MK023PR SECTION 23 MINE (14N, 10W, Homestake)

Hol's al

HOMESTAKE MINING COMPANY

P.O. BOX 98 GRANTS, NEW MEXICO 87020 (505) 287-4456

December 19, 1995



Ms. Kathleen A. Garland, Director
Mining and Minerals Division
of New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural
Resources Department
P.O. Box 6429
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6429

Re: Prior Reclamation Release, Sections 13, 15, 23, 25 and 32 Mines, McKinley County

Dear Ms. Garland:

I received your Prior Reclamation Release letter dated September 29, 1995 on November 16, 1995. In this letter I found some areas that need clarification or changed to match the recorded documents already in the file. The following is a list of the corrections:

Page	Paragraph	Comment
2	1st under Inspection Procedures	Inspections occurred on June 29 and July 13, 1995 not June 28
3	1st under Section 13, T14N, R10W	United Nuclear-Homestake Partners began operation of Section 13 Mine in October, 1977
5	1st under Section 15, T14N, R10W	Section 15 Mine had approximately 30 aces disturbed
7	1st under Section 23 (T14N, R10W)	This section was reclaimed in June of 1992
9	1st under Photograph of Homestake's Section 23 Mine	Site inspection on June 29, 1995
9	1st under Section 25, T14N, R10W	Inspection began on June 29, 1995
11	1st under Maintenance Item(s)	I did not receive report until November 16, 1995. A report will be sent to Director of MMD 60 days from November 16, 1995

Ms. Kathleen A. Garland, Director December 19, 1995 Page 2

	14	1st under Summary and Conclusion	Staff recommends that Section 15, Section 13, Section 25 and Section 32 mine sites be released from further requirements of the New Mexico Mining Act.
L			iviexico iviining Act.

Should you have any questions please contact me at (505) 287-4456.

Sincerely,

F. R. Craft

Resident Manager

FRC:jg

September 29, 1995

Mr. Fred Craft, Resident Manager Homestake Mining Company of California P.O. Box 98 Grants, NM 87020

RE: Prior Reclamation Release, Section 13, 15, 23, 25 and 32 Mines, McKinley County, New Mexico

Dear Mr. Craft:

The Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) has completed the inspection of reclamation measures at the following mines as requested by Homestake Mining Company of California (HMC):

Section 13 T14N R10W Section 15 T14N R10W Section 25 T14N R10W Section 32 T14N R9W

Based on findings in the enclosed inspection reports, reclamation measures at the above mines satisfy the requirements of the New Mexico Mining Act (NMMA) and the substantive requirements for reclamation pursuant to the NMMA Rules. Therefore, HMC is hereby released from further requirements of the NMMA on the mines listed above. However, the Section 25 Mine was identified by staff as having one maintenance item which will need to be addressed. The release for this site will be conditional on Homestake performing the work discussed in the Section 25 report and meeting the deadline provided in the report.

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.

The Section 23 Mine was identified by staff as having insufficient cover to meet release. However, since Homestake has completed most reclamation measures at the mine, Homestake may apply for a variance from the provisions of the NMMA Rules pursuant to Rule 10. Otherwise Homestake must apply for a permit under the provisions of Rule 5.10.B.

MMD appreciates HMC's efforts to comply with the NMMA and commends them for their 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, New Mexico Environment Department

Mr. Mark Schmidt, State Land Office

Mr. Jerry Elkins, Surface Owner

Enclosures

PRIOR RECLAMATION INSPECTION REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION FOR RELEASE OR PERMIT REQUIREMENT

Homestake Mining Company -- California

Section 13, (T 14N R 10W), Section 15 (T 14N, R 10W), Section 23 (T 14N, R 10W), Section 25 (T 14N, R 10W) and Section 32 (T 14N, R 10W) Mines

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the 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 26, 1995

Introduction

The purpose of these inspections was to determine if reclamation measures at Homestake Mining Company's Section 13, Section 15, Section 23, Section 25, and Section 32 Mines satisfy the requirements of the New Mexico Mining Act (Section 69-36-7, Prior Reclamation) and other substantive requirements for prior reclamation pursuant to the New Mexico Mining Act Rules. The sites, their locations, and dates of inspections by the New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division are presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Homestake Mining Company's Prior Reclamation Sites.

