwich 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Interested persons wishing to submit written comments or a request for a public hearing on this matter may do so by writing to:

Director, Mining and Minerals Division Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittals is Monday, July 1, 1996. A copy of the APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE is available for public inspection at the Grants and Gallup Public Libraries and the Cibola and McKinley County Clerks Offices.

Sincerely,

Auch

Tim Leftwich Vice President-Environmental Quality



APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE Pursuant to New Mexico Mining Act Rules Subpart 10

1002.A

- Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110
- 2. This application is submitted on May 31, 1996.
- 3. This variance is sought for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine.
- 4. The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W.
- 5. This variance is sought from Subpart 510.B, which requires that a permit application be submitted within 6 months after the owner or operator received notice of the determination. Santa Fe Pacific Gold maintains its position that the company does meet the definition of owner or operator under the New Mexico Mining Act.
- 6. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests variance from Subpart 510.B.
- 6.a. **Background.** The results of a site inspection from the Mining and Minerals Division during the fall of 1995 indicate that the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site does not meet the criteria for a "self sustaining ecosystem under Subpart 507.A. This fact is stated in a report and in subsequent correspondence from the Division to Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation. However, the site was reclaimed during July 1994 and did not have adequate time for re-vegetation efforts to become established at the time of the inspection. Other contributing factors to the lack of reclaim vegetation is a lack of precipitation and the grazing practices the site is subject to, all of which Santa Fe has no control over since the corporation does not control the surface.
- 6.b **Proposal.** Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation believes, based on reclamation experience in the abandoned Poison Canyon area, that the site will meet the criteria under Subpart 507.A., if the area receives adequate precipitation. Additionally, due to the heavy grazing the area receives, several growing seasons should be allowed for vegetation to establish itself. The Poison Canyon site will be inspected by qualified Santa Fe Pacific personnel in accordance with corporate policies twice a year to determine if additional work is required at the site. Santa Fe proposes giving the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site five years. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests Mining and Minerals inspect the site once a year.

7. If this variance request is not granted, Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation will be forced to apply for a permit pursuant to Subpart 5. and wait 12 years following the issuance of the permit for the site to be released. The cost of compiling a permit is:

Permit Preparation:	\$30,000
Permit Application Fee	\$2090
Annual Fee	\$23,826
Staff Management	\$150,000

Total Cost \$205,916

(This cost does not include bonding)

- 8. The adit and other mine openings at the abandoned Poison Canyon site have been backfilled and are inspected annually in accordance with corporate policies. The site in its present condition does not pose a threat to human health and safety, nor to the environment. Threats to human health and safety were not identified during the Mining and Minerals inspection.
- 9. Pursuant to Subpart 201.K, the fee for this variance application is \$500. Pursuant to Subpart 205.A, compensation for the Department Game and Fish is 4.5 of the \$500 fee. Total fee payment is \$522.50

PUBLIC NOTICE

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site, located Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996 (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

The mine is located in Cibola County in Section 19, T.13N., R9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers approximately thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for up to five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from additional revegetation requirements.

The applicants address is: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Interested persons wishing to submit written comments or request for a public hearing on this matter may do so by writing to:

Director, Mining and Minerals Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department State Of New Mexico 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittal is Monday, July 1, 1996. Copies of the Application for a Variance are available for public inspection at the Mother Whiteside Public Library, Cibola County Clerk's Office, McKinley Public Library and the McKinley County Clerk's Office. Friday, May 31, 1996

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation ha sometido una SOLICITUD PARA UNA VARIACION para su mina abandonar Poison Canyon cerca de Grants, New Mexico, de acnerdo con las provisiones de Subparte 10 de las Reglas del Acto de Mineria del estado de Nuevo Mexico, del 15 de Febrero de 1996 (NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

La mina esta situada en Seccion 19, T.13 Norte, Extension 9 Oeste, New Mexico Principal Meridian. La mine tiene una extension de 30 acres de tierra anteriormente pertubado por la mineria del uranio. Todo el sitio de la mina ha sido rehabilitado conforme a los requisitos de las leyes y reglamentos aplicales. El proposito de la variacion es proveer para que pase cinco mas estaciones de crecimento antes de la determinacion, a ser hecho por la Division de Mineria y Minerales (MMD), que el sitio cumple con los criterios para releva de las obligaciones de algun requisito adicional para la revegetacion.

La direccion del suplicante es: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Personas interesadas que desean someter algun escrito, o una suplica para una audiencia publica sobre esta materia, deben dirigir su solicitud escrito a:

Director, Mining and Minerals Division 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

La fecha final para someter propuestas o comentari os es el Lunes, dia 1 de Julio de 1996. Copias de la solicitud para una variacion estan disponibles para inspeccion publica en las Bibliotecas Publicas en Grants y Gallup, y en las oficinas del Secritario del los Condados de McKinley y Cibola, en Gallup y Grants, New Mexico. Viernes, 31 de Mayo, 1996



May 30, 1996

New Mexico Dept. of Forestry and Resources Conservation Division 408 Galisteo Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

To Whom It May Concern:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine, in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996, (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from an additional revegetation requirement.

The applicants address is:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation Attention: Tim Leftwich 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Interested persons wishing to submit written comments or a request for a public hearing on this matter may do so by writing to:

Director, Mining and Minerals Division Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittals is Monday, July 1, 1996. A copy of the APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE is available for public inspection at the Grants and Gallup Public Libraries and the Cibola and McKinley County Clerks Offices.

Sincerely, x Thuih

Tim Leftwich Vice President-Environmental Quality

APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE Pursuant to New Mexico Mining Act Rules Subpart 10

1002.A

- Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110
- 2. This application is submitted on May 31, 1996.
- 3. This variance is sought for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine.
- 4. The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W.
- 5. This variance is sought from Subpart 510.B, which requires that a permit application be submitted within 6 months after the owner or operator received notice of the determination. Santa Fe Pacific Gold maintains its position that the company does meet the definition of owner or operator under the New Mexico Mining Act.
- 6. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests variance from Subpart 510.B.
- 6.a. **Background.** The results of a site inspection from the Mining and Minerals Division during the fall of 1995 indicate that the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site does not meet the criteria for a "self sustaining ecosystem under Subpart 507.A. This fact is stated in a report and in subsequent correspondence from the Division to Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation. However, the site was reclaimed during July 1994 and did not have adequate time for re-vegetation efforts to become established at the time of the inspection. Other contributing factors to the lack of reclaim vegetation is a lack of precipitation and the grazing practices the site is subject to, all of which Santa Fe has no control over since the corporation does not control the surface.
- 6.b **Proposal.** Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation believes, based on reclamation experience in the abandoned Poison Canyon area, that the site will meet the criteria under Subpart 507.A., if the area receives adequate precipitation. Additionally, due to the heavy grazing the area receives, several growing seasons should be allowed for vegetation to establish itself. The Poison Canyon site will be inspected by qualified Santa Fe Pacific personnel in accordance with corporate policies twice a year to determine if additional work is required at the site. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests Mining and Minerals inspect the site once a year.

7.

If this variance request is not granted, Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation will be forced to apply for a permit pursuant to Subpart 5. and wait 12 years following the issuance of the permit for the site to be released. The cost of compiling a permit is:

Permit Preparation:	\$30,000
Permit Application Fee	\$2090
Annual Fee	\$23,826
Staff Management	\$150,000

Total Cost \$205,916

(This cost does not include bonding)

- 8. The adit and other mine openings at the abandoned Poison Canyon site have been backfilled and are inspected annually in accordance with corporate policies. The site in its present condition does not pose a threat to human health and safety, nor to the environment. Threats to human health and safety were not identified during the Mining and Minerals inspection.
- 9. Pursuant to Subpart 201.K, the fee for this variance application is \$500. Pursuant to Subpart 205.A, compensation for the Department Game and Fish is 4.5 of the \$500 fee. Total fee payment is \$522.50



Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site, located Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996 (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

The mine is located in Cibola County in Section 19, T.13N., R9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers approximately thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for up to five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from additional revegetation requirements.

The applicants address is: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Interested persons wishing to submit written comments or request for a public hearing on this matter may do so by writing to:

Director, Mining and Minerals Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department State Of New Mexico 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittal is Monday, July 1, 1996. Copies of the Application for a Variance are available for public inspection at the Mother Whiteside Public Library, Cibola County Clerk's Office, McKinley Public Library and the McKinley County Clerk's Office. Friday, May 31, 1996

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation ha sometido una SOLICITUD PARA UNA VARIACION para su mina abandonar Poison Canyon cerca de Grants, New Mexico, de acnerdo con las provisiones de Subparte 10 de las Reglas del Acto de Mineria del estado de Nuevo Mexico, del 15 de Febrero de 1996 (NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

La mina esta situada en Seccion 19, T.13 Norte, Extension 9 Oeste, New Mexico Principal Meridian. La mine tiene una extension de 30 acres de tierra anteriormente pertubado por la mineria del uranio. Todo el sitio de la mina ha sido rehabilitado conforme a los requisitos de las leyes y reglamentos aplicales. El proposito de la variacion es proveer para que pase cinco mas estaciones de crecimento antes de la determinacion, a ser hecho por la Division de Mineria y Minerales (MMD), que el sitio cumple con los criterios para releva de las obligaciones de algun requisito adicional para la revegetacion.

La direccion del suplicante es: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Personas interesadas que desean someter algun escrito, o una suplica para una audiencia publica sobre esta materia, deben dirigir su solicitud escrito a:

Director, Mining and Minerals Division 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

La fecha final para someter propuestas o comentari os es el Lunes, dia 1 de Julio de 1996. Copias de la solicitud para una variacion estan disponibles para inspeccion publica en las Bibliotecas Publicas en Grants y Gallup, y en las oficinas del Secritario del los Condados de McKinley y Cibola, en Gallup y Grants, New Mexico. Viernes, 31 de Mayo, 1996



May 30, 1996

New Mexico Dept. of Game and Fish 408 Galisteo Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

To Whom It May Concern:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine, in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996, (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from an additional revegetation requirement.

The applicants address is:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation Attention: Tim Leftwich 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

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Director, Mining and Minerals Division Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittals is Monday, July 1, 1996. A copy of the APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE is available for public inspection at the Grants and Gallup Public Libraries and the Cibola and McKinley County Clerks Offices.

Sincerely,

temah

Tim Leftwich ' Vice President-Environmental Quality

APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE Pursuant to New Mexico Mining Act Rules Subpart 10

1002.A

- 1. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110
- 2. This application is submitted on May 31, 1996.
- 3. This variance is sought for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine.
- 4. The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W.
- 5. This variance is sought from Subpart 510.B, which requires that a permit application be submitted within 6 months after the owner or operator received notice of the determination. Santa Fe Pacific Gold maintains its position that the company does meet the definition of owner or operator under the New Mexico Mining Act.
- 6. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests variance from Subpart 510.B.
- 6.a. **Background.** The results of a site inspection from the Mining and Minerals Division during the fall of 1995 indicate that the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site does not meet the criteria for a "self sustaining ecosystem under Subpart 507.A. This fact is stated in a report and in subsequent correspondence from the Division to Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation. However, the site was reclaimed during July 1994 and did not have adequate time for re-vegetation efforts to become established at the time of the inspection. Other contributing factors to the lack of reclaim vegetation is a lack of precipitation and the grazing practices the site is subject to, all of which Santa Fe has no control over since the corporation does not control the surface.
- 6.b **Proposal.** Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation believes, based on reclamation experience in the abandoned Poison Canyon area, that the site will meet the criteria under Subpart 507.A., if the area receives adequate precipitation. Additionally, due to the heavy grazing the area receives, several growing seasons should be allowed for vegetation to establish itself. The Poison Canyon site will be inspected by qualified Santa Fe Pacific personnel in accordance with corporate policies twice a year to determine if additional work is required at the site. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests Mining and Minerals inspect the site once a year.

7. If this variance request is not granted, Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation will be forced to apply for a permit pursuant to Subpart 5. and wait 12 years following the issuance of the permit for the site to be released. The cost of compiling a permit is:

Permit Preparation:	\$30,000
Permit Application Fee	\$2090
Annual Fee	\$23,826
Staff Management	\$150,000
-	

Total Cost \$205,916

(This cost does not include bonding)

- 8. The adit and other mine openings at the abandoned Poison Canyon site have been backfilled and are inspected annually in accordance with corporate policies. The site in its present condition does not pose a threat to human health and safety, nor to the environment. Threats to human health and safety were not identified during the Mining and Minerals inspection.
- 9. Pursuant to Subpart 201.K, the fee for this variance application is \$500. Pursuant to Subpart 205.A, compensation for the Department Game and Fish is 4.5 of the \$500 fee. Total fee payment is \$522.50

PUBLIC NOTICE

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site, located Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996 (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

The mine is located in Cibola County in Section 19, T.13N., R9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers approximately thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for up to five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from additional revegetation requirements.

The applicants address is: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Interested persons wishing to submit written comments or request for a public hearing on this matter may do so by writing to:

Director, Mining and Minerals Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department State Of New Mexico 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittal is Monday, July 1, 1996.

Copies of the Application for a Variance are available for public inspection at the Mother Whiteside Public Library, Cibola County Clerk's Office, McKinley Public Library and the McKinley County Clerk's Office. Friday, May 31, 1996

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation ha sometido una SOLICITUD PARA UNA VARIACION para su mina abandonar Poison Canyon cerca de Grants, New Mexico, de acnerdo con las provisiones de Subparte 10 de las Reglas del Acto de Mineria del estado de Nuevo Mexico, del 15 de Febrero de 1996 (NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

La mina esta situada en Seccion 19, T.13 Norte, Extension 9 Oeste, New Mexico Principal Meridian. La mine tiene una extension de 30 acres de tierra anteriormente pertubado por la mineria del uranio. Todo el sitio de la mina ha sido rehabilitado conforme a los requisitos de las leyes y reglamentos aplicales. El proposito de la variacion es proveer para que pase cinco mas estaciones de crecimento antes de la determinacion, a ser hecho por la Division de Mineria y Minerales (MMD), que el sitio cumple con los criterios para releva de las obligaciones de algun requisito adicional para la revegetacion.

La direccion del suplicante es: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

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May 30, 1996

State Historic Preservation Division La Villa Rivera, 228 E. Palace Avenue Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

To Whom It May Concern:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine, in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996, (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from an additional revegetation requirement.

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Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation Attention: Tim Leftwich 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

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Sincerely Thursh

Tim Leftwich Vice President-Environmental Quality



APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE Pursuant to New Mexico Mining Act Rules Subpart 10

1002.A

- Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110
- 2. This application is submitted on May 31, 1996.
- 3. This variance is sought for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine.
- 4. The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W.
- 5. This variance is sought from Subpart 510.B, which requires that a permit application be submitted within 6 months after the owner or operator received notice of the determination. Santa Fe Pacific Gold maintains its position that the company does meet the definition of owner or operator under the New Mexico Mining Act.
- 6. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests variance from Subpart 510.B.
- 6.a. **Background.** The results of a site inspection from the Mining and Minerals Division during the fall of 1995 indicate that the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site does not meet the criteria for a "self sustaining ecosystem under Subpart 507.A. This fact is stated in a report and in subsequent correspondence from the Division to Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation. However, the site was reclaimed during July 1994 and did not have adequate time for re-vegetation efforts to become established at the time of the inspection. Other contributing factors to the lack of reclaim vegetation is a lack of precipitation and the grazing practices the site is subject to, all of which Santa Fe has no control over since the corporation does not control the surface.
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Staff Management	\$150,000

Total Cost \$205,916

(This cost does not include bonding)

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- 8. The adit and other mine openings at the abandoned Poison Canyon site have been backfilled and are inspected annually in accordance with corporate policies. The site in its present condition does not pose a threat to human health and safety, nor to the environment. Threats to human health and safety were not identified during the Mining and Minerals inspection.
- 9. Pursuant to Subpart 201.K, the fee for this variance application is \$500. Pursuant to Subpart 205.A, compensation for the Department Game and Fish is 4.5 of the \$500 fee. Total fee payment is \$522.50

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The applicants address is: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Interested persons wishing to submit written comments or request for a public hearing on this matter may do so by writing to:

Director, Mining and Minerals Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department State Of New Mexico 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittal is Monday, July 1, 1996. Copies of the Application for a Variance are available for public inspection at the Mother Whiteside Public Library, Cibola County Clerk's Office, McKinley Public Library and the McKinley County Clerk's Office. Friday, May 31, 1996

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La mina esta situada en Seccion 19, T.13 Norte, Extension 9 Oeste, New Mexico Principal Meridian. La mine tiene una extension de 30 acres de tierra anteriormente pertubado por la mineria del uranio. Todo el sitio de la mina ha sido rehabilitado conforme a los requisitos de las leyes y reglamentos aplicales. El proposito de la variacion es proveer para que pase cinco mas estaciones de crecimento antes de la determinacion, a ser hecho por la Division de Mineria y Minerales (MMD), que el sitio cumple con los criterios para releva de las obligaciones de algun requisito adicional para la revegetacion.

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Personas interesadas que desean someter algun escrito, o una suplica para una audiencia publica sobre esta materia, deben dirigir su solicitud escrito a:

Director, Mining and Minerals Division 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

La fecha final para someter propuestas o comentari os es el Lunes, dia 1 de Julio de 1996. Copias de la solicitud para una variacion estan disponibles para inspeccion publica en las Bibliotecas Publicas en Grants y Gallup, y en las oficinas del Secritario del los Condados de McKinley y Cibola, en Gallup y Grants, New Mexico. Viernes, 31 de Mayo, 1996



May 30, 1996

State Engineer Water Rights Division BATAAN Memorial Building, Room 102 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87503

To Whom It May Concern:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine, in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996, (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from an additional revegetation requirement.

The applicants address is:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation Attention: Tim Leftwich 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Interested persons wishing to submit written comments or a request for a public hearing on this matter may do so by writing to:

Director, Mining and Minerals Division Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittals is Monday, July 1, 1996. A copy of the APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE is available for public inspection at the Grants and Gallup Public Libraries and the Cibola and McKinley County Clerks Offices.

Sincerely. Stuit

Tim Leftwich Vice President-Environmental Quality

APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE Pursuant to New Mexico Mining Act Rules Subpart 10

1002.A

- 1. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110
- 2. This application is submitted on May 31, 1996.
- 3. This variance is sought for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine.
- 4. The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W.
- 5. This variance is sought from Subpart 510.B, which requires that a permit application be submitted within 6 months after the owner or operator received notice of the determination. Santa Fe Pacific Gold maintains its position that the company does meet the definition of owner or operator under the New Mexico Mining Act.
- 6. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests variance from Subpart 510.B.
- 6.a. **Background.** The results of a site inspection from the Mining and Minerals Division during the fall of 1995 indicate that the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site does not meet the criteria for a "self sustaining ecosystem under Subpart 507.A. This fact is stated in a report and in subsequent correspondence from the Division to Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation. However, the site was reclaimed during July 1994 and did not have adequate time for re-vegetation efforts to become established at the time of the inspection. Other contributing factors to the lack of reclaim vegetation is a lack of precipitation and the grazing practices the site is subject to, all of which Santa Fe has no control over since the corporation does not control the surface.
- 6.b **Proposal.** Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation believes, based on reclamation experience in the abandoned Poison Canyon area, that the site will meet the criteria under Subpart 507.A., if the area receives adequate precipitation. Additionally, due to the heavy grazing the area receives, several growing seasons should be allowed for vegetation to establish itself. The Poison Canyon site will be inspected by qualified Santa Fe Pacific personnel in accordance with corporate policies twice a year to determine if additional work is required at the site. Santa Fe proposes giving the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site five years. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests Mining and Minerals inspect the site once a year.
If this variance request is not granted, Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation will be forced to apply for a permit pursuant to Subpart 5. and wait 12 years following the issuance of the permit for the site to be released. The cost of compiling a permit is:

Permit Preparation:	\$30,000
Permit Application Fee	\$2090
Annual Fee	\$23,826
Staff Management	\$150,000

Total Cost \$205,916

(This cost does not include bonding)

7.

- 8. The adit and other mine openings at the abandoned Poison Canyon site have been backfilled and are inspected annually in accordance with corporate policies. The site in its present condition does not pose a threat to human health and safety, nor to the environment. Threats to human health and safety were not identified during the Mining and Minerals inspection.
- 9. Pursuant to Subpart 201.K, the fee for this variance application is \$500. Pursuant to Subpart 205.A, compensation for the Department Game and Fish is 4.5 of the \$500 fee. Total fee payment is \$522.50

PUBLIC NOTICE

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site, located Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996 (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

The mine is located in Cibola County in Section 19, T.13N., R9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers approximately thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for up to five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from additional revegetation requirements.

The applicants address is: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Interested persons wishing to submit written comments or request for a public hearing on this matter may do so by writing to:

Director, Mining and Minerals Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department State Of New Mexico 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittal is Monday, July 1, 1996. Copies of the Application for a Variance are available for public inspection at the Mother Whiteside Public Library, Cibola County Clerk's Office, McKinley Public Library and the McKinley County Clerk's Office. Friday, May 31, 1996



AVISO PULBICO

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation ha sometido una SOLICITUD PARA UNA VARIACION para su mina abandonar Poison Canyon cerca de Grants, New Mexico, de acnerdo con las provisiones de Subparte 10 de las Reglas del Acto de Mineria del estado de Nuevo Mexico, del 15 de Febrero de 1996 (NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

La mina esta situada en Seccion 19, T.13 Norte, Extension 9 Oeste, New Mexico Principal Meridian. La mine tiene una extension de 30 acres de tierra anteriormente pertubado por la mineria del uranio. Todo el sitio de la mina ha sido rehabilitado conforme a los requisitos de las leyes y reglamentos aplicales. El proposito de la variacion es proveer para que pase cinco mas estaciones de crecimento antes de la determinacion, a ser hecho por la Division de Mineria y Minerales (MMD), que el sitio cumple con los criterios para releva de las obligaciones de algun requisito adicional para la revegetacion.

La direccion del suplicante es: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Personas interesadas que desean someter algun escrito, o una suplica para una audiencia publica sobre esta materia, deben dirigir su solicitud escrito a:

Director, Mining and Minerals Division 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

La fecha final para someter propuestas o comentari os es el Lunes, dia 1 de Julio de 1996. Copias de la solicitud para una variacion estan disponibles para inspeccion publica en las Bibliotecas Publicas en Grants y Gallup, y en las oficinas del Secritario del los Condados de McKinley y Cibola, en Gallup y Grants, New Mexico. Viernes, 31 de Mayo, 1996



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

May 30, 1996

Mr. Larry Frank PO Box 290 Arroyo Hondo, New Mexico 87513

Dear Mr. Frank:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine, in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996, (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from an additional revegetation requirement.

The applicants address is:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation Attention: Tim Leftwich 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Interested persons wishing to submit written comments or a request for a public hearing on this matter may do so by writing to:

Director, Mining and Minerals Division Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittals is Monday, July 1, 1996. A copy of the APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE is available for public inspection at the Grants and Gallup Public Libraries and the Cibola and McKinley County Clerks Offices.

Sincerely,

Tim Leftwich ' Vice President-Environmental Quality

APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE Pursuant to New Mexico Mining Act Rules Subpart 10

1002.A

- Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation
 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400
 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110
- 2. This application is submitted on May 31, 1996.
- 3. This variance is sought for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine.
- 4. The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W.
- 5. This variance is sought from Subpart 510.B, which requires that a permit application be submitted within 6 months after the owner or operator received notice of the determination. Santa Fe Pacific Gold maintains its position that the company does meet the definition of owner or operator under the New Mexico Mining Act.
- 6. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests variance from Subpart 510.B.
- 6.a. **Background.** The results of a site inspection from the Mining and Minerals Division during the fall of 1995 indicate that the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site does not meet the criteria for a "self sustaining ecosystem under Subpart 507.A. This fact is stated in a report and in subsequent correspondence from the Division to Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation. However, the site was reclaimed during July 1994 and did not have adequate time for re-vegetation efforts to become established at the time of the inspection. Other contributing factors to the lack of reclaim vegetation is a lack of precipitation and the grazing practices the site is subject to, all of which Santa Fe has no control over since the corporation does not control the surface.
- 6.b **Proposal.** Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation believes, based on reclamation experience in the abandoned Poison Canyon area, that the site will meet the criteria under Subpart 507.A., if the area receives adequate precipitation. Additionally, due to the heavy grazing the area receives, several growing seasons should be allowed for vegetation to establish itself. The Poison Canyon site will be inspected by qualified Santa Fe Pacific personnel in accordance with corporate policies twice a year to determine if additional work is required at the site. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests Mining and Minerals inspect the site once a year.

If this variance request is not granted, Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation will be forced to apply for a permit pursuant to Subpart 5. and wait 12 years following the issuance of the permit for the site to be released. The cost of compiling a permit is:

Permit Preparation:	\$30,000
Permit Application Fee	\$2090
Annual Fee	\$23,826
Staff Management	\$150,000

 Total Cost
 \$205,916

(This cost does not include bonding)

7.

- 8. The adit and other mine openings at the abandoned Poison Canyon site have been backfilled and are inspected annually in accordance with corporate policies. The site in its present condition does not pose a threat to human health and safety, nor to the environment. Threats to human health and safety were not identified during the Mining and Minerals inspection.
- 9. Pursuant to Subpart 201.K, the fee for this variance application is \$500. Pursuant to Subpart 205.A, compensation for the Department Game and Fish is 4.5 of the \$500 fee. Total fee payment is \$522.50

PUBLIC NOTICE

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site, located Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996 (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

The mine is located in Cibola County in Section 19, T.13N., R9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers approximately thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for up to five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from additional revegetation requirements.

The applicants address is: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Interested persons wishing to submit written comments or request for a public hearing on this matter may do so by writing to:

Director, Mining and Minerals Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department State Of New Mexico 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittal is Monday, July 1, 1996.

Copies of the Application for a Variance are available for public inspection at the Mother Whiteside Public Library, Cibola County Clerk's Office, McKinley Public Library and the McKinley County Clerk's Office. Friday, May 31, 1996



AVISO PULBICO

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation ha sometido una SOLICITUD PARA UNA VARIACION para su mina abandonar Poison Canyon cerca de Grants, New Mexico, de acnerdo con las provisiones de Subparte 10 de las Reglas del Acto de Mineria del estado de Nuevo Mexico, del 15 de Febrero de 1996 (NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

La mina esta situada en Seccion 19, T.13 Norte, Extension 9 Oeste, New Mexico Principal Meridian. La mine tiene una extension de 30 acres de tierra anteriormente pertubado por la mineria del uranio. Todo el sitio de la mina ha sido rehabilitado conforme a los requisitos de las leyes y reglamentos aplicales. El proposito de la variacion es proveer para que pase cinco mas estaciones de crecimento antes de la determinacion, a ser hecho por la Division de Mineria y Minerales (MMD), que el sitio cumple con los criterios para releva de las obligaciones de algun requisito adicional para la revegetacion.

La direccion del suplicante es: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Personas interesadas que desean someter algun escrito, o una suplica para una audiencia publica sobre esta materia, deben dirigir su solicitud escrito a:

Director, Mining and Minerals Division 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

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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

May 30, 1996

Ms. Maxine Goad PO Box 2502 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504

Dear Ms. Goad:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine, in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996, (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from an additional revegetation requirement.

The applicants address is:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation Attention: Tim Leftwich 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Interested persons wishing to submit written comments or a request for a public hearing on this matter may do so by writing to:

Director, Mining and Minerals Division Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittals is Monday, July 1, 1996. A copy of the APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE is available for public inspection at the Grants and Gallup Public Libraries and the Cibola and McKinley County Clerks Offices.

Sincerely.

Tim Leftwich Vice President-Environmental Quality



APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE Pursuant to New Mexico Mining Act Rules Subpart 10

1002.A

- Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110
- 2. This application is submitted on May 31, 1996.
- 3. This variance is sought for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine.
- 4. The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W.
- 5. This variance is sought from Subpart 510.B, which requires that a permit application be submitted within 6 months after the owner or operator received notice of the determination. Santa Fe Pacific Gold maintains its position that the company does meet the definition of owner or operator under the New Mexico Mining Act.
- 6. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests variance from Subpart 510.B.
- 6.a. **Background.** The results of a site inspection from the Mining and Minerals Division during the fall of 1995 indicate that the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site does not meet the criteria for a "self sustaining ecosystem under Subpart 507.A. This fact is stated in a report and in subsequent correspondence from the Division to Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation. However, the site was reclaimed during July 1994 and did not have adequate time for re-vegetation efforts to become established at the time of the inspection. Other contributing factors to the lack of reclaim vegetation is a lack of precipitation and the grazing practices the site is subject to, all of which Santa Fe has no control over since the corporation does not control the surface.
- 6.b **Proposal.** Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation believes, based on reclamation experience in the abandoned Poison Canyon area, that the site will meet the criteria under Subpart 507.A., if the area receives adequate precipitation. Additionally, due to the heavy grazing the area receives, several growing seasons should be allowed for vegetation to establish itself. The Poison Canyon site will be inspected by qualified Santa Fe Pacific personnel in accordance with corporate policies twice a year to determine if additional work is required at the site. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests Mining and Minerals inspect the site once a year.

If this variance request is not granted, Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation will be forced to apply for a permit pursuant to Subpart 5. and wait 12 years following the issuance of the permit for the site to be released. The cost of compiling a permit is:

Permit Preparation:	\$30,000
Permit Application Fee	\$2090
Annual Fee	\$23,826
Staff Management	\$150,000
C	

Total Cost \$205,916

(This cost does not include bonding)

7.

- 8. The adit and other mine openings at the abandoned Poison Canyon site have been backfilled and are inspected annually in accordance with corporate policies. The site in its present condition does not pose a threat to human health and safety, nor to the environment. Threats to human health and safety were not identified during the Mining and Minerals inspection.
- 9. Pursuant to Subpart 201.K, the fee for this variance application is \$500. Pursuant to Subpart 205.A, compensation for the Department Game and Fish is 4.5 of the \$500 fee. Total fee payment is \$522.50



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The mine is located in Cibola County in Section 19, T.13N., R9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers approximately thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for up to five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from additional revegetation requirements.

The applicants address is: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Interested persons wishing to submit written comments or request for a public hearing on this matter may do so by writing to:

Director, Mining and Minerals Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department State Of New Mexico 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittal is Monday, July 1, 1996. Copies of the Application for a Variance are available for public inspection at the Mother Whiteside Public Library, Cibola County Clerk's Office, McKinley Public Library and the McKinley County Clerk's Office. Friday, May 31, 1996



AVISO PULBICO

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La mina esta situada en Seccion 19, T.13 Norte, Extension 9 Oeste, New Mexico Principal Meridian. La mine tiene una extension de 30 acres de tierra anteriormente pertubado por la mineria del uranio. Todo el sitio de la mina ha sido rehabilitado conforme a los requisitos de las leyes y reglamentos aplicales. El proposito de la variacion es proveer para que pase cinco mas estaciones de crecimento antes de la determinacion, a ser hecho por la Division de Mineria y Minerales (MMD), que el sitio cumple con los criterios para releva de las obligaciones de algun requisito adicional para la revegetacion.

La direccion del suplicante es: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

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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

May 30, 1996

Mr. Eric Ames Western Environmental Law Center PO Box 1507 Taos, New Mexico 87571

Dear Mr. Ames:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine, in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996, (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from an additional revegetation requirement.

The applicants address is:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation Attention: Tim Leftwich 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

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Sincerely,

Alturch

Tim Leftwich Vice President-Environmental Quality

APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE Pursuant to New Mexico Mining Act Rules Subpart 10

1002.A

- 1. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110
- 2. This application is submitted on May 31, 1996.
- 3. This variance is sought for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine.
- 4. The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W.
- 5. This variance is sought from Subpart 510.B, which requires that a permit application be submitted within 6 months after the owner or operator received notice of the determination. Santa Fe Pacific Gold maintains its position that the company does meet the definition of owner or operator under the New Mexico Mining Act.
- 6. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests variance from Subpart 510.B.
- 6.a. **Background.** The results of a site inspection from the Mining and Minerals Division during the fall of 1995 indicate that the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site does not meet the criteria for a "self sustaining ecosystem under Subpart 507.A. This fact is stated in a report and in subsequent correspondence from the Division to Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation. However, the site was reclaimed during July 1994 and did not have adequate time for re-vegetation efforts to become established at the time of the inspection. Other contributing factors to the lack of reclaim vegetation is a lack of precipitation and the grazing practices the site is subject to, all of which Santa Fe has no control over since the corporation does not control the surface.
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7. If this variance request is not granted, Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation will be forced to apply for a permit pursuant to Subpart 5. and wait 12 years following the issuance of the permit for the site to be released. The cost of compiling a permit is:

Total Cost	\$205,916
Staff Management	\$150,000
Annual Fee	\$23,826
Permit Application Fee	\$2090
Permit Preparation:	\$30,000

(This cost does not include bonding)

- 8. The adit and other mine openings at the abandoned Poison Canyon site have been backfilled and are inspected annually in accordance with corporate policies. The site in its present condition does not pose a threat to human health and safety, nor to the environment. Threats to human health and safety were not identified during the Mining and Minerals inspection.
- 9. Pursuant to Subpart 201.K, the fee for this variance application is \$500. Pursuant to Subpart 205.A, compensation for the Department Game and Fish is 4.5 of the \$500 fee. Total fee payment is \$522.50



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The applicants address is: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

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Director, Mining and Minerals Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department State Of New Mexico 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

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La mina esta situada en Seccion 19, T.13 Norte, Extension 9 Oeste, New Mexico Principal Meridian. La mine tiene una extension de 30 acres de tierra anteriormente pertubado por la mineria del uranio. Todo el sitio de la mina ha sido rehabilitado conforme a los requisitos de las leyes y reglamentos aplicales. El proposito de la variacion es proveer para que pase cinco mas estaciones de crecimento antes de la determinacion, a ser hecho por la Division de Mineria y Minerales (MMD), que el sitio cumple con los criterios para releva de las obligaciones de algun requisito adicional para la revegetacion.

La direccion del suplicante es: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

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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

May 30, 1996

Mr. Grove Burnett Western Environmental Law Center PO Box 1507 Taos, New Mexico 87571

Dear Mr. Burnett:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine, in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996, (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from an additional revegetation requirement.

The applicants address is:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation Attention: Tim Leftwich 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Interested persons wishing to submit written comments or a request for a public hearing on this matter may do so by writing to:

Director, Mining and Minerals Division Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittals is Monday, July 1, 1996. A copy of the APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE is available for public inspection at the Grants and Gallup Public Libraries and the Cibola and McKinley County Clerks Offices.

Sincerely,

Much

Tim Leftwich / Vice President-Environmental Quality

APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE Pursuant to New Mexico Mining Act Rules Subpart 10

1002.A

- Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110
- 2. This application is submitted on May 31, 1996.
- 3. This variance is sought for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine.
- 4. The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W.
- 5. This variance is sought from Subpart 510.B, which requires that a permit application be submitted within 6 months after the owner or operator received notice of the determination. Santa Fe Pacific Gold maintains its position that the company does meet the definition of owner or operator under the New Mexico Mining Act.
- 6. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests variance from Subpart 510.B.
- 6.a. **Background.** The results of a site inspection from the Mining and Minerals Division during the fall of 1995 indicate that the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site does not meet the criteria for a "self sustaining ecosystem under Subpart 507.A. This fact is stated in a report and in subsequent correspondence from the Division to Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation. However, the site was reclaimed during July 1994 and did not have adequate time for re-vegetation efforts to become established at the time of the inspection. Other contributing factors to the lack of reclaim vegetation is a lack of precipitation and the grazing practices the site is subject to, all of which Santa Fe has no control over since the corporation does not control the surface.
- 6.b **Proposal.** Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation believes, based on reclamation experience in the abandoned Poison Canyon area, that the site will meet the criteria under Subpart 507.A., if the area receives adequate precipitation. Additionally, due to the heavy grazing the area receives, several growing seasons should be allowed for vegetation to establish itself. The Poison Canyon site will be inspected by qualified Santa Fe Pacific personnel in accordance with corporate policies twice a year to determine if additional work is required at the site. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests Mining and Minerals inspect the site once a year.