Name of Mine	Location	Date of Inspection
Section 13	T 14N, R 10W	July 13, 1995
Section 15	T 14N, R 10W	July 13, 1995
Section 23	T 14N, R 10W	June 28, 1995
Section 25	T 14N, R 10W	June 28, 1995
Section 32	T 14N, R 10W	July 13, 1995

Inspection Procedures

Inspections by the Mining and Minerals Division of prior reclamation sites were conducted on the following mine sites: Section 13 (T 14N, R 10W), Section 15 (T 14N, R 10W), Section 23 (T 14N, R 10W), Section 25 (T 14N, R 10W), and Section 32 (T 14N, R 10W). All inspections were conducted and completed on June 28 and July 13, 1995. Persons present during the June 28, 1995 inspections of the Section 23 and Section 25 mines included: Mr. Joe DeAguero, Mr. Robert Garcia, Ms. Tacy Harling, and Ms. Robyn Tierney of the New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division; and Mr. Fred Craft, representing Homestake Mining Company (HMC). Persons present during the July 13, 1995 inspection of the Section 13, Section 15, and Section 32 mines included: Mr. Fred Craft, representing Homestake Mining Company; and Ms. Tacy Harling, and Mr. Robert Young of the New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division (MMD). The authors of this inspection report were Ms. Robyn Tierney and Mr. Robert Young.

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 and areas of water concentration (ponds, diversions and areas where disturbed areas enter undisturbed lands) were visually inspected for stability. Topsoil placement and distribution 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. Seventeen 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.

Results and Discussion

Maps and reports describing the conditions at the five mine sites were submitted by Homestake in 1994. The detail in these reports and maps is sufficient to describe conditions and facilities that were present on each site prior to reclamation and provide information on the reclamation of each site. Details of the reclamation activities at each site were further verified in discussions with Mr. Craft of Homestake Mining Company and by the on-site inspections conducted on June 29 and July 13, 1995.

Section 13, T 14N, R 10W

The present owner of the surface rights to Section 13 is Mr. Jerry Elkins. The owner of the mineral rights is Cerrillos Land Company (Santa Fe Pacific Railroad). Homestake-Sapin Partners began operation of the HMC Section 13 Mine in October 1977 as United Nuclear-Homestake Partners under a lease from Santa Fe Pacific Railroad. The partnership was dissolved February 1981 with Homestake Mining Company-Grants remaining as the operator. The company was later renamed Homestake Mining Company of California.

The Section 13 Mine lies within the Ambrosia Lake valley. Appendix A (Kelly 1963) depicts the stratigraphic column underlying the formations at this and the four other mine sites (Section 15. Section 23, Section 25, and Section 32) discussed in this report. Uranium ore was found in the "A" through "D" sandstone units of the Westwater Canyon member of the Morrison Formation (HMC, 1994). This mine was a dry mine (Craft, 1995). There are no surface water features in the section. Surface drainage is to an unnamed tributary of Arroyo del Puerto that, in turn, drains into San Mateo Creek. Structures which existed at the Section 13 Mine while it was in operation included an access road, a vertical shaft, a ventilation shaft, an equipment storage area, two waste rock piles, a compressor building and a office/hoist/compressor building. Homestake regraded and topsoiled the site in early 1992 and reseeded in June of the same year. The seed mixture used in the reclamation of the Section 13 Mine and the other mine sites is shown in Appendix B. Photographs of reclamation activities were provided in the request for prior reclamation inspection (HMC, 1994).

A barbed wire fence surrounded the site. All structures, trash or junk had been removed from the site. There were no visible piles or accumulations of toxic or waste material on the site. There were no apparent hazards

or erosion features that could affect public health and safety. The slopes of the reclaimed waste rock piles appeared stable with respect to erosion and mass movement. The reclaimed waste rock piles blended in with the surrounding terrain and provided topographic diversity. Shaft boreholes were backfilled with nontoxic mine waste material and capped with concrete slabs that were, in turn, covered with a foot of soil (HMC, 1994). Top soil depths across the site ranged from 5 to 14 inches. There was some evidence of grazing by wildlife. Perennial species identified on the site included blue grama, galleta, snakeweed, western wheatgrass, alkali sacaton and globemallow (Table 2). The area had had little precipitation during the course of the summer and vegetation was drought stressed. Line-intercept transects (Table 3) indicated that there was approximately 18 percent perennial vegetative cover and 30 percent litter cover (DeAguero, 1995).