If this variance request is not granted, Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation will be forced to apply for a permit pursuant to Subpart 5. and wait 12 years following the issuance of the permit for the site to be released. The cost of compiling a permit is:

Total Cost	\$205,916
Staff Management	\$150,000
Annual Fee	\$23,826
Permit Application Fee	\$2090
Permit Preparation:	\$30,000

(This cost does not include bonding)

- 8. The adit and other mine openings at the abandoned Poison Canyon site have been backfilled and are inspected annually in accordance with corporate policies. The site in its present condition does not pose a threat to human health and safety, nor to the environment. Threats to human health and safety were not identified during the Mining and Minerals inspection.
- 9. Pursuant to Subpart 201.K, the fee for this variance application is \$500. Pursuant to Subpart 205.A, compensation for the Department Game and Fish is 4.5 of the \$500 fee. Total fee payment is \$522.50

PUBLIC NOTICE



Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site, located Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996 (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

The mine is located in Cibola County in Section 19, T.13N., R9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers approximately thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for up to five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from additional revegetation requirements.

The applicants address is: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

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Director, Mining and Minerals Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department State Of New Mexico 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittal is Monday, July 1, 1996.

Copies of the Application for a Variance are available for public inspection at the Mother Whiteside Public Library, Cibola County Clerk's Office, McKinley Public Library and the McKinley County Clerk's Office. Friday, May 31, 1996

AVISO PULBICO



Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation ha sometido una SOLICITUD PARA UNA VARIACION para su mina abandonar Poison Canyon cerca de Grants, New Mexico, de acnerdo con las provisiones de Subparte 10 de las Reglas del Acto de Mineria del estado de Nuevo Mexico, del 15 de Febrero de 1996 (NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

La mina esta situada en Seccion 19, T.13 Norte, Extension 9 Oeste, New Mexico Principal Meridian. La mine tiene una extension de 30 acres de tierra anteriormente pertubado por la mineria del uranio. Todo el sitio de la mina ha sido rehabilitado conforme a los requisitos de las leyes y reglamentos aplicales. El proposito de la variacion es proveer para que pase cinco mas estaciones de crecimento antes de la determinacion, a ser hecho por la Division de Mineria y Minerales (MMD), que el sitio cumple con los criterios para releva de las obligaciones de algun requisito adicional para la revegetacion.

La direccion del suplicante es: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Personas interesadas que desean someter algun escrito, o una suplica para una audiencia publica sobre esta materia, deben dirigir su solicitud escrito a:

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La fecha final para someter propuestas o comentari os es el Lunes, dia 1 de Julio de 1996. Copias de la solicitud para una variacion estan disponibles para inspeccion publica en las Bibliotecas Publicas en Grants y Gallup, y en las oficinas del Secritario del los Condados de McKinley y Cibola, en Gallup y Grants, New Mexico. Viernes, 31 de Mayo, 1996



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

May 30, 1996

Ms. Sue McIntosh Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club 945 Camino de Chelly Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Dear Ms. McIntosh:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine, in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996, (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from an additional revegetation requirement.

The applicants address is:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation Attention: Tim Leftwich 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Interested persons wishing to submit written comments or a request for a public hearing on this matter may do so by writing to:

Director, Mining and Minerals Division Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittals is Monday, July 1, 1996. A copy of the APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE is available for public inspection at the Grants and Gallup Public Libraries and the Cibola and McKinley County Clerks Offices.

Sincerely,

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Tim Leftwich / Vice President-Environmental Quality



APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE Pursuant to New Mexico Mining Act Rules Subpart 10

1002.A

- 1. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110
- 2. This application is submitted on May 31, 1996.
- 3. This variance is sought for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine.
- 4. The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W.
- 5. This variance is sought from Subpart 510.B, which requires that a permit application be submitted within 6 months after the owner or operator received notice of the determination. Santa Fe Pacific Gold maintains its position that the company does meet the definition of owner or operator under the New Mexico Mining Act.
- 6. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests variance from Subpart 510.B.
- 6.a. **Background.** The results of a site inspection from the Mining and Minerals Division during the fall of 1995 indicate that the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site does not meet the criteria for a "self sustaining ecosystem under Subpart 507.A. This fact is stated in a report and in subsequent correspondence from the Division to Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation. However, the site was reclaimed during July 1994 and did not have adequate time for re-vegetation efforts to become established at the time of the inspection. Other contributing factors to the lack of reclaim vegetation is a lack of precipitation and the grazing practices the site is subject to, all of which Santa Fe has no control over since the corporation does not control the surface.
- 6.b **Proposal.** Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation believes, based on reclamation experience in the abandoned Poison Canyon area, that the site will meet the criteria under Subpart 507.A., if the area receives adequate precipitation. Additionally, due to the heavy grazing the area receives, several growing seasons should be allowed for vegetation to establish itself. The Poison Canyon site will be inspected by qualified Santa Fe Pacific personnel in accordance with corporate policies twice a year to determine if additional work is required at the site. Santa Fe proposes giving the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site five years. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests Mining and Minerals inspect the site once a year.

7. If this variance request is not granted, Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation will be forced to apply for a permit pursuant to Subpart 5. and wait 12 years following the issuance of the permit for the site to be released. The cost of compiling a permit is:

Permit Preparation:	\$30,000
Permit Application Fee	\$2090
Annual Fee	\$23,826
Staff Management	\$150,000
·	

Total Cost \$205,916

(This cost does not include bonding)

- 8. The adit and other mine openings at the abandoned Poison Canyon site have been backfilled and are inspected annually in accordance with corporate policies. The site in its present condition does not pose a threat to human health and safety, nor to the environment. Threats to human health and safety were not identified during the Mining and Minerals inspection.
- 9. Pursuant to Subpart 201.K, the fee for this variance application is \$500. Pursuant to Subpart 205.A, compensation for the Department Game and Fish is 4.5 of the \$500 fee. Total fee payment is \$522.50

PUBLIC NOTICE

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The mine is located in Cibola County in Section 19, T.13N., R9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers approximately thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for up to five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from additional revegetation requirements.

The applicants address is: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Interested persons wishing to submit written comments or request for a public hearing on this matter may do so by writing to:

Director, Mining and Minerals Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department State Of New Mexico 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittal is Monday, July 1, 1996. Copies of the Application for a Variance are available for public inspection at the Mother Whiteside Public Library, Cibola County Clerk's Office, McKinley Public Library and the McKinley County Clerk's Office. Friday, May 31, 1996

AVISO PULBICO



Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation ha sometido una SOLICITUD PARA UNA VARIACION para su mina abandonar Poison Canyon cerca de Grants, New Mexico, de acnerdo con las provisiones de Subparte 10 de las Reglas del Acto de Mineria del estado de Nuevo Mexico, del 15 de Febrero de 1996 (NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

La mina esta situada en Seccion 19, T.13 Norte, Extension 9 Oeste, New Mexico Principal Meridian. La mine tiene una extension de 30 acres de tierra anteriormente pertubado por la mineria del uranio. Todo el sitio de la mina ha sido rehabilitado conforme a los requisitos de las leyes y reglamentos aplicales. El proposito de la variacion es proveer para que pase cinco mas estaciones de crecimento antes de la determinacion, a ser hecho por la Division de Mineria y Minerales (MMD), que el sitio cumple con los criterios para releva de las obligaciones de algun requisito adicional para la revegetacion.

La direccion del suplicante es: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

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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

May 30, 1996

Mr. Doug Meiklejohn New Mexico Environmental Law Center 103 Cienega Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Dear Mr. Meiklejohn:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine, in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996, (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from an additional revegetation requirement.

The applicants address is:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation Attention: Tim Leftwich 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

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Sincerely,

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Tim Leftwich 'Vice President-Environmental Quality

APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE Pursuant to New Mexico Mining Act Rules Subpart 10

1002.A

- Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110
- 2. This application is submitted on May 31, 1996.
- 3. This variance is sought for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine.
- 4. The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W.
- 5. This variance is sought from Subpart 510.B, which requires that a permit application be submitted within 6 months after the owner or operator received notice of the determination. Santa Fe Pacific Gold maintains its position that the company does meet the definition of owner or operator under the New Mexico Mining Act.
- 6. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests variance from Subpart 510.B.
- 6.a. **Background.** The results of a site inspection from the Mining and Minerals Division during the fall of 1995 indicate that the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site does not meet the criteria for a "self sustaining ecosystem under Subpart 507.A. This fact is stated in a report and in subsequent correspondence from the Division to Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation. However, the site was reclaimed during July 1994 and did not have adequate time for re-vegetation efforts to become established at the time of the inspection. Other contributing factors to the lack of reclaim vegetation is a lack of precipitation and the grazing practices the site is subject to, all of which Santa Fe has no control over since the corporation does not control the surface.
- 6.b **Proposal.** Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation believes, based on reclamation experience in the abandoned Poison Canyon area, that the site will meet the criteria under Subpart 507.A., if the area receives adequate precipitation. Additionally, due to the heavy grazing the area receives, several growing seasons should be allowed for vegetation to establish itself. The Poison Canyon site will be inspected by qualified Santa Fe Pacific personnel in accordance with corporate policies twice a year to determine if additional work is required at the site. Santa Fe proposes giving the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site five years. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests Mining and Minerals inspect the site once a year.

If this variance request is not granted, Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation will be forced to apply for a permit pursuant to Subpart 5. and wait 12 years following the issuance of the permit for the site to be released. The cost of compiling a permit is:

Total Cost	\$205,916
Staff Management	\$150,000
Annual Fee	\$23,826
Permit Application Fee	\$2090
Permit Preparation:	\$30,000
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(This cost does not include bonding)

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- 8. The adit and other mine openings at the abandoned Poison Canyon site have been backfilled and are inspected annually in accordance with corporate policies. The site in its present condition does not pose a threat to human health and safety, nor to the environment. Threats to human health and safety were not identified during the Mining and Minerals inspection.
- 9. Pursuant to Subpart 201.K, the fee for this variance application is \$500. Pursuant to Subpart 205.A, compensation for the Department Game and Fish is 4.5 of the \$500 fee. Total fee payment is \$522.50



PUBLIC NOTICE

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AVISO PULBICO

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La direccion del suplicante es: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

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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

May 30, 1996

Mr. Doug Wolf New Mexico Environmental Law Center 103 Cienega Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Dear Mr. Wolf:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine, in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996, (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from an additional revegetation requirement.

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Sincerely,

Letturch

Tim Leftwich Vice President-Environmental Quality



APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE Pursuant to New Mexico Mining Act Rules Subpart 10

1002.A

- 1. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110
- 2. This application is submitted on May 31, 1996.
- 3. This variance is sought for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine.
- 4. The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W.
- 5. This variance is sought from Subpart 510.B, which requires that a permit application be submitted within 6 months after the owner or operator received notice of the determination. Santa Fe Pacific Gold maintains its position that the company does meet the definition of owner or operator under the New Mexico Mining Act.
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- 8. The adit and other mine openings at the abandoned Poison Canyon site have been backfilled and are inspected annually in accordance with corporate policies. The site in its present condition does not pose a threat to human health and safety, nor to the environment. Threats to human health and safety were not identified during the Mining and Minerals inspection.
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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

May 30, 1996

Mr. Paul Robinson, Research Director Southwest Research & Information Center PO Box 4524 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87106

Dear Mr. Robinson:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine, in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996, (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from an additional revegetation requirement.

The applicants address is:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation Attention: Tim Leftwich 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Interested persons wishing to submit written comments or a request for a public hearing on this matter may do so by writing to:

Director, Mining and Minerals Division Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittals is Monday, July 1, 1996. A copy of the APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE is available for public inspection at the Grants and Gallup Public Libraries and the Cibola and McKinley County Clerks Offices.

Sincerely,

ettwich

Tim Leftwich Vice President-Environmental Quality

APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE Pursuant to New Mexico Mining Act Rules Subpart 10

1002.A

- 1. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110
- 2. This application is submitted on May 31, 1996.
- 3. This variance is sought for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine.
- 4. The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W.
- 5. This variance is sought from Subpart 510.B, which requires that a permit application be submitted within 6 months after the owner or operator received notice of the determination. Santa Fe Pacific Gold maintains its position that the company does meet the definition of owner or operator under the New Mexico Mining Act.
- 6. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests variance from Subpart 510.B.
- 6.a. **Background.** The results of a site inspection from the Mining and Minerals Division during the fall of 1995 indicate that the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site does not meet the criteria for a "self sustaining ecosystem under Subpart 507.A. This fact is stated in a report and in subsequent correspondence from the Division to Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation. However, the site was reclaimed during July 1994 and did not have adequate time for re-vegetation efforts to become established at the time of the inspection. Other contributing factors to the lack of reclaim vegetation is a lack of precipitation and the grazing practices the site is subject to, all of which Santa Fe has no control over since the corporation does not control the surface.
- 6.b **Proposal.** Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation believes, based on reclamation experience in the abandoned Poison Canyon area, that the site will meet the criteria under Subpart 507.A., if the area receives adequate precipitation. Additionally, due to the heavy grazing the area receives, several growing seasons should be allowed for vegetation to establish itself. The Poison Canyon site will be inspected by qualified Santa Fe Pacific personnel in accordance with corporate policies twice a year to determine if additional work is required at the site. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests Mining and Minerals inspect the site once a year.



If this variance request is not granted, Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation will be forced to apply for a permit pursuant to Subpart 5. and wait 12 years following the issuance of the permit for the site to be released. The cost of compiling a permit is:

Permit Preparation:	\$30,000
Permit Application Fee	\$2090
Annual Fee	\$23,826
Staff Management	\$150,000

Total Cost \$205,916

(This cost does not include bonding)

- 8. The adit and other mine openings at the abandoned Poison Canyon site have been backfilled and are inspected annually in accordance with corporate policies. The site in its present condition does not pose a threat to human health and safety, nor to the environment. Threats to human health and safety were not identified during the Mining and Minerals inspection.
- 9. Pursuant to Subpart 201.K, the fee for this variance application is \$500. Pursuant to Subpart 205.A, compensation for the Department Game and Fish is 4.5 of the \$500 fee. Total fee payment is \$522.50



Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site, located Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996 (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

The mine is located in Cibola County in Section 19, T.13N., R9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers approximately thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for up to five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from additional revegetation requirements.

The applicants address is: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Interested persons wishing to submit written comments or request for a public hearing on this matter may do so by writing to:

Director, Mining and Minerals Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department State Of New Mexico 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittal is Monday, July 1, 1996. Copies of the Application for a Variance are available for public inspection at the Mother Whiteside Public Library, Cibola County Clerk's Office, McKinley Public Library and the McKinley County Clerk's Office. Friday, May 31, 1996

AVISO PULBICO

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation ha sometido una SOLICITUD PARA UNA VARIACION para su mina abandonar Poison Canyon cerca de Grants, New Mexico, de acnerdo con las provisiones de Subparte 10 de las Reglas del Acto de Mineria del estado de Nuevo Mexico, del 15 de Febrero de 1996 (NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

La mina esta situada en Seccion 19, T.13 Norte, Extension 9 Oeste, New Mexico Principal Meridian. La mine tiene una extension de 30 acres de tierra anteriormente pertubado por la mineria del uranio. Todo el sitio de la mina ha sido rehabilitado conforme a los requisitos de las leyes y reglamentos aplicales. El proposito de la variacion es proveer para que pase cinco mas estaciones de crecimento antes de la determinacion, a ser hecho por la Division de Mineria y Minerales (MMD), que el sitio cumple con los criterios para releva de las obligaciones de algun requisito adicional para la revegetacion.

La direccion del suplicante es: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Personas interesadas que desean someter algun escrito, o una suplica para una audiencia publica sobre esta materia, deben dirigir su solicitud escrito a:

Director, Mining and Minerals Division 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

La fecha final para someter propuestas o comentari os es el Lunes, dia 1 de Julio de 1996. Copias de la solicitud para una variacion estan disponibles para inspeccion publica en las Bibliotecas Publicas en Grants y Gallup, y en las oficinas del Secritario del los Condados de McKinley y Cibola, en Gallup y Grants, New Mexico. Viernes, 31 de Mayo, 1996



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

May 30, 1996

Mr. Brian Shields Amigos Bravos PO Box 238 Taos, New Mexico 88502

Dear Mr. Shields:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine, in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996, (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from an additional revegetation requirement.

The applicants address is:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation Attention: Tim Leftwich 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Interested persons wishing to submit written comments or a request for a public hearing on this matter may do so by writing to:

Director, Mining and Minerals Division Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittals is Monday, July 1, 1996. A copy of the APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE is available for public inspection at the Grants and Gallup Public Libraries and the Cibola and McKinley County Clerks Offices.

Sincerely,

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Tim Leftwich Vice President-Environmental Quality

APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE Pursuant to New Mexico Mining Act Rules Subpart 10

1002.A

- Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110
- 2. This application is submitted on May 31, 1996.
- 3. This variance is sought for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine.
- 4. The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W.
- 5. This variance is sought from Subpart 510.B, which requires that a permit application be submitted within 6 months after the owner or operator received notice of the determination. Santa Fe Pacific Gold maintains its position that the company does meet the definition of owner or operator under the New Mexico Mining Act.
- 6. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests variance from Subpart 510.B.
- 6.a. **Background.** The results of a site inspection from the Mining and Minerals Division during the fall of 1995 indicate that the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site does not meet the criteria for a "self sustaining ecosystem under Subpart 507.A. This fact is stated in a report and in subsequent correspondence from the Division to Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation. However, the site was reclaimed during July 1994 and did not have adequate time for re-vegetation efforts to become established at the time of the inspection. Other contributing factors to the lack of reclaim vegetation is a lack of precipitation and the grazing practices the site is subject to, all of which Santa Fe has no control over since the corporation does not control the surface.
- 6.b **Proposal.** Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation believes, based on reclamation experience in the abandoned Poison Canyon area, that the site will meet the criteria under Subpart 507.A., if the area receives adequate precipitation. Additionally, due to the heavy grazing the area receives, several growing seasons should be allowed for vegetation to establish itself. The Poison Canyon site will be inspected by qualified Santa Fe Pacific personnel in accordance with corporate policies twice a year to determine if additional work is required at the site. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests Mining and Minerals inspect the site once a year.

If this variance request is not granted, Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation will be forced to apply for a permit pursuant to Subpart 5. and wait 12 years following the issuance of the permit for the site to be released. The cost of compiling a permit is:

Permit Preparation:	\$30,000
Permit Application Fee	\$2090
Annual Fee	\$23,826
Staff Management	\$150,000

Total Cost \$205,916

(This cost does not include bonding)

7.

- 8. The adit and other mine openings at the abandoned Poison Canyon site have been backfilled and are inspected annually in accordance with corporate policies. The site in its present condition does not pose a threat to human health and safety, nor to the environment. Threats to human health and safety were not identified during the Mining and Minerals inspection.
- 9. Pursuant to Subpart 201.K, the fee for this variance application is \$500. Pursuant to Subpart 205.A, compensation for the Department Game and Fish is 4.5 of the \$500 fee. Total fee payment is \$522.50

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site, located Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996 (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

The mine is located in Cibola County in Section 19, T.13N., R9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers approximately thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for up to five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from additional revegetation requirements.

The applicants address is: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Interested persons wishing to submit written comments or request for a public hearing on this matter may do so by writing to:

Director, Mining and Minerals Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department State Of New Mexico 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittal is Monday, July 1, 1996.

Copies of the Application for a Variance are available for public inspection at the Mother Whiteside Public Library, Cibola County Clerk's Office, McKinley Public Library and the McKinley County Clerk's Office. Friday, May 31, 1996

AVISO PULBICO

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation ha sometido una SOLICITUD PARA UNA VARIACION para su mina abandonar Poison Canyon cerca de Grants, New Mexico, de acnerdo con las provisiones de Subparte 10 de las Reglas del Acto de Mineria del estado de Nuevo Mexico, del 15 de Febrero de 1996 (NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

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La direccion del suplicante es: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Personas interesadas que desean someter algun escrito, o una suplica para una audiencia publica sobre esta materia, deben dirigir su solicitud escrito a:

Director, Mining and Minerals Division 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

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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

May 30, 1996

Mr. John J. Pfeil, Geologist Office of the Natural Resources Trustee PO Box 26110 Santa Fe, New Mexico 88502

Dear Mr. Pfeil:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine, in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996, (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from an additional revegetation requirement.

The applicants address is:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation Attention: Tim Leftwich 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

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Sincerely, etturch

Tim Leftwich Vice President-Environmental Quality

APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE Pursuant to New Mexico Mining Act Rules Subpart 10

1002.A

- Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110
- 2. This application is submitted on May 31, 1996.
- 3. This variance is sought for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine.
- 4. The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W.
- 5. This variance is sought from Subpart 510.B, which requires that a permit application be submitted within 6 months after the owner or operator received notice of the determination. Santa Fe Pacific Gold maintains its position that the company does meet the definition of owner or operator under the New Mexico Mining Act.
- 6. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests variance from Subpart 510.B.
- 6.a. **Background.** The results of a site inspection from the Mining and Minerals Division during the fall of 1995 indicate that the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site does not meet the criteria for a "self sustaining ecosystem under Subpart 507.A. This fact is stated in a report and in subsequent correspondence from the Division to Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation. However, the site was reclaimed during July 1994 and did not have adequate time for re-vegetation efforts to become established at the time of the inspection. Other contributing factors to the lack of reclaim vegetation is a lack of precipitation and the grazing practices the site is subject to, all of which Santa Fe has no control over since the corporation does not control the surface.
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Permit Application Fee	\$2090
Annual Fee	\$23,826
Staff Management	\$150,000
-	

 Total Cost
 \$205,916

(This cost does not include bonding)

7.

- 8. The adit and other mine openings at the abandoned Poison Canyon site have been backfilled and are inspected annually in accordance with corporate policies. The site in its present condition does not pose a threat to human health and safety, nor to the environment. Threats to human health and safety were not identified during the Mining and Minerals inspection.
- 9. Pursuant to Subpart 201.K, the fee for this variance application is \$500. Pursuant to Subpart 205.A, compensation for the Department Game and Fish is 4.5 of the \$500 fee. Total fee payment is \$522.50

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The mine is located in Cibola County in Section 19, T.13N., R9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers approximately thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for up to five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from additional revegetation requirements.

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Director, Mining and Minerals Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department State Of New Mexico 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

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AVISO PULBICO

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La mina esta situada en Seccion 19, T.13 Norte, Extension 9 Oeste, New Mexico Principal Meridian. La mine tiene una extension de 30 acres de tierra anteriormente pertubado por la mineria del uranio. Todo el sitio de la mina ha sido rehabilitado conforme a los requisitos de las leyes y reglamentos aplicales. El proposito de la variacion es proveer para que pase cinco mas estaciones de crecimento antes de la determinacion, a ser hecho por la Division de Mineria y Minerales (MMD), que el sitio cumple con los criterios para releva de las obligaciones de algun requisito adicional para la revegetacion.

La direccion del suplicante es: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Personas interesadas que desean someter algun escrito, o una suplica para una audiencia publica sobre esta materia, deben dirigir su solicitud escrito a:

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La fecha final para someter propuestas o comentari os es el Lunes, dia 1 de Julio de 1996. Copias de la solicitud para una variacion estan disponibles para inspeccion publica en las Bibliotecas Publicas en Grants y Gallup, y en las oficinas del Secritario del los Condados de McKinley y Cibola, en Gallup y Grants, New Mexico. Viernes, 31 de Mayo, 1996



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

May 30, 1996

Ms. Sally Smith 300 W. Yankee Silver City, New Mexico 88061

Dear Ms. Smith:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine, in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996, (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from an additional revegetation requirement.

The applicants address is:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation Attention: Tim Leftwich 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

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Sincerely.

Tim Leftwich Vice President-Environmental Quality

APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE Pursuant to New Mexico Mining Act Rules Subpart 10

1002.A

- 1. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110
- 2. This application is submitted on May 31, 1996.
- 3. This variance is sought for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine.
- 4. The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W.
- 5. This variance is sought from Subpart 510.B, which requires that a permit application be submitted within 6 months after the owner or operator received notice of the determination. Santa Fe Pacific Gold maintains its position that the company does meet the definition of owner or operator under the New Mexico Mining Act.
- 6. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests variance from Subpart 510.B.
- 6.a. **Background.** The results of a site inspection from the Mining and Minerals Division during the fall of 1995 indicate that the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site does not meet the criteria for a "self sustaining ecosystem under Subpart 507.A. This fact is stated in a report and in subsequent correspondence from the Division to Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation. However, the site was reclaimed during July 1994 and did not have adequate time for re-vegetation efforts to become established at the time of the inspection. Other contributing factors to the lack of reclaim vegetation is a lack of precipitation and the grazing practices the site is subject to, all of which Santa Fe has no control over since the corporation does not control the surface.
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(This cost does not include bonding)

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The mine is located in Cibola County in Section 19, T.13N., R9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers approximately thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for up to five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from additional revegetation requirements.

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La direccion del suplicante es: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

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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

May 30, 1996

Bureau of Land Management 435 Montano Road, NE Albuquerque, New Mexico 87107

To Whom It May Concern:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine, in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996, (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from an additional revegetation requirement.

The applicants address is:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation Attention: Tim Leftwich 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Interested persons wishing to submit written comments or a request for a public hearing on this matter may do so by writing to:

Director, Mining and Minerals Division Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittals is Monday, July 1, 1996. Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please either me or Denise Gallegos.

Sincerely,

Tim Leftwick / 20

Tim Leftwich Vice President-Environmental Quality

APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE Pursuant to New Mexico Mining Act Rules Subpart 10

1002.A

- Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110
- 2. This application is submitted on May 31, 1996.
- 3. This variance is sought for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine.
- 4. The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W.
- 5. This variance is sought from Subpart 510.B, which requires that a permit application be submitted within 6 months after the owner or operator received notice of the determination. Santa Fe Pacific Gold maintains its position that the company does meet the definition of owner or operator under the New Mexico Mining Act.
- 6. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests variance from Subpart 510.B.
- 6.a. **Background.** The results of a site inspection from the Mining and Minerals Division during the fall of 1995 indicate that the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site does not meet the criteria for a "self sustaining ecosystem under Subpart 507.A. This fact is stated in a report and in subsequent correspondence from the Division to Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation. However, the site was reclaimed during July 1994 and did not have adequate time for re-vegetation efforts to become established at the time of the inspection. Other contributing factors to the lack of reclaim vegetation is a lack of precipitation and the grazing practices the site is subject to, all of which Santa Fe has no control over since the corporation does not control the surface.
- 6.b **Proposal.** Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation believes, based on reclamation experience in the abandoned Poison Canyon area, that the site will meet the criteria under Subpart 507.A., if the area receives adequate precipitation. Additionally, due to the heavy grazing the area receives, several growing seasons should be allowed for vegetation to establish itself. The Poison Canyon site will be inspected by qualified Santa Fe Pacific personnel in accordance with corporate policies twice a year to determine if additional work is required at the site. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests Mining and Minerals inspect the site once a year.

If this variance request is not granted, Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation will be forced to apply for a permit pursuant to Subpart 5. and wait 12 years following the issuance of the permit for the site to be released. The cost of compiling a permit is:

Permit Preparation:	\$30,000
Permit Application Fee	\$2090
Annual Fee	\$23,826
Staff Management	\$150,000
C C	

Total Cost \$205,916

(This cost does not include bonding)

7.

- 8. The adit and other mine openings at the abandoned Poison Canyon site have been backfilled and are inspected annually in accordance with corporate policies. The site in its present condition does not pose a threat to human health and safety, nor to the environment. Threats to human health and safety were not identified during the Mining and Minerals inspection.
- 9. Pursuant to Subpart 201.K, the fee for this variance application is \$500. Pursuant to Subpart 205.A, compensation for the Department Game and Fish is 4.5 of the \$500 fee. Total fee payment is \$522.50

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site, located Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996 (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

The mine is located in Cibola County in Section 19, T.13N., R9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers approximately thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for up to five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from additional revegetation requirements.

The applicants address is: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

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Director, Mining and Minerals Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department State Of New Mexico 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittal is Monday, July 1, 1996. Copies of the Application for a Variance are available for public inspection at the Mother Whiteside Public Library, Cibola County Clerk's Office, McKinley Public Library and the McKinley County Clerk's Office. Friday, May 31, 1996

AVISO PULBICO

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation ha sometido una SOLICITUD PARA UNA VARIACION para su mina abandonar Poison Canyon cerca de Grants, New Mexico, de acnerdo con las provisiones de Subparte 10 de las Reglas del Acto de Mineria del estado de Nuevo Mexico, del 15 de Febrero de 1996 (NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

La mina esta situada en Seccion 19, T.13 Norte, Extension 9 Oeste, New Mexico Principal Meridian. La mine tiene una extension de 30 acres de tierra anteriormente pertubado por la mineria del uranio. Todo el sitio de la mina ha sido rehabilitado conforme a los requisitos de las leyes y reglamentos aplicales. El proposito de la variacion es proveer para que pase cinco mas estaciones de crecimento antes de la determinacion, a ser hecho por la Division de Mineria y Minerales (MMD), que el sitio cumple con los criterios para releva de las obligaciones de algun requisito adicional para la revegetacion.

La direccion del suplicante es: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

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La fecha final para someter propuestas o comentari os es el Lunes, dia 1 de Julio de 1996. Copias de la solicitud para una variacion estan disponibles para inspeccion publica en las Bibliotecas Publicas en Grants y Gallup, y en las oficinas del Secritario del los Condados de McKinley y Cibola, en Gallup y Grants, New Mexico. Viernes, 31 de Mayo, 1996



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

May 30, 1996

Isabel Marquez PO Box 3526 Milan, New Mexico 87021

Dear Ms. Marquez:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine, in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996, (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from an additional revegetation requirement.

The applicants address is:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation Attention: Tim Leftwich 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

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Director, Mining and Minerals Division Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

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Sincerely,

Tim Leftwich / La

Tim Leftwich Vice President-Environmental Quality



APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE Pursuant to New Mexico Mining Act Rules Subpart 10

1002.A

- Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110
- 2. This application is submitted on May 31, 1996.
- 3. This variance is sought for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine.
- 4. The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W.
- 5. This variance is sought from Subpart 510.B, which requires that a permit application be submitted within 6 months after the owner or operator received notice of the determination. Santa Fe Pacific Gold maintains its position that the company does meet the definition of owner or operator under the New Mexico Mining Act.
- 6. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests variance from Subpart 510.B.
- 6.a. **Background.** The results of a site inspection from the Mining and Minerals Division during the fall of 1995 indicate that the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site does not meet the criteria for a "self sustaining ecosystem under Subpart 507.A. This fact is stated in a report and in subsequent correspondence from the Division to Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation. However, the site was reclaimed during July 1994 and did not have adequate time for re-vegetation efforts to become established at the time of the inspection. Other contributing factors to the lack of reclaim vegetation is a lack of precipitation and the grazing practices the site is subject to, all of which Santa Fe has no control over since the corporation does not control the surface.
- 6.b **Proposal.** Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation believes, based on reclamation experience in the abandoned Poison Canyon area, that the site will meet the criteria under Subpart 507.A., if the area receives adequate precipitation. Additionally, due to the heavy grazing the area receives, several growing seasons should be allowed for vegetation to establish itself. The Poison Canyon site will be inspected by qualified Santa Fe Pacific personnel in accordance with corporate policies twice a year to determine if additional work is required at the site. Santa Fe proposes giving the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site five years. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests Mining and Minerals inspect the site once a year.

If this variance request is not granted, Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation will be forced to apply for a permit pursuant to Subpart 5. and wait 12 years following the issuance of the permit for the site to be released. The cost of compiling a permit is:

Permit Preparation:	\$30,000
Permit Application Fee	\$2090
Annual Fee	\$23,826
Staff Management	\$150,000
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 Total Cost
 \$205,916

(This cost does not include bonding)

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- 8. The adit and other mine openings at the abandoned Poison Canyon site have been backfilled and are inspected annually in accordance with corporate policies. The site in its present condition does not pose a threat to human health and safety, nor to the environment. Threats to human health and safety were not identified during the Mining and Minerals inspection.
- 9. Pursuant to Subpart 201.K, the fee for this variance application is \$500. Pursuant to Subpart 205.A, compensation for the Department Game and Fish is 4.5 of the \$500 fee. Total fee payment is \$522.50

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The mine is located in Cibola County in Section 19, T.13N., R9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers approximately thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for up to five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from additional revegetation requirements.

The applicants address is: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Interested persons wishing to submit written comments or request for a public hearing on this matter may do so by writing to:

Director, Mining and Minerals Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department State Of New Mexico 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittal is Monday, July 1, 1996. Copies of the Application for a Variance are available for public inspection at the Mother Whiteside Public Library, Cibola County Clerk's Office, McKinley Public Library and the McKinley County Clerk's Office. Friday, May 31, 1996

AVISO PULBICO

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation ha sometido una SOLICITUD PARA UNA VARIACION para su mina abandonar Poison Canyon cerca de Grants, New Mexico, de acnerdo con las provisiones de Subparte 10 de las Reglas del Acto de Mineria del estado de Nuevo Mexico, del 15 de Febrero de 1996 (NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

La mina esta situada en Seccion 19, T.13 Norte, Extension 9 Oeste, New Mexico Principal Meridian. La mine tiene una extension de 30 acres de tierra anteriormente pertubado por la mineria del uranio. Todo el sitio de la mina ha sido rehabilitado conforme a los requisitos de las leyes y reglamentos aplicales. El proposito de la variacion es proveer para que pase cinco mas estaciones de crecimento antes de la determinacion, a ser hecho por la Division de Mineria y Minerales (MMD), que el sitio cumple con los criterios para releva de las obligaciones de algun requisito adicional para la revegetacion.

La direccion del suplicante es: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

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La fecha final para someter propuestas o comentari os es el Lunes, dia 1 de Julio de 1996. Copias de la solicitud para una variacion estan disponibles para inspeccion publica en las Bibliotecas Publicas en Grants y Gallup, y en las oficinas del Secritario del los Condados de McKinley y Cibola, en Gallup y Grants, New Mexico. Viernes, 31 de Mayo, 1996



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

May 30, 1996

Melvin & Roberta Marquez San Mageo Road, Box 4064 Grants, New Mexico 87020

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Marquez:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine, in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996, (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from an additional revegetation requirement.

The applicants address is:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation Attention: Tim Leftwich 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

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Sincerely,

Jim Leftwich / 2 &

Tim Leftwich Vice President-Environmental Quality



APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE Pursuant to New Mexico Mining Act Rules Subpart 10

1002.A

- 1. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110
- 2. This application is submitted on May 31, 1996.
- 3. This variance is sought for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine.
- 4. The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W.
- 5. This variance is sought from Subpart 510.B, which requires that a permit application be submitted within 6 months after the owner or operator received notice of the determination. Santa Fe Pacific Gold maintains its position that the company does meet the definition of owner or operator under the New Mexico Mining Act.
- 6. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests variance from Subpart 510.B.
- 6.a. **Background.** The results of a site inspection from the Mining and Minerals Division during the fall of 1995 indicate that the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site does not meet the criteria for a "self sustaining ecosystem under Subpart 507.A. This fact is stated in a report and in subsequent correspondence from the Division to Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation. However, the site was reclaimed during July 1994 and did not have adequate time for re-vegetation efforts to become established at the time of the inspection. Other contributing factors to the lack of reclaim vegetation is a lack of precipitation and the grazing practices the site is subject to, all of which Santa Fe has no control over since the corporation does not control the surface.
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Total Cost \$205,916

(This cost does not include bonding)

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- 8. The adit and other mine openings at the abandoned Poison Canyon site have been backfilled and are inspected annually in accordance with corporate policies. The site in its present condition does not pose a threat to human health and safety, nor to the environment. Threats to human health and safety were not identified during the Mining and Minerals inspection.
- 9. Pursuant to Subpart 201.K, the fee for this variance application is \$500. Pursuant to Subpart 205.A, compensation for the Department Game and Fish is 4.5 of the \$500 fee. Total fee payment is \$522.50

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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

May 30, 1996

Duane Berryhill and Berryhill Ranch, Inc. 7000 W. 66 Avenue Bluewater, New Mexico 87005

Dear Mr. Berryhill:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine, in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996, (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from an additional revegetation requirement.