Table 2. List of Species at Homestake's Section 13 Mine

COMMON NAME	Genus & species'	
Alkali sacaton	Sporobolus airoides	
Western wheatgrass	Agropyron smithii	
Crested wheatgrass	Agropyron cristatum	
Blue grama grass	Bouteloua gracilis	
Galleta	Hilaria jamesii	
Ragweed	Kochia scoparium	
Daisy fleabane	Erigeron sp.	
Scarlet globemallow	Sphaeralcea coccinea	
Yellow snakeweed	Gutierrezia sarothrae	

	Value (%)
Perennial Cover:	6
Litter Cover	53
Rock Cover	0
Bare Ground	35
Number of perennial species present in belt transect	5
Transect #2	Value (%)
Perennial Cover:	24

Litter Cover	12
Rock Cover	0
Bare Ground	65
Number of perennial species present in belt transect	4
Transect #3	Value (%)
Perennial Cover:	24
Litter Cover	24
Rock Cover	6
Bare Ground	47
Number of perennial species present in belt transect	T

Maintenance Items:

None

Photographs of HMC's Section 13 Mine

- 1. This photograph is of the stockpile area following reclamation.
- Photograph #2 documents the characteristic wasterock material found at the Section 13 mine site.
- 3. These two photographs (#3 and #4) are panoramic views of the borrow area.

Section 15, T 14N, R 10W

The Section 15 Mine prior reclamation site is located in the Ambrosia Lake valley, 27 miles northwest of Grants, New Mexico. Approximately 40 acres of Section 15 (where the headframe existed) were disturbed. The rest of the mine was restricted to underground workings. Homestake, however, has asked for release of the entire section and mine site from further requirements of the Act (Craft, 1995). The owner of the surface estate is Mr. Jerry Elkins. Mineral rights are owned by Cerrillos Land Company (Santa Fe Pacific Railroad).

Operation of the HMC Section 15 Mine was initiated by Homestake-Sapin Partners in February 1958 under a lease from Santa Fe Pacific Railroad. In 1968 Homestake-Sapin Partners became United Nuclear-Homestake Partners. This partnership was dissolved in February 1981 and Homestake Mining Company, later renamed Homestake Mining Company of California, became the operator. The Section 15 mine closed in 1981

(HMC, 1994). The mine was wet and water was pumped from the mine into a pond (Craft, 1995). There are no surface water features in the section. As in the case of Homestake's Section 13 Mine, surface drainage is to an unnamed tributary of Arroyo del Puerto which, in turn, drains into San Mateo Creek. Structures which existed while the Section 15 Mine was in operation included vertical shafts, a declined shaft, 3 ventilation boreholes, 2 waste rock piles, a dewatering pond and a office/hoist building. Homestake reclaimed this site in early 1992 and reseeded (Appendix B) it in June 1992. Photographs of the reclamation activities at this site are provided in the HMC report (1994).

The entire section and mine site have been fenced with barbed wire. All structures, trash, and debris have been removed from the mine site. There were no apparent accumulations of waste materials or hazards that could affect public health or safety on the site. The reclaimed wasterock piles were stable with no erosion or rill formation. These piles also blended in with the surrounding terrain and provided topographic relief. The mine and air shafts were backfilled with nontoxic mine waste materials, capped with concrete slabs, then covered with a foot of soil (HMC, 1994). Topsoil depths across the site ranged from 4.5 to 10 inches. There was some evidence of grazing by domenstic cattle and wildlife. The vegetation (Table 4) also showed signs of drought stress. Litter cover and perennial vegetative cover (Table 5) were approximately 29 percent and 31 percent, respectively (DeAguero, 1995).

Table 4. List of Species at Homestake's Section 15 Mine

COMMON NAME	Genus & species!
Alkali sacaton	Sporobolus airoides
Sand dropseed	Sporobolus cryptandrus
Western wheatgrass	Agropyron smithu
Blue grama grass	Boutelona graculis
Indian ricegrass	Oryzopsis hymenoides
Galleta	Hilaria jamesii
Foxtail barley	Hordeum juhatum
Yellow snakeweed	Gutierrezia sarothrae

Nomenclature after Martin, W. C. and C. R. Hutchins. 1980. A Flora of New Mexico. J. Cramer, Vaduz, Germany, Welsh, S.J. G. 1987. A Utah Flora. Great Basin Naturalist Memoir No. 9.

Table 5. Summary of Relative Cover Data at Homestake's Section 15 Mine.

Transect #1	Value (%)
Perennal Cover	,2
Litter Cover	<u>5</u> ()
Pock Cover	,

Bare Ground	32
Number of perennial species present in belt transect	5
Transect #2	Value (%)
Perennial Cover:	20
Litter Cover	20
Rock Cover	')
Bare Ground	35
Number of perennial species present in helt transect	8

Maintenance Items:

None.

Photographs of Homestake's Section 15 Mine

The photographs on the following page were taken during site inspection of the Section 15 Mine on July 13, 1995.