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The deadline for submittals is Monday, July 1, 1996. Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please either me or Denise Gallegos.

Sincerely,

Jim Septimich / 2d

Tim Leftwich Vice President-Environmental Quality

APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE Pursuant to New Mexico Mining Act Rules Subpart 10

1002.A

- Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110
- 2. This application is submitted on May 31, 1996.
- 3. This variance is sought for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine.
- 4. The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W.
- 5. This variance is sought from Subpart 510.B, which requires that a permit application be submitted within 6 months after the owner or operator received notice of the determination. Santa Fe Pacific Gold maintains its position that the company does meet the definition of owner or operator under the New Mexico Mining Act.
- 6. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests variance from Subpart 510.B.
- 6.a. **Background.** The results of a site inspection from the Mining and Minerals Division during the fall of 1995 indicate that the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site does not meet the criteria for a "self sustaining ecosystem under Subpart 507.A. This fact is stated in a report and in subsequent correspondence from the Division to Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation. However, the site was reclaimed during July 1994 and did not have adequate time for re-vegetation efforts to become established at the time of the inspection. Other contributing factors to the lack of reclaim vegetation is a lack of precipitation and the grazing practices the site is subject to, all of which Santa Fe has no control over since the corporation does not control the surface.
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- 9. Pursuant to Subpart 201.K, the fee for this variance application is \$500. Pursuant to Subpart 205.A, compensation for the Department Game and Fish is 4.5 of the \$500 fee. Total fee payment is \$522.50

PUBLIC NOTICE

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site, located Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996 (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

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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

May 30, 1996

Ms. Donna Jean McKinnon & Ms. Frances Lareen Fathree Life Estate in Volton Tietjen PO Box 125 Continental Divide, New Mexico 87312

Dear Ms. McKinnon & Ms. Fathree:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine, in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996, (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from an additional revegetation requirement.

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The deadline for submittals is Monday, July 1, 1996. Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please either me or Denise Gallegos.

Sincerely,

Jim Leftwick/ Ld

Tim Leftwich Vice President-Erivironmental Quality

APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE Pursuant to New Mexico Mining Act Rules Subpart 10

1002.A

- 1. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110
- 2. This application is submitted on May 31, 1996.
- 3. This variance is sought for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine.
- 4. The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W.
- 5. This variance is sought from Subpart 510.B, which requires that a permit application be submitted within 6 months after the owner or operator received notice of the determination. Santa Fe Pacific Gold maintains its position that the company does meet the definition of owner or operator under the New Mexico Mining Act.
- 6. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests variance from Subpart 510.B.
- 6.a. **Background.** The results of a site inspection from the Mining and Minerals Division during the fall of 1995 indicate that the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site does not meet the criteria for a "self sustaining ecosystem under Subpart 507.A. This fact is stated in a report and in subsequent correspondence from the Division to Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation. However, the site was reclaimed during July 1994 and did not have adequate time for re-vegetation efforts to become established at the time of the inspection. Other contributing factors to the lack of reclaim vegetation is a lack of precipitation and the grazing practices the site is subject to, all of which Santa Fe has no control over since the corporation does not control the surface.
- 6.b **Proposal.** Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation believes, based on reclamation experience in the abandoned Poison Canyon area, that the site will meet the criteria under Subpart 507.A., if the area receives adequate precipitation. Additionally, due to the heavy grazing the area receives, several growing seasons should be allowed for vegetation to establish itself. The Poison Canyon site will be inspected by qualified Santa Fe Pacific personnel in accordance with corporate policies twice a year to determine if additional work is required at the site. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests Mining and Minerals inspect the site once a year.

If this variance request is not granted, Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation will be forced to apply for a permit pursuant to Subpart 5. and wait 12 years following the issuance of the permit for the site to be released. The cost of compiling a permit is:

Total Cost	\$205,916
Staff Management	\$150,000
Annual Fee	\$23,826
Permit Application Fee	\$2090
Permit Preparation:	\$30,000

(This cost does not include bonding)

7.

- 8. The adit and other mine openings at the abandoned Poison Canyon site have been backfilled and are inspected annually in accordance with corporate policies. The site in its present condition does not pose a threat to human health and safety, nor to the environment. Threats to human health and safety were not identified during the Mining and Minerals inspection.
- 9. Pursuant to Subpart 201.K, the fee for this variance application is \$500. Pursuant to Subpart 205.A, compensation for the Department Game and Fish is 4.5 of the \$500 fee. Total fee payment is \$522.50

PUBLIC NOTICE

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site, located Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996 (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

The mine is located in Cibola County in Section 19, T.13N., R9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers approximately thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for up to five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from additional revegetation requirements.

The applicants address is: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Interested persons wishing to submit written comments or request for a public hearing on this matter may do so by writing to:

Director, Mining and Minerals Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department State Of New Mexico 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittal is Monday, July 1, 1996. Copies of the Application for a Variance are available for public inspection at the Mother Whiteside Public Library, Cibola County Clerk's Office, McKinley Public Library and the McKinley County Clerk's Office. Friday, May 31, 1996

AVISO PULBICO

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation ha sometido una SOLICITUD PARA UNA VARIACION para su mina abandonar Poison Canyon cerca de Grants, New Mexico, de acnerdo con las provisiones de Subparte 10 de las Reglas del Acto de Mineria del estado de Nuevo Mexico, del 15 de Febrero de 1996 (NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

La mina esta situada en Seccion 19, T.13 Norte, Extension 9 Oeste, New Mexico Principal Meridian. La mine tiene una extension de 30 acres de tierra anteriormente pertubado por la mineria del uranio. Todo el sitio de la mina ha sido rehabilitado conforme a los requisitos de las leyes y reglamentos aplicales. El proposito de la variacion es proveer para que pase cinco mas estaciones de crecimento antes de la determinacion, a ser hecho por la Division de Mineria y Minerales (MMD), que el sitio cumple con los criterios para releva de las obligaciones de algun requisito adicional para la revegetacion.

La direccion del suplicante es: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Personas interesadas que desean someter algun escrito, o una suplica para una audiencia publica sobre esta materia, deben dirigir su solicitud escrito a:

Director, Mining and Minerals Division 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

La fecha final para someter propuestas o comentari os es el Lunes, dia 1 de Julio de 1996. Copias de la solicitud para una variacion estan disponibles para inspeccion publica en las Bibliotecas Publicas en Grants y Gallup, y en las oficinas del Secritario del los Condados de McKinley y Cibola, en Gallup y Grants, New Mexico. Viernes, 31 de Mayo, 1996



NEW MEXICO LINERGY, MINERALS & NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

Jennifer A. Salisbury CABINET SECRETARY MINING AND MINERALS DIVISION 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505 (505) 827-5970

Kathleen A. Garland

May 13, 1996

Mr. Tim Leftwich Vice President - Environmental Quality Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation P.O. Box 27019 Albuquerque, NM 87110

Re: Prior Reclamation, Poison Canyon Mine, Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation

Dear Mr. Leftwich:

Thank you for your letter of April 25, 1996. Your cooperation in addressing the Poison Springs prior reclamation question is greatly appreciated.

You mentioned in your recent letter that you had assumed we had dropped the six sites mentioned in our February 13, 1996, from the list of sites requiring reclamation under Mining Act because of the marketable mineral clause found under the definition of "existing mining operation," in the Mining Act. This is correct, we determined that these sites did not meet the definition of an "existing mining operation." We were unable to find any record showing that these operations produced marketable minerals for a total of two years between January 1, 1970 and July 18, 1993.

Regarding the status of the Poison Springs site, this must be resolved through a variance or permit application. Pursuant to the New Mexico Mining Act (NMMA) Rules Subpart 510, Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation applied to the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) for an inspection of prior reclamation of their Poison Canyon Mine. During the inspection, MMD personnel could not determine if Santa Fe Pacific Gold's reclamation was successful because the newly seeded vegetation had not had enough time to become established.

MMD is agreeable to granting a variance from the September 30, 1995 deadline addressed in NMMA Rule Subpart 510.B if a variance request is submitted and the requirements of public participation in NMMA Rules Subpart 9 are completed. If the variance is granted MMD will reinspect the reclamation of the Poison Canyon Mine at a time to be agreed upon by the operator and MMD. If then the Director determines that the reclamation measures at the Poison Canyon Mine are consistent with the requirements of the NMMA and Rules then, pursuant to NMMA Rules Subpart 510.B, the Director will release the owner or operator from further requirements of the Act and Rules.

Thank you for sending us the updated address for Reserve Oil and Minerals Corp. We will again attempt to contact Reserve Oil and Minerals Corp. regarding the Poison Springs site. However, until we can get some type of commitment from Reserve Oil we must continue to consider Santa Fe Pacific Gold responsible for the site.

We would be happy to meet with you concerning the status of the Poison Springs mine. I will have sometime during the afternoon of Mon. 5/20 to meet and the afternoon of Fri. 5/24. I will then be out of the office until June 5, 1996. It is very important we resolve this as soon possible because of the time frames set up in the NMMA Rules.

Sincerely,

Holland Shepherd, Bureau Chief Mining Act Reclamation Bureau Mining and Minerals Division

HWS/RSY

cc: Kathleen Garland, Director, MMD



POX . CAPTIQUERQUE NEW MEMOUSTES cooletown bradine subteo mediquerque intestito tel 505-880-5300 (fax 505-880-5435)



April 25, 1996

Mr. Holland Shepherd Bureau Chief Mining Act Reclamation Bureau Mining & Minerals Division 2040 S. Pacheco St. Santa Fe, NM 87505

Re: Poison Canyon Mine

Dear Mr. Shepherd:

I am in receipt of your letter advising Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation that the Poison Canyon Mine is the only site for which we previously sought prior reclamation approval where further work will be necessary pursuant to the New Mexico Mining Act. We hereby respond without waiving any of our previously reserved positions regarding the New Mexico Mining Act in relation to Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation and the sites for which we sought prior reclamation approvals.

Your letter asks whether we have a more current address than the Grants, New Mexico address in your records for Reserve Oil and Minerals, the former operator of the site. Our files reflect that the current address of Reserve is as follows:

Suite 380, 20 First Plaza Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102

1-505/247-2384

Meanwhile, however, it would be helpful in evaluating our intentions concerning the Poison Canyon site if you would provide us with all information you have concerning the site, an assessment of what MMD believes still needs to be done, and your estimation of whether the site might be eligible for a variance or for permitting as a minimal impact site under the Mining Act.

Your letter also indicates that MMD has determined that certain sites which you previously advised were not eligible for a prior reclamation release are not, it turns out, within the definition of existing mining operations under the Act. Because Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation was not the operator of those sites, we have not attempted to evaluate production data to confirm your conclusions, which I assume are based on more than just our reservation of the legal position that the sites may

April 25, 1996 Page 2

not have produced in marketable quantities for a total of two years under the pertinent definition. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation contends we do not meet the definition of operator under the Act, therefore we have no obligation to conduct further reclamation of the Poison Canyon site.

We respectfully request a meeting concerning the state of the Poison Canyon site and how this issue might be resolved. Thank you very much.

Very truly yours,

Tunc

Tim Leftwich Vice President -Environmental Quality

c: P. M. James G. R. Wagner W. Jarke S. R. Butzier



60X (*) (*) (* MERIQUE KQUE (* NEW MEXICO 87) (* 6200 HEROW NEVD NE SUHLE (*) MERIQUE RQUE (* NES7) (* 111 505 880 5300 LAX 505 880-5435

November 21, 1995

RECEIVED

NOV 20

Ms. Kathleen A. Garland, Director Mining and Minerals Division Post Office Box 6429 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-6429

Re: September 29, 1995 Letter and Inspection Report on Voluntary Prior Reclamation Requests of Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corp.

Dear Ms. Garland:

Thank you for your letter dated September 29, 1995 reporting on the results of the prior reclamation inspection requests that Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation ("Santa Fe") submitted on August 31, 1994. You will recall that Santa Fe's submissions were voluntary. Santa Fe is not the operator or owner of the operations, despite the various references in the Inspection Report to Santa Fe as the operator, and despite the request for further action in your letter.

Although Santa Fe is not responsible, we nonetheless were surprised and disappointed to learn that only three of the reclaimed sites qualified for release in MMD's estimation. Santa Fe respectfully disagrees with the recommendations of the inspectors and the determination of MMD that the seven sites listed on the second page of your letter do not qualify for release under the prior reclamation provisions of the Mining Act. The purpose of this letter, however, is not to discuss the specifics of that disagreement.

Rather, my purpose is to notify your office that Santa Fe does not itself intend to take any further steps in connection with obtaining variances or existing mine permits for the sites. Please refer to my August 31, 1994 letter accompanying the prior reclamation submissions. Santa Fe submitted the applications in a spirit of cooperation to assist MMD with its initial tasks of identifying and narrowing down the potential operations that may need some level of regulatory involvement.

In extensive prior communications with MMD, Santa Fe and others have pointed out the clear statutory and long-established regulatory confirmation that landowners or passive royalty owners who had no operational control or ownership interest in the operations are not the parties with reclamation and permitting responsibilities. Santa Fe also explained its position that uranium operations are excluded from the Act's coverage during the development of regulations. We preserved all of Santa Fe's positions in my August 31, 1994 letter. I assume our analyses need no further explanation here, but if you have any questions or desire anything further from us in this regard, please advise.

Your September 29 letter mentions one reclaimed mining site that your staff was not able to locate on the ground. With respect to that site, I would suggest that you contact the operator, United Nuclear Corporation, to ascertain the exact location and extent of its operations.

I assume that MMD will promptly notify the responsible operators of the opportunity to obtain a variance and the possibility that a permit will be required, as outlined in your September 29 letter. Santa Fe notified MMD of who those operators are, and I note that they are referred to in the Inspection Report. Santa Fe is also willing to share any information we may have that would assist MMD with locating the operators, to the extent that they may still exist.

Please contact Paul Eby or Denise Gallegos of our office with any questions relating to locating an operator. Of course, if I can answer any questions, please call.

Sincerely in Liftunck

Tim Leftwich Vice President - Environmental Quality

cc: Paul Eby Denise Gallegos MEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL KESOURCES DEPARTMENT

September 29, 1995

Mr. Tim J. Leftwich Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation Box 6200 Uptown Blvd. NE Suite 400 Albuquerque, NM 87110

RE: Prior Reclamation Inspections

Dear Mr. Leftwich:

The Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) has completed inspection of reclamation measures as requested by Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation.

Based on findings in the enclosed inspection reports, reclamation measures at the following mines satisfy the requirements of the New Mexico Mining Act (NMMA) and the substantive requirements for reclamation pursuant to the NMMA Rules. Santa Fe Pacific Gold, therefore, is hereby released from further requirements of the NMMA on the following mines:

Faith Mine (Section 29, T 13N R 9W) Section 13 (T 1N R 6W) Haystack Mine (Section 19, T 13N R10W)

Reclamation measures at the following mines do not satisfy the requirements of the New Mexico Mining Act (NMMA) and the substantive requirements for reclamation pursuant to the NMMA Rules. However, since Santa Fe Pacific Gold has completed most reclamation measures at the following mines, Santa Fe may apply for a variance from the provisions of the NMMA Rules pursuant to Rule 10. Otherwise, pursuant to NMMA Rule 5.10.B Santa Fe Pacific Gold must submit permit applications and closeout plans for existing mining operations within six months of receipt of this letter.

operator	Post-	Jan.	1970 pera	ing Da	tes	
Hecha Mng. & Isabella Mine (Section 7, T 13N R 9W)	No reco	nd of	operation pos	+-Jan	1.19	70
LINC Marquez Mine (Section 23, T13N R9W	1 1		4 (
Reserve II Poison Canyon Mine (Section 19, T 13N R	9W) 19	75-7	9	_	distant.	
Kerr-McGee Section 1 (T 13N.R. 9W)	Kl- r	e cord	of operation	p 057-	Jan.	1970
4NC Section 31 (T 13N R 9W)	1	t i	٤ (t t	tι	1.1
Homestake Section 25 Mine (Section 25, T 13N R 10	W)	1.1	ee ex	1.	1.1	1. \
Todilto Expl. SW 1/4 Section 13 (T 13N R11W)	1,	ſţ	⁵ 1 e.	ι.	•	1

The location of the mine on Section (T 13N R 9W) was not adequately identified by Santa Fe Pacific Gold for inspection by MMD. The Mining and Minerals Division attempted to locate the site, but was unable to do so. Therefore, no inspection for prior reclamation was made. If reclamation measures have been performed, this site may also be addressed under a variance.

The enclosed prior reclamation inspection report details the findings of the inspection but does not include the photos/slides contained in the MMD file copy.

MMD appreciates your efforts to comply with the NMMA and commends you for your safeguarding and reclamation efforts. If you have any questions please contact Holland Shepherd of the Mining Act Bureau, (505) 827-5971.

Sincerely,

Kathleen A. Garland, Director Mining and Minerals Division

 cc: Ms. Maxine Goad, Environment Department Mr. Sonny Marquez
 S. Farthree and McKingen
 S. Berryhill Ranch

Enclosures

1. 2.

PRIOR RECLAMATION INSPECTION REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION FOR RELEASE OR PERMIT REQUIREMENT

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of New Mexico Mining Act Section 69-36-7 U., Prior Reclamation

New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department Mining and Minerals Division Mining Act Reclamation Bureau

September 29, 1995

Introduction

The purpose of this study was to determine if reclamation measures at 11 mines, for which Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requested prior reclamation inspections, satisfy the requirements of the New Mexico Mining Act and substantive requirements for reclamation pursuant to the New Mexico Mining Act Rules. The sites are tabulated in Table I. Figures 1 and 2 are maps showing the locations of the mine sites.

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation (Santa Fe) is the owner of the mineral rights at all the mine sites mentioned above, with the possible exception of the mine on Section 17 T13N R9W. Santa Fe Pacific Gold was not the operator any of the sites, but has reclaimed the sites (Santa Fe, 1994) in an effort to remove any further liabilities relative to the New Mexico Mining Act. Neither is Santa Fe the surface owner of any of the sites. This has hindered reclamation activities because Santa Fe cannot restrict grazing by surface owners on reclaimed areas. The known surface owners are listed in Table I.

Name of Mine	Location of Mine	Operator	Surface Owner	Inspected
Unknown	SW1/4 Section 13 T13N R11W	Todilto Exploration	Cerrillos Land Company	Aug. 31, 1995 Young & Tierney
Unknown	Section 13 T1N R6W	M. P. Grace	Unknown	Sept. 21, 1995 Young & Shepherd
Unknown	Section 1 T13W R9W	Кепт-МсGee	Sonny Marquez	Sept. 13, 1995 Young & Martinez
Unknown	Section 17 T13N R9W	United Nuclear Corp.	Unknown	Could not be located in field
Haystack	Section 19 T13N R10W	Todilto Exploration	S. Farthree and McKingen	Aug. 31, 1995 Young & Tierney
Section 25 Mine	Section 25 T13N R10W	Reserve Oil and Minerals	S. Berryhill Ranch	Aug. 31, 1995 Young & Tierney
Unknown	Section 31 T13N R9W	United Nuclear Corp.	Unknown	Aug. 31, 1995 Young & Tierney
Faith Mine	Section 29 T13N R9W	Ranchers Exploration	Unknown	Aug. 31, 1995 Young & Tierney
Isabella Mine	Section 7 T13N R9W	Ranchers Exploration	Unknown	Aug. 31, 1995 Young & Tierney
Marquez Mine	Section 23 T13N R9W	United Nuclear Corp.	Sonny Marquez	Aug. 31, 1995 Young & Tierne
Poison Canyon Mine	Section 19 T13N R9W	Reserve Oil and Minerals	Cerrillos Land Company	Aug. 31, 1995 Young & Tierne

 Table I

 Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation Prior Reclamation Inspection Sites

Inspection Procedures

On August 31, 1995 Santa Fe Pacific Gold escorted MMD personnel on a quick inspection of 8 of 11 sites for which Santa Fe submitted prior reclamation inspection requests. Ms. Denise Gallegos, Manager-Environmental Compliance and Audits, Mr. Paul Eby, Director-Field Operations, Mr. Lee Simpkins and Mr. Larry Taylor, Contractor, represented Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation. Mr. Robert Young, Environmental Engineer and Dr. Robyn Tierny, Reclamation Specialist represented the New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division. On September 12 Mr. Robert Young and Mr. Fernando Martinez, Reclamation Specialist revisited six of the above sites to take additional measurements. The site on Section 1 T13W R9W was inspected on September 13 by Mr. Robert Young and Mr. Fernando Martinez, Reclamation Specialist. Another site on Section 13 T1N R6W was inspected September 21, 1995 by Robert Young and Holland Shepherd, Mining Act Bureau Chief. Santa Fe Pacific Gold did not attend the inspections of the sites on Sections 1 T13W R9W or Section 13 T1N R6W. Another site on Section 17 T13N R9W, for which a prior reclamation inspection was requested (Santa Fe, 1994), was searched for, but could not be found. Without an inspection of the site, no evaluation could be made regarding prior reclamation status.

Inspections of each mine site consisted of a review of information submitted by the mine operator, subsequent discussion with the operator pertaining to mining and reclamation at each site, inspection of the condition of the reclaimed mine sites, line-intercept sampling for estimates of vegetative cover, compilation of plant species lists, measurement of reclaimed soil depths, and photo-documentation. Each of the mine sites were visually inspected for erosion features and hydrologic stability. During a walkover of each site, all slopes, areas of water concentration (ponds, diversions and areas where disturbed areas enter undisturbed lands) were visually inspected for stability. Topsoil placement and distribution also was evaluated at each site. Sampling for topsoil depth consisted of randomly digging a series of holes to identify the depth of topsoil and the presence or absence of potentially toxic wasterock at rooting depth. Grading of all wasterock piles and borrow areas was visually inspected. Placement and closure of portals and vent shafts was verified in the field.

The establishment and relative percent cover of reseeded and native plant species were evaluated in randomly placed transects. Fifty foot transects were evaluated at each mine site using the line intercept method (Bonham 1989). These transects were used to estimate the relative percent cover of each plant species intercepted at 3' intervals along a transect. A total of 17 points per transect were recorded. In addition, a list of species present within a 50' X 6' belt transect adjacent to each transect was compiled. These sampling procedures, however, do not meet sample adequacy. Rather, these procedures were conducted to estimate the relative percent cover and to evaluate the diversity of species present at each of the eight mine sites. Additional resources would be needed to fully evaluate the vegetation of these prior reclamation sites to a level of sample adequacy and would require at least 24 additional man-hours of inspection time per site. Where it was obvious that sufficient vegetation existed on site, or insufficient vegetation existed, no transect evaluations were made. Photos were taken, in these situations, to document the vegetation cover.

Results and Discussion

SW1/4 Section 13 T13N R11W

This was a surface mine, located approximately 27 miles north west of the City of Grants, New Mexico. The mine is characterized by red Entrada Sandstone cliffs that tower above it. The uranium mineralization occurred in Todilto Limestone just below the Entrada Sandstone. A barbed wire fence surrounded the site. All structures, trash or junk had been removed from the site. There were no piles or accumulations of toxic or waste material on the site. There were no apparent hazards that could effect public health and safety. Photos documenting vegetation and the general condition of the site are in Appendix A. The site was reclaimed in 1994 and reseeded in the fall of 1994 by Santa Fe Pacific Gold (Eby, 1995). The regrading included, at the request of the surface owner, the construction of six depressions to impound rainwater for livestock (Eby, 1995). There were minor rills from water flowing into these depressions. Topsoil depths across the site averaged 6 inches.

Cattle, sheep, goats, and wildlife have heavily grazed the reclaimed portions of this site and the vegetation showed signs of drought stress. Line-intercept transects showed perennial cover to be approximately 12 percent (Tierney, 1995). The results of the vegetation measurements are presented in Table II. This site was evaluated as having an insufficient vegetation cover to qualify for release.

Visual	Transect
Ambrosia dumosa	BG
Papaver sp.	BG
Oryzopsis hymenoides	BG
Cleome serrulata	Atriplex canesceus
Atriplex canesceus	BG
Gutierrezia sarothrae	BG
	BG

TABLE II SW1/4 Section 13 T13N R11W Vegetation Measurements

BG
Oryzopsis hymenoides
Rock

Average Perennial Cover = 12% Rock Cover = 6%

Section 13 T1N R6W

This was a surface mine, located approximately 36 miles north west of the City of Magdalena, New Mexico. The site is within a mile of the Alamo Navajo Indian Reservation. Uranium bearing sandstone was contourmined along an outcrop in the side of Jaralosa Creek Canyon. The operator, M.P. Grace, operated the mine under a lease from then Santa Fe Pacific Minerals Corporation. The lease was terminated in 1979 and the site was reclaimed in 1980 (Santa Fe, 1994). The total area of disturbance was about 2 acres.

While it was difficult to locate the mine site, there were several small waste piles. Natural vegetation had successfully reestablished itself such that the waste piles were nearly indistinguishable from the natural mounds and ridges along the canyon. The location of the mine was located by a red clay that had been uncovered in one pit and was out of place. There was moderate erosion, but the erosion was consistent with that of the surrounding area. A powder magazine, circa 1970's, was left as a mining relic. All other structures, trash and junk had been removed. There were no piles or accumulations of toxic or waste material. There were no apparent hazards that could effect public health or safety.

The site and surrounding area showed signs of grazing impacts. Plant diversity, however, was good with more than 21 native plant species identified on the site. It was very difficult to distinguish this site from the adjacent undisturbed areas, so no transect evaluation was deemed necessary. Photographs documenting vegetation and the general condition of the site are presented in Appendix B. Because of the quality of cover and diversity of plants found on the site, it qualifies for release.

Section 1 T13W R9W

This mine site is located on a shelf in a canyon wall about 50 feet above the canyon floor. The canyon was eroded into Dakota Sandstone. The mine had been operated by Kerr-McGee under a lease agreement with Santa Fe Pacific Gold and was safeguarded by Kerr-McGee upon termination of that agreement (Santa Fe, 1994). All structures, trash or junk had been removed from the site. There were no piles or accumulations of toxic or waste material on the site. A vertical shaft had been backfilled with nontoxic mine waste material.

Essentially, the site had been safeguarded but not topsoiled or reseeded. The site is characterized by white fine grained sandstone covered by a few inches of fine white sand. The sand is subsequently being eroded away by wind and water. A mine access road had significant erosion. An impoundment had been constructed to impound sediment from the mine site, however, erosion from the access road was bypassing the impoundment and was entering the mine site. Photographs documenting vegetation and the general condition of the site are presented in Appendix C.

Some native plant species from adjoining areas were invading the disturbance area. Line-intercept transects indicated vegetation cover to be approximately 29 percent (Young, 1995). Vegetation measurements are presented in Table III. Vegetation on this site is dominated by hairy goldenaster (*Heterotheca villosa*), an unpalatable increaser. Indian ricegrass (*Oryzopsis hymenoides*), was also found growing sparsely on the site. Given the sandy nature of these soils, stands of Indian ricegrass and sand dropseed (*Sporobolus cryptandrus*) should be more prevalent here. Because of the overall lack of diversity and the poor establishment of perennial grasses and forbs, this site does not qualify for release.

Visual	Transect #1	Transect #2
Guterrezia sarothrae	BG	Heterotheca villosa
Atriplex canescens	BG	BG
Oryzopsis hymenoides	BG	Heterotheca villosa
Heterotheca villosa	BG	Oryopsis hymenoides
	BG	Heterotheca villosa
	BG	Heterotheca villosa
	BG	BG
	Heterotheca villosa	BG
	BG	Oryzopsis hymenoide.
	BG	BG
	Heterotheca villosa	BG
	BG	Heterotheca villosa
	BG	Bedrock
	BG	Bedrock
	Rock	BG
	Heterotheca villosa	BG
	Rock	BG

TABLE III Section 1 T13W R9W Vegetation Measurements

Average Vegetative Cover = 29%

Section 17 T13N R9W

This site was not shown to MMD staff by Santa Fe Pacific Gold personnel and could not be located in the field. Presumably, the site has been reclaimed (Santa Fe, 1994). However, without a formal inspection of this mine site, no evaluation could be made by MMD personal regarding the mine's prior reclamation status.

This site cannot be released at this time.

Haystack Mine (Section 19 T13N R10W)

This mine was the original Paddy Martinez discovery. It was a surface mine located approximately 27 miles north west of Grants, New Mexico. The mine was operated under an agreement with Santa Fe Pacific Minerals Corporation. The uranium mineral was found in the Todilto Limestone. Santa Fe Pacific Gold began reclamation of this site in 1990 under an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) action that concluded in 1991 (Santa Fe, 1994). At the time of this inspection, Santa Fe claimed to have a letter of release from the EPA (Gallegos, pers. comm.), and indicated that a copy would be sent to MMD. However, MMD never received this copy.

A barbed wire fence surrounded the site. All structures, trash or junk had been removed from the site. There were no piles or accumulations of toxic or waste material on the site. There were no apparent hazards that could effect public health or safety. There were no erosion features. Photographs documenting the vegetation and the general condition of the site are presented in Appendix E. Topsoil depths across the site ranged from four to six inches.

Grazing by domestic livestock and wildlife have had some impact on the vegetative cover of this reclaimed site. Most of the reclaimed area had been heavily grazed and showed signs of drought stress. Line-intercept transects showed perennial cover to be approximately 32 percent and litter cover 18 percent (Tierney, 1995). Vegetation measurements are presented in Table IV. Because of the perennial quality of plant cover and diversity on this site, staff recommends it for release.

Visual	Transect #1 North side of	Transect #2 On Wasterock
Atriplex canescens	BG	BG
Chrysothamnus nauseosus	Bouteloua gracillis	Bouteloua gracilis
Sporobolus cryptandrus	Bouteloua gracillis	Litter
Juniperus monsperma	BG	Atriplex canescens
Ambrosia dumosa	Bouteloua gracilis	BG
Kochia scoparium	Oryzopsis hymenoides	Oryzopsis hymenoides
Mirabilis sp.	Oryzopsis hymenoides	BG
Phlox sp.	Litter	BG
Mentzelia pungens	Salsola kali	BG
Salsola kali	Litter	BG
Bouteloua gracilis	BG	BG

TABLE IV Haystack Mine Vegetation Measurements

Oryzopsis hymenoides	BG	BG
	Litter	Bouteloua gracilis
	Agropyron sp.	Sporobolus cryptandrus
	Oryzopsis hymenoides	Oryzopsis hymenoides
	Litter	Litter
	Litter	Litter

Average Perennial Cover = 32% Litter Cover = 21%

Section 25 Mine

The Section 25 mine is located 14 miles northwest of Grants, New Mexico. This 8-acre site was a surface mine operated by Reserve Oil and Minerals. It was reclaimed and reseeded by Santa Fe Pacific Gold in 1993. Additional reclamation activities were performed in 1994. A barbed wire fence surrounded the site. All structures, trash or junk had been removed from the site. There were no piles or accumulations of toxic or waste material on the site. There were no apparent hazards that could effect public health and safety. There were several topsoil mounds left by Santa Fe because small mammals had extensively burrowed into them and were using them for habitat. Photographs documenting the vegetation and the general condition of the site are presented in Appendix F. The regrading included construction of three large depressions that impounded rainwater for livestock. There was one significant erosion feature and several areas of minor erosion on the sides of these depressions. Topsoil depths across the site were greater than 12 inches. An earthworm found while measuring soil depths at this site is a good sign that the soils are generally non-toxic.

Portions of the reclaimed vegetation have heavily grazed by wildlife and domestic livestock. However, native plant species were invading the area. Twenty-six native species of plants were identified. Line-intercept transects showed average perennial vegetation cover to be approximately 22 percent (Young, 1995). Vegetation measurements are presented in Table V. Despite the slight increase in the number of perennial species invading this site from adjacent areas, there was poor establishment of the perennial grasses, forbs, and shrubs on the slopes of the depressions and topsoil mounds. Because of the lack of adequate cover, this site does not qualify for release at this time.

Visual	Transect #1 West Depression (Soil Depth +1')	Transect #2 Middle of Site (Soil Depth +1')	Transect #3 East Side of Site (Soil Depth +1')
Mirabilis multiflora	BG	BG	Oryzopsis hymenoides
Aster sp.	Erigeron sp.	BG	BG
Lepidium sp.	BG	BG	Rock
Cleome serrulata	Senecio longilobus	BG	BG

TABLE V Section 25 Mine Vegetation Measurements

Sphaeralcea incana	BG	Mentzelia sp.	BG
Senecio longilobus	BG	BG	BG
Chrysothamnus nauseosus	Oryzopsis hymenoides	BG	Rock
Sporobolus cryptandrus	Litter	BG	BG
Gutierrezia sarothrae	Litter	BG	Oryzopsis hymenoides
Boutelloua gracilis	Cleome serrulata	BG	Rock
Agropyron smithii	Oryzopsis hymenoides	BG	BG
Mentzelia decapetala	Oryzopsis hymenoides	BG	BG
Oryzopsis hymenoides	BG	Agropyron smithii	BG
Atriplex canescens	BG	BG	BG
Sparganium sp.	Cleome serrulata	Agropyron smithii	BG
Atriplex canescens	BG	BG	Rock
Fleabane	BG	BG	BG

Average Vegetative Cover = 22%

Section 31 T13N R9W

This was a surface mine located 14 miles northwest of the Grants, New Mexico. The mine was operated by United Nuclear Corporation until termination of the lease in 1975. Open adits and shafts were backfilled and otherwise safeguarded in 1987. The site was reclaimed and reseeded by Santa Fe the fall of 1994 (Santa Fe, 1994). All structures, trash or junk had been removed from the site however, trespass dumping has since taken place. There were no piles or accumulations of toxic or waste material on the site. There were no apparent hazards that could effect public health or safety. There were minor erosion features where water had flowed into depressions. Twenty foot slopes of limestone cobble were left on the south side of the reclaimed area to blend in with a natural limestone outcropping. Several 6 foot high, 50 foot long topsoil stockpiles were left because small animals were burrowing into them and were using them for habitat. Photographs documenting vegetation and general condition of the site are presented in Appendix G.

There was evidence of grazing by livestock and wildlife on this site. Vegetation also showed signs of drought stress. Line-intercept transects showed vegetation cover to be approximately 12 percent (Young, 1995). The results of these vegetation measurements are presented in Table VI. Because of the lack of cover and diversity, staff does not recommend this site for release.