Section 23, (T 14N, R 10W)

This section was reclaimed in June of 1994. The seed mixture used in the reclamation of the Section 23 Mine is presented in Appendix A of this document. Most of the reclaimed mine site is covered with the annual weeds ragweed (Kochia scoparium) and Russian thistle (Salsola kali). The following table (Table 4) contains a list of all species identified on the reclaimed Section 23 mine site. This list is not inclusive of all the plant species that may be present on this site at other times of the year.

Table 6. List of Species at Homestake's Section 23 Mine

COMMONNAME	Genus & species:
Alkah sacaton	Sporobolus airoides
Sand dropseed	Sporobolus crypt mirus
Crested wheatgrass	Azropyron cristatian

COMMON NAME	Genus & species ¹
Western wheatgrass	Agropyron smithii
Blue grama grass	Bouteloua gracilis
Indian ricegrass	Oryzopsis hymenoides
Galleta	Hilaria jamesii
Foxtail barley	Hordeum jubatum
Mountain brome	Bromus mollis
Cheatgrass	Bromus tectorum
Searlet globemallow	Sphaeralcea coccinea
Winterfat	Ceratoides lanata
Mexican hat	Ratibida columnifera
Dock sp.	Rumex sp.
Fourwing saltbush	Atriplex canescens
Yellow snakeweed	Gutierrezia sarothrae

Nomenclature after: Martin, W. C. and C. R. Hutchins. 1980. A Flora of New Mexico. J. Cramer, Vaduz, Germany. Welsh, S.L. et al. 1987. A Utah Flora. Great Basin Naturalist Memoir No. 9.

Table 7. Summary of Relative Cover Data at Homestake's Section 23 Mine.

Transect #1	Value (%)
Perennial Cover	0
Litter Cover	0
Rock Cover	0
Bare Ground	29
Number of perennial present in belt transect	0

Maintenance Items:

Homestake may need to consider reseeding this site or wait to see if an adequate cover can be achieved in another season or two of growth.

Photographs of Homestake's Section 23 Mine

The following photographs were taken during the site inspection on June 28, 1995 to document conditions at the Section 23 Mine. These represent a panoramic view of the mine.

Section 25, T 14N, R 10W

Inspection of the Section 25 Mine reclaimed by Homestake Mining Company began on June 28, 1995, and concluded (due to inclement weather) on July 13, 1995. Persons present during both portions of the inspection included: Mr. Fred Craft representing Homestake; the lead inspector for this prior reclamation inspection was Joe DeAguero. Other inspectors representing MMD included: Ms. Robyn Tierney, Mr. Robert Garcia, Mr. Robert Young, and Ms. Tacy Harling.

The Section 25 Mine sits on an a flat area southwest of the New Mexico highway 509 spur. A prior reclamation report submitted by Homestake in 1994 for the Section 25 mine, describes the reclamation activities completed at the mine. Included in the report are maps of the reclaimed features (photos and field surveys), a discussion of the geology, ecology, topography and hydrology, detailed description of the reclamation conducted at the site and a description of achievement of Reclamation Requirements. The prior reclamation report submitted by HMC is a comprehensive summary of the reclamation conducted at the site. There is sufficient detail contained in the report to describe conditions and facilities that occurred at the site prior to reclamation and where these facilities were located. Further, the details of the reclamation conducted on site were verified on site during the inspections.

Table 8 lists of all plant species identified on the reclaimed site. This list is not inclusive of all species that may be present at other times of the year. Many of the forb species are dormant during the drought season.

Table 8. List of Species at Homestake's Section 25 Mine

COMMONNAME	Genus & species'	
Aikaa sacaten	Spore solus arreides	
Sand trapseed	Smorth of the Crepture of the	
We dem whe deciss	Upogram saam	
Plue grama grass	Pontelona graculis	
Indian ricegrass	Oryzopsis livmensi les	

COMMON NAME	Genus & species'
Tumblegrass	Schedonnardus paniculatus
Galleta	Hilaria jamesii
Curlycup gumweed	Grindelia squarosa
Bigelow's aster	Aster bigelovii
Searlet globemailow	Sphaeralcea coccinea
Milkweed	Aesclepias sp.
Winterfat	Ceratoides lanata
Yellow snakeweed	Gutierrezia sarothrae

Nomenclature after: Martin, W. C. and C. R. Hutchins. 1980. A Flora of New Mexico. J. Cramer, Vaduz, Germany. Welsh, S.L. et al. 1987. A Utah Flora. Great Basin Naturalist Memoir No. 9.