TABLE VI Section 31 T13N R9W Vegetation Measurements

Visual	Transect #1	Transect #2	Transect #3
Mirabilis multiflora	Rock	Oryzopsis hymenoides	BG
Sphaeralcea incana	Rock	Rock	BG
Oryzopsis hymenoides	BG	BG	BG
Senecio longilobus	Rock	BG	BG
Ceratoides lanata	Rock	BG	BG
Salvia sp.	Rock	BG	BG
Gutierrezia sarothrae	BG	BG	BG
Atriplex canescens	BG	BG	Oryzopsis hymenoides
Lycium pallidum	Salvia sp.	BG	BG
Sporobolus airoides	Rock	BG	BG
Bouteloua gracilis	Litter	BG	BG
Mentzelia decapetala	Rock	BG	BG
Agropyron smithii	Rock	BG	Rock
	Rock	Oryzopsis hymenoides	Oryzopsis hymenoides
	Rock	BG	Oryzopsis hymenoides
	Rock	Litter	BG
	Rock	BG	Rock

Average Vegetative Cover = 12%

Faith Mine (Section 29 T13N R9W)

This underground mine was reclaimed in 1986 (Eby, 1995). Native vegetation from adjoining undisturbed lands had invaded the site and it was difficult to tell that a mine had previously existed on this site. Approximately one acre had recently been regraded and reclaimed, the only other indication of the mine presence was a revegetated mound where a vertical shaft had been backfilled with nontoxic mine waste material (Eby, 1995). All structures, trash or junk had been removed from the site. There were no piles or accumulations of toxic or waste material on the site. Similarly, there were no erosion features. Photographs documenting vegetation and general condition of the site are presented in Appendix H. Topsoil depths across the site ranged from 4 to 6 inches.

As with the other mines, the vegetation had been grazed by wildlife and domestic livestock. The vegetation also showed signs of drought stress. However, the adequate plant cover and diversity deemed it unnecessary to perform transect evaluations of the plant community. Staff recommends this site of release. The plant

community has been documented by photographs (See Appendix H).

Isabella Mine

This was a 2-acre site consisting of a head frame for underground mining. Ranchers Exploration conducted limited operations on this section under a lease from Santa Fe Pacific Minerals Corporation. The site was reclaimed in 1987, but is still accessed by a two-track road from the Old Wilcoxen Ranch. All structures, trash or junk had been removed from the site. The mine shaft had been backfilled with nontoxic mine waste material (Eby, 1995). There were no piles or accumulations of toxic or waste material on the site. There was one erosion feature, 200 feet south of the shaft site, which threatens to head cut across from an unnamed ephemeral tributary of Arroyo del Puerto running adjacent to the site. This head cut if left unchecked will eventually intercept the closed shaft. Mr. Paul Eby said that Santa Fe Pacific Gold would repair it. Photographs documenting the vegetation and the general condition of the site are presented in Appendix I. Topsoil depths across the site ranged from 4 to 6 inches.

Again, the mine site had been grazed by livestock and wildlife. Similarly, vegetation showed signs of drought stress. Line-intercept transects indicated that vegetation cover was approximately 15 percent (Young, 1995). Results of vegetation measurements are presented in Table VII. Because of the lack of plant cover, this site is not recommended for release.

Visual	Transect #1	Transect #2	
Oryzopsis hymenoides	BG	BG	
Bouteloua gracilis	Litter	Litter BG	
Atriplex canescens	BG	BG	
Juniperus sp.	BG	BG BG	
Cleome serrulata	Kochia scoparia	BG	
Agropyron smithii	BG	BG	
	BG	Salsola iberica	
	BG	BG	
	BG	BG	
	BG	BG	
	Salsola iberica	BG	
	Litter	BG	
	BG	Salsola iberica	
	BG	Kochia scoparia	

TABLE VII Isabella Mine Vegetation Measurements

BG	BG
BG	BG
BG	BG

Marquez Mine

This site is reached by a two-track road from a ranching complex known as the Marquez Old Home Place. It was the site of a decline shaft adit below a cliff outcropping of the Dakota Sandstone. United Nuclear leased the section from Santa Fe Pacific Minerals Corporation. Open mine features were backfilled in 1987. The site is characterized by the sand dune appearance of a mine waste pile backfilling a declined shaft adit. The site lies within San Mateo Creek Canyon, however, and the high and constant winds move soils to form sand dunes. Further, San Mateo Creek is ephemeral at this location and windblown sand from the streamed forms dunes against the cliff face. All structures, trash or junk had been removed from the site with the exception of some pipe and lumber (left at the request (Eby, 1995) of the surface lessee, Sonny Marquez). There were no piles or accumulations of toxic or waste material on the site. Photographs documenting the vegetation and general condition of the site are presented in Appendix J. The decline shaft had been backfilled with nontoxic mine waste material. Regrading of the site also included construction of terraces to break up slopes.

Topsoil depths across the site were greater than 12 inches, but consisted entirely of windblown sand. This area was essentially barren with most of the seed and mulch blown away before vegetation could be established. Native species such as Indian ricegrass (*Oryzopsis hymenoides*), from adjoining areas were starting to invade he disturbance area (Young, 1995). Because of the obvious lack of plant cover at the site no transects were attempted. Staff does not recommend release of this site.

Poison Canyon Mine

This site is characterized by an abundance of sunflowers and locoweed. The locoweed is probably a selenium accumulator for which the canyon (also known as 'Sheep Kill Canyon') was named. Reserve Oil and Minerals operated the mine under a lease from Santa Fe Pacific Minerals Corporation. Open mine features were backfilled and the mine reclaimed in 1987 upon termination of the lease. Additional reclamation of the site was conducted in 1993 and 1994 (Santa Fe, 1994). A barbed wire fence surrounded the site. All structures, trash or junk had been removed from the site. There were no piles or accumulations of toxic or waste material on the site. There were a few erosion features including one that was significant. Photographs documenting vegetation and general condition of the site are presented in Appendix K. An inclined shaft portal had been backfilled with nontoxic mine waste material (Santa Fe, 1994). The regrading of this site included construction of mounds, berms, terraces and depressions that impounded rainwater for livestock.

Topsoil depths across the site were approximately 4 inches. Line-intercept transects indicated that perennial vegetative cover was approximately 31 percent. The results of these vegetation measurements are presented in Table VIII.

Visual	Transect #1	Transect #2	Transect #3
Agropyron sp.	Rock	Rock	BG
Aster bigolovii	BG	BG	Rock
Agropyron smithii	Helianthus sp.	BG	Helianthus sp.
Oxytropis lambertii	Helianthus sp.	BG	BG
Mentzelia decapetala	Rock	BG	BG
Gutierrezia sarothrae	BG	Atriplex canescens	Rock
Linum perenne lewisii	BG	Agropyron smithii	Rock
Cleome serrulata	BG	Litter	Helianthus sp.
Melilotus officinalis	BG	Atriplex canescens	Agropyron smithii
Sphaeralcea coccinea	Oryzopsis hymenoides	Salsola iberica	BG
Helianthus sp.	BG	BG	BG
Oryzopsis hymenoides	BG	Atriplex canescens	BG
Hordeum jubatum	Helianthus sp.	Kochia scoparia	BG
Senecio longilobus	Rock	Oryzopsis hymenoides	BG
Sphaeralcea incana	Rock	BG	Helianthus sp.
Atriplex canescens	BG	BG	Helianthus sp.
	BG	Litter	BG

TABLE VIII Poison Canyon Vegetation Measurements

Average Vegetative Cover = 27 %

Conclusions and Recommendations

Based on the inspection of the 11 mine sites, review of inspection information with Mining and Minerals Division staff and MMD's resources to conduct these inspections, it is recommended that:

the Haystack (Section 19 T13N R10W), Section 13 (T 1N R 6W) and Faith (Section 29 T13N R9W) Mines

be released from further requirements of the New Mexico Mining Act. The other mine sites:

SW1/4 of Section 13 (T 13N R11W), Section 1 (T 13W R 9W), Section 31 (T 13N R 9W), Section 7 (T13N R 9W, a.k.a. Isabella Mine), Section 23 (T 13N R 9W, a.k.a. Marquez Mine), Section 25 (T 13N R 10W), and Section 19 (T 13N R9W, a.k.a. Poison Canyon Mine)

staff has determined do not meet the environmental conditions that allow for the development of a 'selfsustaining ecosystem' as defined in Rule 1. and put forth in Rule 5.7A of the New Mexico Mining Act. Some of these site were reclaimed in July 1994, so present a situation where it is difficult to determine vegetation success. One season of growth in the areas under evaluation does not provide sufficient time to make this kind of a determination. The sites remain at a very early successional stage and contain mostly weedy species or no species.

However, based on oral communications with the operator, and on the inspected condition of these remaining reclaimed sites as documented by this inspection report, it is clear that the operator has made an effort to complete the required reclamation of these remaining sites. It is therefore recommended that the Director of MMD give a variance to Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation from meeting the deadline of September 30, 1995 for prior reclamation under the New Mexico Mining Act and Rules for: the SW1/4 of Section 13 (T 13N R11W), Section 1(T 13W R 9W), Section 31 (T 13N R 9W), Section 7 (T13N R 9W, a.k.a. Isabella Mine), Section 23 (T 13N R 9W, a.k.a. Marquez Mine), and Section 19 (T 13N R9W, a.k.a. Poison Canyon Mine) mine sites. This variance would stipulate that inspections will be conducted by MMD during the late summer of 1997 at each of these remaining sites to determine if the conditions necessary for development of a 'sustainable ecosystem' are then present on-site, and if any further actions including (but not limited to) reseeding or interseeding by the operator are necessary.

The Section 17 (T 13N R 9W) mine site was not adequately identified by Santa Fe Pacific Gold for inspection by MMD. The Mining and Minerals Division attempted to locate the site, but was unable to do so. Therefore, no inspection for prior reclamation status was made. This site could also be addressed under a variance.

References

Bonham, C. D. 1989. Measurements for Terrestrial Vegetation. Wiley-Interscience. 338 pp.

Eby, Paul G. 1995. Director-Field Operations, Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation, Personal Communication.

Santa Fe (Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation) 1994. Prior Reclamation Request.

Tierney, Dr. Robyn 1995. Reclamation Specialist, MMD, Field Notes.

Young, Robert S. 1995. Environmental Engineer, MMD, Field Notes.

Appendix A

Photo Documentation SW1/4 Section 13 T13N R11W (no photo documentation)

Appendix B

Photo Documentation Section 13 T1N R6W


Section 13 T1N R6W, Mine Site from East, September 21, 1995



Section 13 T1N R6W, Powder Magzine, September 21, 1995



Section 13 T1N R6W, Mine Site From East



Section 13 TIN R6W, Mine Site From South

Appendix C

Photo Documentation Section 1 T13N R9W



Section 1 T13N R9W, Shaft Site looking South, 9/13/95



Section 1 T13N R9W, Shaft Site Looking West, 9/13/95



Section 1 T13N R9W, Sediment Pond, 9/13/95



Section 1 T13N R9W, Looking Up at Mine Site, 9/13/95



Section 1 T13N R9W, Access Road, 9/13/95



Section 1 T13N R9W, South Side Looking North, 9/13/95



Section 1 T13N R9W, North Side Looking South, 9/13/95

Appendix D

Photo Documentation Section 17 T13N R9W (no photo documentation)

Appendix E

Photo Documentation Haystack Mine

Appendix F

Photo Documentation Section 25



Section 25 Mine, West Side Looking West, 9/12/95



Section 25 Mine, Middle Looking East, 9/12/95



Section 25 Mine, East Side Looking Southwest, 9/12/95



Section 25 Mine, Erosion Feature, 9/12/95

Appendix G

Photo Documentation Section 31 T13N R9W



Section 31 T13N R9W, North End Looking South, 9/12/95



Section 31 T13N R9W, Northeast Side Looking West, 9/12/95



Section 31 T13N R9W, Reconstructed Limestone Bluffs, 9/12/95



Section 31 T13N R9W, Southeast Side looking North

Appendix H

Photo Documentation Faith Mine



Faith Mine Shaft Site, Looking East, 3/12/95 Regraded Area in Background





Faith Mine Shaft Site, Looking West, 9/12/95



Faith Mine Regraded Area, 9/12/95

Appendix I

Photo Documentation Isbella Mine



Isabella Mine, From North, 9/12/95



Isabella Mine, From South, 9/12/95



Isabella Mine, Erosion Feature, 9/12/95

Appendix J

Photo Documentation Marquez Mine



Marquez Mine, Reclaimed Declined Shaft, 9/12/95



Marquez Mine, Waste Pile, 9/12/95



Marquez Mine Waste Pile, 9/12/95



Marquez Mine, Waste Pile, 9/12/95



Marquez Mine, Waste Pile, 9/12/95



Marquez Mine, Sand Dune, 9/12/95



Poison Canyon Mine, Middle Looking North, 9/12/95



Poison Canyon Mine, Middle Looking East, 9/12/95



Poison Canyon Mine, Middle Looking South, 9/12/95



Poison Canyon Mine, Middle Looking West, 9/12/95



Poison Canyon Mine, Reclaimed Declined Shaft, 9/12/95



Poison Canyon Mine, Small Depression, 9/12/95



Poison Canyon Mine, Erosion Feature, 9/12/95

PRIOR RECLAMATION INSPECTION

DATE: CONDITIONS_ 	2/31/95 11:30 AM Surface/marral owned by SEPG reclained in Fall 1994 backfilled declines, shafts à dord holes Poison Canyon SEPG			
SITE: OPERATOR:				
PRESENT:				

September 29, 1995

Mr. Tim J. Leftwich Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation Box 6200 Uptown Blvd. NE Suite 400 Albuquerque, NM 87110

RE: Prior Reclamation Inspections

Dear Mr. Leftwich:

The Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) has completed inspection of reclamation measures as requested by Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation.

Based on findings in the enclosed inspection reports, reclamation measures at the following mines satisfy the requirements of the New Mexico Mining Act (NMMA) and the substantive requirements for reclamation pursuant to the NMMA Rules. Santa Fe Pacific Gold, therefore, is hereby released from further requirements of the NMMA on the following mines:

Faith Mine (Section 29, T 13N R 9W) Section 13 (T 1N R 6W) Haystack Mine (Section 19, T 13N R10W)

Reclamation measures at the following mines do not satisfy the requirements of the New Mexico Mining Act (NMMA) and the substantive requirements for reclamation pursuant to the NMMA Rules. However, since Santa Fe Pacific Gold has completed most reclamation measures at the following mines, Santa Fe may apply for a variance from the provisions of the NMMA Rules pursuant to Rule 10. Otherwise, pursuant to NMMA Rule 5.10.B Santa Fe Pacific Gold must submit permit applications and closeout plans for existing mining operations within six months of receipt of this letter.

Isabella Mine (Section 7, T 13N R 9W) Marquez Mine (Section 23, T13N R9W Poison Canyon Mine (Section 19, T 13N R 9W) Section 1 (T 13N R 9W) Section 31 (T 13N R 9W) Section 25 Mine (Section 25, T 13N R 10W) SW 1/4 Section 13 (T 13N R11W)

The location of the mine on Section (T 13N R 9W) was not adequately identified by Santa Fe Pacific Gold for inspection by MMD. The Mining and Minerals Division attempted to locate the site, but was unable to do so. Therefore, no inspection for prior reclamation was made. If reclamation measures have been performed, this site may also be addressed under a variance.

The enclosed prior reclamation inspection report details the findings of the inspection but does not include the photos/slides contained in the MMD file copy.

MMD appreciates your efforts to comply with the NMMA and commends you for your safeguarding and reclamation efforts. If you have any questions please contact Holland Shepherd of the Mining Act Bureau, (505) 827-5971.

Sincerely,

Kathleen A. Garland, Director Mining and Minerals Division

cc: Ms. Maxine Goad, Environment Department Mr. Sonny MarquezS. Farthree and McKingenS. Berryhill Ranch

Enclosures

MK

State of New Mexico) ENERg T, MINERALS and NATURAL RESOURC__ DEPARTMENT Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505



DRUG FREE

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

RE: Evaluation Guidelines for Prior Reclamation Sites.

Dear Mr. Leftwich:

The Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) will be conducting inspections for the purposes of prior reclamation 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 reclamation 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

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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

Energy Conserviation & Management 927-5900 Mining and Minerals 827-5970 LAND OFFICE BUILDING - 310 Old Santa Fe Trail

Oll 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		
<u> </u>		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?
	0	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: SUITE 400 ALBUQUERQUE, NN 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. Nov<mark>ember 8,</mark> 1**99**4 Page 2

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,

Lettwick

Tim Leftwich Vice President -Environmental Quality

TL:pt

Enclosure



CHARLES F. HEADEN PHILIP G. GARCIA

October 13, 1994

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.8W, 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 Ο. Marquez and Solomon Marques, trustees of the Isabel O. Marquez Trust P.O. Box 3526 Milan, NM 87021 Section 19: Isabel 0. 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, NH 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 D. Ancon Philip Garcia

ar

Sec. 13, TIN, RGW (Socorro Co, Nim)

B.L. Venderson P. C. Box 2.86 Magdelena, n.m. 87825



EDRUG FREE

BRUCE KING GOVERNOR

November 3, 1994

ANITA LOCKWOOD CABINET SECRETARY

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;

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Administrative Services

827-5925

LAND OFFICE BUILDING - 310 Old Santa Fe Trail

Oil Conservation Division P.O. Box 2088 87504-2088 827-5800

Energy Conservation & Management 827-5900 Mining and Minerals 827-5970 Mr. Tim Leftwich November 3, 1994 Page -2-

- 3. 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 162

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

HS/AJ/fg



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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

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,

Kerley

G. R. Wagner Manager - Lease Records

GRW:bls Enclosure

cc: T. J. Leftwich

	INVOICE	INVOICE	INVOICE INVOICE		VOUCHER	PAYMENT	
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SANTA FE PACIFIC GOLD CORP.

Box 27019 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87125-7019 (505) 880-5300



A SANTA FE PACIFIC COMPANY

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09/16/94

THE NORTHERN TRUST COMPANY 2-15 CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 710

No. 191790

PAY TO THE ORDER OF NM ENERGY, MIN. & NAT. RES. DE MINING & MINERALS DIV. 2040 PACHECO STREET SANTA FE , NM 87505

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Date	Addressee	Subject			
08/31/94	John Lingo/From: Tim Leftwich	Requests for Reclamation.	Approval of Prior		
1/03/94	Tim Leftwich/From: Holland S.	Prior Reclamation Status, Fait Mine et al. Evaluation Guidelines for Prior			
12/14/94	Tim Leftwich/From: Holland S.	Reclamation	Sites.		
08/31/94	Section 25, T.14N,R.10W MARB/From: Homestake-Sapin	Request For Reclamation	Approval of Prior		
08/31/94	MARB/From: Homestake - Sapin	11	**		
08/31/94	Section 15, T.14N,R.10W MARB/From: Homestake - Sapin	11	"		
08/31/94	MARB/From: Section 1, T.13N, R.9W Kerr McGee	88	11		
08/31/94	MARB/From: M.P. Grace	10	**		
08/31/94	MARB/From: Section 13, T.14N, R.10 Homestake - Sapin	W 11	11		
08/31/94	MARB/From: Section 29, T.13N, R.9W Ranchers Exploration	11	11		
8/31/94	MARB/From: Reserve Oil & Minerals	11	"		
08/31/94	MARB/From: Section 23, T.13N, R.9W United Nuclear Corp.	11	19		
08/31/94	MARB/From: Ranchers Exploration	11	11		
	MARB/From: Ranchers Exploration	U.	11		
	MARB/From: Ranchers Exploration	"	19		
8/31/94	ARB/From: Section 31, T.13N, R.9W	11	**		
8/31/94	ARB/From: Reserve Oil & Minerals	11	11		
8/31/94	ARB/From: Todilto Exploration	11			
8/31/94	ARB/From: Section 19, T.13N, R.9W Ranchers Exploration	11	17		
8/31/94	ARB/From: Section 1, T.13N.,R.9W Kerr McGee	11	11		
	Section 17, T.13N, R.9W ARB/From: United Nuclear	11	11		
	Section 13, T.IN, R.6W ARB/From: M.P. Grace	11	11		
	SW/4, Section 13, T.13N, R ARB/From: Todilto Exploration	.11W "	ve		



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, IntR Tim Leftwich for

260530

Name Of Mine: Poison Canyon Mine

Topographic Location Of Mine: Section 19, T.13N., R.9W.

Operator Name: Reserve Oil and Minerals

Description Of Site Condition: Poison Canyon Mine was operated by Reserve Oil and Minerals under a lease from Santa Fe Pacific Minerals Corporation. Open mine features were backfilled in 1987 upon termination of the lease. The site was also reclaimed upon lease termination. Additional reclamation of the site was conducted in 1993 and 1994.

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:

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ACIFIC

OLD

CORPORATION

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



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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, Rt: Tim Leftwich

260530

Name Of Mine: Unknown

Topographic Location Of Mine: Section 13, T.14N., R.10W.

Operator Name: Homestake - Sapin

Description Of Site Condition: This section was mined by Homestake under a lease from Santa Fe Pacific Minerals Corporation. This section was reclaimed in 1992. Open mine features were backfilled and areas of surface disturbance revegetated with native plant species. Topography was returned to natural contour to the extent possible.

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:

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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.



Name Of Mine: Unknown

Topographic Location Of Mine: Section 15, T.14N., R.10W.

Operator Name: Homestake - Sapin

Description Of Site Condition: This section was mined by Homestake under a lease from Santa Fe Pacific Minerals Corporation. This section was reclaimed in 1992. Open mine features were backfilled and areas of surface disturbance revegetated with native plant species. Topography was returned to natural contour to the extent possible.

Date Of Request: August 31, 1994

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Name Of Mine: Unl

Unknown

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Topographic Location Of Mine: Section 23, T.14N., R.10W.

Operator Name: Homestake - Sapin

Description Of Site Condition: This section was mined by Homestake under a lease from Santa Fe Pacific Minerals Corporation. This section was reclaimed in 1992. Open mine features were backfilled and areas of surface disturbance revegetated with native plant species. Topography was returned to natural contour to the extent possible.

Date Of Request: August 31, 1994

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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.

/+

Name Of Mine:

Unknown

Topographic Location Of Mine: Section 25, T.14N., R.10W.

Operator Name: Homestake - Sapin

Description Of Site Condition: This section was mined by Homestake under a lease from Santa Fe Pacific Minerals Corporation. The section was reclaimed in 1992. Open mine features were backfilled and areas of surface disturbance revegetated with native plant species. Topography was returned to natural contour to the extent possible.

Date Of Request: August 31, 1994

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Name Of Mine: Unknown

Topographic Location Of Mine: Section 1, T.13N., R.9W.



Operator Name: Kerr McGee

Description Of Site Condition: Kerr McGee operated on Section 1 under a lease agreement with Santa Fe Pacific Minerals Corporation. Kerr McGee reclaimed the site upon termination of the lease agreement. Surface disturbance was revegetated with native plant species and topography returned to natural contour to the extent possible.

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:

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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.

Name Of Mine: Unknown

Topographic Location Of Mine: Section 13, T.1N., R.6W.

Operator Name: M.P. Grace

Description Of Site Condition: M. P. Grace operated the mine on Section 13 under a lease from then Santa Fe Pacific Minerals Corporation. The lease was terminated in 1979. The site was reclaimed in 1980. Open adits or shafts were backfilled and disturbed areas revegetated with native species. Surface topography was returned to natural contour to the extent possible.

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:

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L	MINING & MINERALS DIVISION	

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Name Of Mine: Doris Mine

Topographic Location Of Mine: Section 21, T.13N., R.9W.

Operator Name: Ranchers Exploration

Description Of Site Condition: Ranchers operated a mine on this section under a lease from Santa Fe Pacific Minerals Corporation. Open mine features were backfilled and the site reclaimed in 1987. Areas of surface disturbance were revegetated with native species and topography returned to natural contour to the extent possible.

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:

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Name Of Mine: Faith Mine

Topographic Location Of Mine: Section 29, T.13N., R.9W.

Operator Name: Ranchers Exploration

Description Of Site Condition: Ranchers operated a mine on this section under a lease from Santa Fe Pacific Minerals Corporation. Open mine features were backfilled and the site reclaimed in 1987. Areas of surface disturbance were revegetated with native species and topography returned to natural contour to the extent possible.

Date Of Request: August 31, 1994

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Name Of Mine: Hope Mine

Topographic Location Of Mine: Section 19, T.13N., R.9W.

Operator Name: Ranchers Exploration

Description Of Site Condition: The Hope Mine was operated by Ranchers Exploration under a lease from Santa Fe Pacific Minerals Corporation. The lease agreement was terminated in 1987. Open mine features were backfilled in 1987 and reclamation completed. Areas of surface disturbance were revegetated with native species and topography returned to natural contour to the extent possible.

Date Of Request: August 31, 1994

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Name Of Mine: Isabella Mine



Topographic Location Of Mine: Section 7, T.13N., R.9W.

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

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Name Of Mine: Johnny M Mine

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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

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Name Of Mine: Poison Canyon Mine

Topographic Location Of Mine: Section 19, T.13N., R.9W.

Operator Name: Reserve Oil and Minerals

Description Of Site Condition: Poison Canyon Mine was operated by Reserve Oil and Minerals under a lease from Santa Fe Pacific Minerals Corporation. Open mine features were backfilled in 1987 upon termination of the lease. The site was also reclaimed upon lease termination. Additional reclamation of the site was conducted in 1993 and 1994.

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.



Name Of Mine: Section 25 Mine

Topographic Location Of Mine: Section 25, T.13N., R.10W.

Operator Name: Reserve Oil and Minerals

Description Of Site Condition: Reserve Oil and Minerals operated this mine under a lease from Santa Fe Pacific Minerals Corporation. Open mine features were backfilled by Reserve Oil and Minerals upon termination of the lease agreement. Additional reclamation activities were conducted in 1994. Topography was returned to natural contour to the extent possible.

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.

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	MINING & MINERALS DIVISION	

Name Of Mine: Unknown

Topographic Location Of Mine: Section 19, T.13N., R.10W.

Operator Name: Todilto Exploration

Description Of Site Condition: Todilto Exploration operated a mine on this section under an agreement with Santa Fe Pacific Minerals Corporation. The site was reclaimed in accordance with Environmental Protection Agency standards in 1991. Open mine features were backfilled and areas of surface disturbance revegetated with native species. Topography was returned to original contour to the extent possible.

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.

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Name Of Mine: Unknown

Topographic Location Of Mine: SW/4 of Section 13, T.13N., R.11W.



Operator Name: Todilto Exploration

Description Of Site Condition: A portion of this section was operated by Todilto Exploration under a lease from Santa Fe Pacific Minerals Corporation. Open mine features were backfilled. Topography was returned to original contour to the extent possible. Additional reclamation of the site was conducted in 1994.

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.

Name Of Mine: Marquez Mine

Topographic Location Of Mine: Section 23, T.13N., R.9W.

Operator Name: United Nuclear Corporation

Description Of Site Condition: United Nuclear leased this section from Santa Fe Pacific Minerals Corporation. Open mine features were backfilled in 1987 and the site reclaimed. Areas of surface disturbance were revegetated with native species and topography returned to natural contour to the extent possible. Additional reclamation was conducted in 1994.

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.



Name Of Mine: Unknown

Topographic Location Of Mine: Section 17, T.13N., R.9W.

Operator Name: United Nuclear

Description Of Site Condition: This site was reclaimed. Disturbed areas were revegetated and topography returned to natural contour to the extent possible. Open adits and shafts were backfilled or otherwise safeguarded. The area is stable and there is no erosion present.

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.



Name Of Mine: Unknown

Topographic Location Of Mine: Section 31, T.13N., R.9W.

Operator Name: United Nuclear

Description Of Site Condition: United Nuclear operated the mine located on Section 31 under a lease from then Santa Fe Pacific Minerals Corporation. The lease was terminated in 1975. Open adits and shafts were backfilled or otherwise safeguarded in 1987. Areas of surface disturbance were revegetated and topography returned to natural contour to the extent possible.

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;

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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.



BRUCE KING

GOVERNOR

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ANITA LOCKWOOD CABINET SECRETARY

08/31/94

Certified No. Z 062 024 069

RESERVE OIL & MINERALS HAYSTACK MINE AND PIT , 0

Re: Site Assessment Overdue, HAYSTACK MINE AND PIT, RESERVE OIL & MINERALS, MK

DEAR RESERVE OIL & MINERALS

This letter is to inform you that you may be in non-compliance with the New Mexico Mining Act (the Act). Pursuant to Section 69-36-5A., owners or operators on new and existing mine sites within the State of New Mexico were required, by the Act to submit a site assessment of the mine site on or before June 30, 1994. To date the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) has not received a site assessment for the operation sited above and for which your name has been filed with this agency. Please find attached a copy of Section 69-36-5A. of the Act, and a copy of MMD's Mining Operation Site Assessment Check List. This information describes the requirements for filing a site assessment and the deadline, which was June 30, 1994.

Please note from the language of the Act describing the site assessment requirement, that even though you may not intend to continue mining operations, a site assessment and consequent permitting may still be required. Also, pursuant to Section 69-36-5E, prior reclamation may be accepted in lieu of a site assessment and permitting, as long as the work was completed before July 12, 1994 (the effective date of the Mining Rules).

The new Rules and the Act allow the director of MMD to issue a violation or cessation order if it is determined that a condition, practice or violation exists at any operation that violates the Act or Rules. A mining operation which falls under the requirements of the Act and which has not filed a site site assessment is in violation of the Act.

Please contact this office by September 30, 1994, regarding your site's status. If you do not believe you fall under the requirements of the Act, please advise us. If you do fall under the requirements of the Act, you must file a site assessment with this agency by October 31,1994.

VILLAGRA BUILDING - 408 Galisteo Forestry and Resources Conservation Division P.O. Box 1948 87504-1948

P.O. Box 1948 8/504-1948 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

Energy Conservation & Management 827-5900 Mining and Minerals 827-5970 If you have questions regarding this letter please contact me at 827-5925 or Holland Shepherd with the Mining Act Reclamation Bureau, at 827-5970.

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Thank you for your prompt attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

lan o John Lingo, Acting Director Mining and Minerals Division

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Attachments

cc: Carol Leach, Office of the General Council



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ANITA LOCKWOOD CABINET SECRETARY

08/31/94

Certified No. Z 062 024 069

RESERVE OIL & MINERALS SECTION 19 T13N R9W P.O. Box 546 Grants, NM 87020

Re: Site Assessment Overdue, SECTION 19 T13N R9W, RESERVE OIL & MINERALS,

DEAR RESERVE OIL & MINERALS

This letter is to inform you that you may be in nor compliance with the New Mexico Mining Act (the Act). Pursuant to Section 69-36-5A., owners or operators on new and existing mine sites within the State of New Mexico were required, by the Act to submit a site assessment of the mine site on or before June 30, 1994. To date the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) has not received a site assessment for the operation sited above and for which your name has been filed with this igency. Please thad attached a copy of Section 69-36-5A, of the Act, and a copy of MMD's Mining Operation Site Assessment Check List. This information describes the requirements for filing a site assessment and the deadline, which was June 30, 1994.

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VILLAGRA BUILDING - 408 Galisteo Forestry and Resources Conservation Division

Po. Box 1948 87504-1948 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 LAND OFFICE BUILDING - 310 Old Santa Fe Trail

Oil Conservation Division P.O. Box 2088 87504-2088 827-5800

Administrative Services 827-5925

Energy Conservation & Management 827-5900 Mining and Minerals 827-5970 If you have questions regarding this letter please contact me at 827-5925 or Holland Shepherd with the Mining Act Reclamation Bureau, at 827-5970.

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Thank you for your prompt attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

John Lingo, Acting Director Mining and Minerals Division

JL\hs

Attachments

cc: Carol Leach, Office of the General Council



NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS & NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

Jennifer A. Salisbury CABINET SECRETARY Kathleen A. Garland

May 13, 1996

Mr. Tim Leftwich Vice President - Environmental Quality Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation P.O. Box 27019 Albuquerque, NM 87110

Re: Prior Reclamation, Poison Canyon Mine, Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation

Dear Mr. Leftwich:

Thank you for your letter of April 25, 1996. Your cooperation in addressing the Poison Springs prior reclamation question is greatly appreciated.

You mentioned in your recent letter that you had assumed we had dropped the six sites mentioned in our February 13, 1996, from the list of sites requiring reclamation under Mining Act because of the marketable mineral clause found under the definition of "existing mining operation," in the Mining Act. This is correct, we determined that these sites did not meet the definition of an "existing mining operation." We were unable to find any record showing that these operations produced marketable minerals for a total of two years between January 1, 1970 and July 18, 1993.

Regarding the status of the Poison Springs site, this must be resolved through a variance or permit application. Pursuant to the New Mexico Mining Act (NMMA) Rules Subpart 510, Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation applied to the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) for an inspection of prior reclamation of their Poison Canyon Mine. During the inspection, MMD personnel could not determine if Santa Fe Pacific Gold's reclamation was successful because the newly seeded vegetation had not had enough time to become established.

MMD is agreeable to granting a variance from the September 30, 1995 deadline addressed in NMMA Rule Subpart 510.B if a variance request is submitted and the requirements of public participation in NMMA Rules Subpart 9 are completed. If the variance is granted MMD will reinspect the reclamation of the Poison Canyon Mine at a time to be agreed upon by the operator and MMD. If then the Director determines that the reclamation measures at the Poison Canyon Mine are consistent with the requirements of the NMMA and Rules then, pursuant to NMMA Rules Subpart 510.B, the Director will release the owner or operator from further requirements of the Act and Rules.

Thank you for sending us the updated address for Reserve Oil and Minerals Corp. We will again attempt to contact Reserve Oil and Minerals Corp. regarding the Poison Springs site. However, until we can get some type of commitment from Reserve Oil we must continue to consider Santa Fe Pacific Gold responsible for the site.

We would be happy to meet with you concerning the status of the Poison Springs mine. I will have sometime during the afternoon of Mon. 5/20 to meet and the afternoon of Fri. 5/24. I will then be out of the office until June 5, 1996. It is very important we resolve this as soon possible because of the time frames set up in the NMMA Rules.

Sincerely,

Holland Shepherd, Bureau Chief Mining Act Reclamation Bureau Mining and Minerals Division

HWS/RSY

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cc: Kathleen Garland, Director, MMD



POX 27 19 APRIQUERQUE NEW MEXICO 87(2) 6200 UPTOWN EAD NE SUITE 400 MPUQUERQUE NM 87(10) TEL 505-880-5300 - EXX 505-880-5435

April 25, 1996



Mr. Holland Shepherd Bureau Chief Mining Act Reclamation Bureau Mining & Minerals Division 2040 S. Pacheco St. Santa Fe, NM 87505

Re: Poison Canyon Mine

Dear Mr. Shepherd:

I am in receipt of your letter advising Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation that the Poison Canyon Mine is the only site for which we previously sought prior reclamation approval where further work will be necessary pursuant to the New Mexico Mining Act. We hereby respond without waiving any of our previously reserved positions regarding the New Mexico Mining Act in relation to Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation and the sites for which we sought prior reclamation approvals.

Your letter asks whether we have a more current address than the Grants, New Mexico address in your records for Reserve Oil and Minerals, the former operator of the site. Our files reflect that the current address of Reserve is as follows:

Suite 380, 20 First Plaza Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102 1-505/247-2384

Meanwhile, however, it would be helpful in evaluating our intentions concerning the Poison Canyon site if you would provide us with all information you have concerning the site, an assessment of what MMD believes still needs to be done, and your estimation of whether the site might be eligible for a variance or for permitting as a minimal impact site under the Mining Act.

Your letter also indicates that MMD has determined that certain sites which you previously advised were not eligible for a prior reclamation release are not, it turns out, within the definition of existing mining operations under the Act. Because Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation was not the operator of those sites, we have not attempted to evaluate production data to confirm your conclusions, which I assume are based on more than just our reservation of the legal position that the sites may

April 25, 1996 Page 2

not have produced in marketable quantities for a total of two years under the pertinent definition. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation contends we do not meet the definition of operator under the Act, therefore we have no obligation to conduct further reclamation of the Poison Canyon site.

We respectfully request a meeting concerning the state of the Poison Canyon site and how this issue might be resolved. Thank you very much.

Very truly yours,

the Litwick

Tim Leftwich Vice President -Environmental Quality

c: P. M. James G. R. Wagner W. Jarke S. R. Butzier