The entire site was surveyed for erosion features. During a walkover of the mine site, slopes and areas of water concentration (ponds, diversions and areas where disturbed areas enter undisturbed lands) were evaluated for erosion. Most of the site appeared to be stable with little potential for development of erosion features. Disturbed portions of the section were graded and slopes were configured to minimize soil. This site, however, is largely flat with small, irregular undulations. The entire reclaimed area ties in well with the surrounding undisturbed landscape. Contoured slopes of the wasterock dumps have been designed, constructed and topsoiled. The south edge of the first (closest to highway 509) of two wasterock piles has some wind erosion damage. This area was regraded to reduce the slope and was re-topsoiled with alluvial soils from a local borrow area. The above mentioned disturbance will need to be reseeded in the fall of 1995 (see maintenance item #1). Sufficient topsoil for the establishment of vegetation has been borrowed and redistributed over the entire reclaimed area. A series of random and systematic sampling was conducted to identify the soil depth and the potential for any rooting or establishment problems. Random sampling of soil depth was done by digging soil pits approximately 18" deep to determine the depth of topsoil material acquired from a borrow site and distributed on the reclaimed site. Average topsoil depth was approximately 12 inches.

There are no perennial or intermittent streams near the site. All surface runoff drains to ephemeral drainages near the reclaimed site. Although the mine was situated in a geological strata that contained water, there should be no adverse effects to the hydrologic stability of the site. Concerns about surfacewater quality have been addressed by topsoiling, seeding and mulching the reclaimed shaft, stockpile and waste areas. With the exception of the retopsoiled area as discussed above, all of these areas are well covered with vegetation (Table 9), have achieved stability, and are configured to minimize erosion.

Table 9. Summary of Relative Cover Data at Homestake's Section 25 Mine.

Transect #1	Value (%)	
Perennial Cover:	12	
Litter Cover	29	
Rock Cover	0	
Bare Ground	59	
Number of perennial species present in belt transect	y	
Transect #2	Value (%)	
Perennial Cover:	12	
Litter Cover	41	
Rock Cover	0	
Bare Ground	47	
Number of perennial species present in helt transcet	7	
Transect #3	Value (%)	
Perennial Cover:	18	
Litter Cover	18	
Rock Cover	0	
Bare Ground	65	
Number of perennial species present in belt transect	7	

Maintenance Item(s):

1. Reseed south portion of regraded and re-topsoiled wasterock pile (No. 1) no later than October 31, 1995. Please provide to the Director of the MMD, photographs and a description of work performed onsite, no later than November 15, 1995.

Photographs of Homestake's Section 25 Mine

No photographs were taken at this site.

Section 32, T 14N R10W

The Section 32 Mine prior reclamation site is located in the Ambrosia Lake valley, approximately 22 miles northwest of the City of Grants. New Mexico. The actual mine site consists of only 60 acres where the head frame existed -- the remaining mine workings were underground. Homestake, however, has asked for release of the entire mine site from further requirements of the Act (Craft, 1995). The owner of the surface estate and mineral rights is the State of New Mexico. Homestake operated and reclaimed the mine under a lease agreement with the State of New Mexico. The New Mexico Land Commission has officially terminated HMC's lease pending approval of reclamation by the Mining and Minerals Division (HMC, 1994).

Homestake-Sapin Partners began operation of the HMC Section 32 Mine November 1961. In 1968 this partnership became United Nuclear-Homestake partners. This partnership was, in turn, dissolved February 1981 and Homestake Mining Company-Grants (later renamed Homestake Mining Company of California) became the operator in February 1981. The mine was in operation from 1958 to 1979. The mine was wet and water was pumped from the mine into ponds (Craft, 1995). There are no surface water features in the section. Surface drainage is to an unnamed tributary of Arroyo del Puerto that, in turn, drains into San Mateo Creek. Structures which existed at the Section 32 Mine when it was in operation include an access road, vertical shaft, ventilation borehole, hoist house, office and change room building and a dewatering pond. Reclamation activities took place in August 1991 by independent contractors (HMC, 1994). Since then the site has been grazed as required by a lease agreement with the State of New Mexico (Craft, 1995).

This site was inspected for stability and the presence of permanent vegetation (Table 10). Although grazing has had a significant impact on the vegetation (Table 11) at this mine, the reclaimed areas are sufficiently stable with adequate vegetative cover.

Table 10. List of Species at Homestake's Section 32 Mine

COMMON NAME	Genus and species ^t	
Alkali sacaton	Sporobolus airoides	
Sand dropseed	Sporobolus cryptandrus	
Western wheatgrass	Agropyron smithii	
Blue grama	Bouteloua gracilis	
Galleta	Hilaria jamesii	
Scarlet globemallow	Sphaeralcea coccinea	
Ragweed	Kochia scoparium	
Snakeweed	Gutterrezta sarothrae	

Nomene' (three after Martin, W. C. and C. R. (Hardars, 1986). A Flora of New Mexico. J. Crumer, Vaduz, Germany Webb, S.4., et al., 1987. A Utah Flora, Great Basin Naturalist Memoir No. J.

Table 11. Summary of Relative Cover Data at Homestake's Section 32 Mine

Transect #1	Value (%)
Perennial Cover:	12
Litter Cover	41
Rock Cover	0
Bare Ground	41
Number of perennal species present in belt transect	6
Transect #2	Value (%)
	Value (%)
Perennial Cover	
Transect #2 Perennial Cover Litter Cover Rock Cover	0
Perennial Cover Litter Cover	J7

Maintenance Item(s):

None.

Photographs of Homestake's Section 32 Mine

The photographs on the following pages are panoramic views of the Section 32 Mine.

Summary and Conclusions

Based on the inspection of these sites, review of inspection information with Mining and Minerals Division staff and MMD's resources to conduct these inspections, staff recommends that the Section 15, Section 17, Section 25, and Section 32 mine sites operated by Homestake Mining Company (Homestake) be released from further requirements of the New Mexico Mining Act. These sites have perennial vegetation that is clearly becoming established. It is staff's conclusion that these sites meet the environmental conditions that allow for the reestablishment of a 'self-sustaining ecosystem' as defined in Rule 1 and put forth in Rule 5.7A of the New Mexico Mining Act.

Based on the outcome of these inspections, staff does not recommend the release of the Section 23 site. The vegetation at this site was too sparse to provide adequate information needed in making the determination that the site has been reclaimed to a condition that allows for a self-sustaining ecosystem. Staff recommends waiting to make this determination until the plant community onsite has become better established.

Literature Cited

Bonham, C. D. 1989. Measurement of Terrestrial Vegetation. Wiley-Interscience. 338 pp.

Craft, Fred. 1995. Resident Manager, Homestake Mining Company, Personal Communication

DeAguero, Joseph C. 1995. Reclamation Specialist, Mining and Minerals Division, Field Notes

Homestake Mining Company (HMC) 1994. Reclamation Reports, Section 13 Mine, Section 15 Mine, Section 23 Mine, Section 25 Mine, Section 32 Mine.

Kelly, V. C. 1963. Geology and Technology of the Grants Uranium Region, Memoir 15, New Mexico Bureau of Mines and Minerals Resources, Socorro, New Mexico.

Martin, P. C., and C. R. Hutchins. 1980. A Flora of New Mexico. J. Cramer Press, Vaduz, Germany. 2591 pp.

Welsh, S. L. et al. 1989. A Utah Flora. Great Basin Naturalist Memoir No. 9. Bringaham Young University Press. 898 pp.

Appendix A

Stratigraphy of the Ambrosia Lake District (Kelly 1963).

Appendix B

Reclamation Seed Mixture (HMC, 1994)

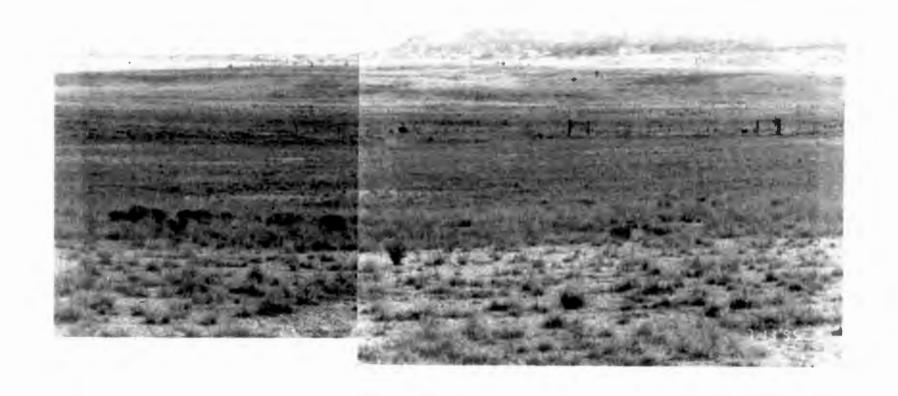
Common Name	Variety	Pounds Pure Live Seed per Acre
Western Wheatgrass	Arribu	3.2
Blue Grama	Lovington	0.5
Sand Dropseed		1.0
Galleta	Caryopsis	0.5
Galleta	Florets	1.2
Alkali Sacaton	Salado	1.5
	Total	7.9



Section 13, T14N, R10W
From middle of site looking southwest



Section 13, T14N, R10W From south side of site looking west



Section 13, T14N, R10W From middle of site looking northeast



Homestake Section 15 T14N R10W



Homestake Section 15 T14N R10W

HOMESTAKE MINING COMPANY

P.O. BOX 98 GRANTS, NEW MEXICO 87020 (505) 287-4456

July 25, 1994



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

Attn.: Mr. Holland W. Shepherd, Bureau Chief

Re: Prior Reclamation of Mine Sites

Dear Mr. Shepherd:

Homestake Mining Company of California is preparing to submit, by August 31, 1994, prior reclamation status for the following mine sites: Section 13, Section 15, Section 23, Section 25 and Section 32. The prior reclamation status reports will consist of the following elements: Introduction, History of Operation, Climatology, Ecology, Geology, Topography, Hydrology, Mine Operation Description, Reclamation, Reclamation Procedures, Achievement of Reclamation Requirements, and Reclamation Seed Mixture. I believe the outline will complete the prior reclamation requirements.

I reviewed the list of mine sites listed under Homestake Mining Company of California and found the following listings need to be removed: UN-HP Section 23, UNC Section 15, UNC Section 25, UNC Section 32, UN-HP Section 13, and Section 25 T12N Wayne Jacke R10W.

It was good to see you again and I'm looking forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

HOMESTAKE MINING COMPANY

F. R. Craft (Free) Resident Manager

FRC: jg

An Equal Opportunity Employer

12, 15, 23, 2

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94108 0008959 No. VENDOR NAME State of New Mexico VENDOR NO: 3096 DATE: 25-AUG-94 CUST. ACCT. NO. NET AMOUNT INVOICE DATE DISCOUNT AMOUNT INVOICE NO. .00 1,250.00 Inspection 19-AUG-94 RECEIVED AUG 3 | 1994 MINING & MINERALS DIVISION .00 1,250.00 Thank You PLEASE DETACH AND RETAIN THIS STATEMENT AS YOUR RECORD OF PAYMENT.

HOMESTAKE MINING COMPANY

650 CALIFORNIA STREET, 11th FLOOR SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94108-2788 Drawn on Pittsburgh National Bank Jeannette, Pennsylvania in Cooperation With Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. #4759-008618 60-162/433

BY

No. 0008959

 CHECK DATE
 CHECK NUMBER
 CHECK AMOUNT

 25-AUG-94
 8959
 1,250.00

PAY One Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Dollars and No Cents RECEIVED

TO THE ORDER OF State of New Mexico Energy, Minerals & Natural Resource 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe NM 87505

BY MINING & MINERALS

HOMESTAKE MINING COMPANY

P.O. BOX 98 GRANTS, NEW MEXICO 87020 (505) 287-4456

August 30, 1994

UPS TRACKING LABEL: 1078 5568 745



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

Attn.: Mr. Holland W. Shepherd, Bureau Chief

Re: Prior Reclamation of Mine Sites

Dear Mr. Shepherd:

Enclosed are the five prior reclamation reports for Homestake Mining Company of California mines. The mines are Section 13, 15, 23, 25, all in Township 14 North, Range 10 West, and Section 32 in Township 14 North, Range 9 West. These reports comply with the New Mexico Mining Act to satisfy prior reclamation activities. Also enclosed is a check for \$1250 for fees at \$250 per mine site.

If you have any questions please contact me at the Grants office.

Sincerely,

HOMESTAKE MINING COMPANY

F. R. Craft

Resident Manager

FRC:jg

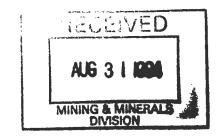
Enclosures



BOX 27019 ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87125 6200 UPTOWN BLVD NE SUITF 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

im Leftwich

260530

Request For Approval Of Prior Reclamation

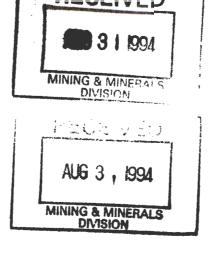
Name Of Mine:

Unknown

Homestabe

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

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

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

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

HOMESTAKE MINING COMPAN.

P.O. BOX 98 GRANTS, NEW MEXICO 87020 (505) 287-4456

July 25, 1994



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

Attn.: Mr. Holland W. Shepherd, Bureau Chief

Re: Prior Reclamation of Mine Sites

Dear Mr. Shepherd:

Homestake Mining Company of California is preparing to submit, by August 31, 1994, prior reclamation status for the following mine sites: Section 13, Section 15, Section 23, Section 25 and Section 32. The prior reclamation status reports will consist of the following elements: Introduction, History of Operation, Climatology, Ecology, Geology, Topography, Hydrology, Mine Operation Description, Reclamation, Reclamation Procedures, Achievement of Reclamation Requirements, and Reclamation Seed Mixture. I believe the outline will complete the prior reclamation requirements.

I reviewed the list of mine sites listed under Homestake Mining Company of California and found the following listings need to be removed: UN-HP Section 23, UNC Section 15, UNC Section 25, UNC Section 32, UN-HP Section 13, and Section 25 T12N Wayne Jacke R10W.

It was good to see you again and I'm looking forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

HOMESTAKE MINING COMPANY

F. R. Craft (F)

Resident Manager

FRC: jg

State of New Mexico ENERGY, INTINERALS and NATURAL RESOURCES L_PARTMENT Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505





ANITA LOCKWOOD CABINET SECRETARY

December 14, 1994

Mr. Fred Craft HomeStake Mining Co P. O. Box 98 Grants, New Mexico 87020

Evaluation Guidelines for Prior Reclamation Sites. RE:

Dear Mr. Craft:

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Holland Sheeherd

Bureau Chief

Mine Act Reclamation Bureau Mining and Minerals Division

VILLAGRA BUILDING - 408 Galisteo

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

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

2040 South Pacheco

Office of the Secretary 827-5950

Administrative Services

827-5925

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

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

HOMESTAKE MINING COMPANY

P.O. BOX 98 GRANTS, NEW MEXICO 87020 (505) 287-4456

August 30, 1994

UPS TRACKING LABEL: 1078 5568 745



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

Attn.: Mr. Holland W. Shepherd, Bureau Chief

Re: Prior Reclamation of Mine Sites

Dear Mr. Shepherd:

Enclosed are the five prior reclamation reports for Homestake Mining Company of California mines. The mines are Section 13, 15, 23, 25, all in Township 14 North, Range 10 West, and Section 32 in Township 14 North, Range 9 West. These reports comply with the New Mexico Mining Act to satisfy prior reclamation activities. Also enclosed is a check for \$1250 for fees at \$250 per mine site.

If you have any questions please contact me at the Grants office.

Sincerely,

HOMESTAKE MINING COMPANY

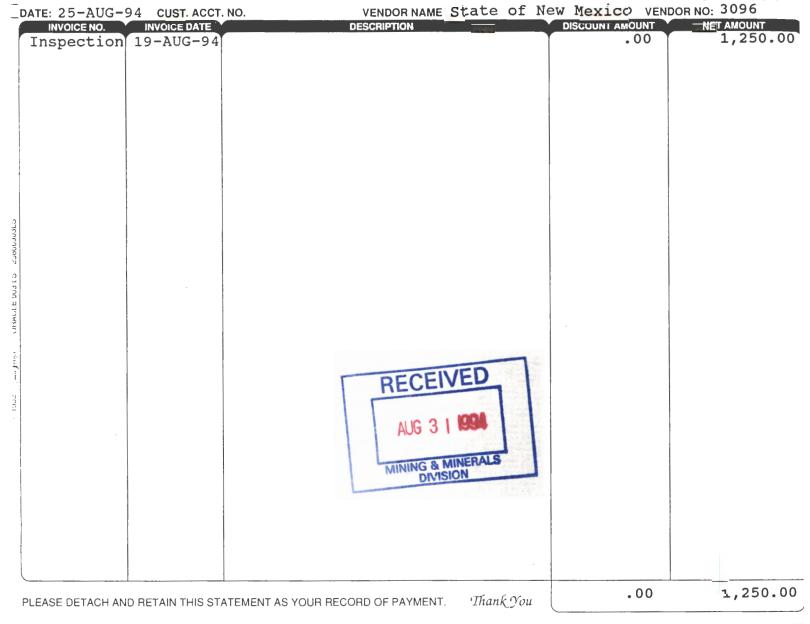
F. R. Craft

Resident Manager

FRC:jg

Enclosures

No. 0008959





650 CALIFORNIA STREET, 11th FLOOR SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94108-2788 Drawn on Pittsburgh National Bank Jeannette, Pennsylvania in Cooperation With Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. #4759-008618 60-162/433

No. 0008959

 CHECK DATE
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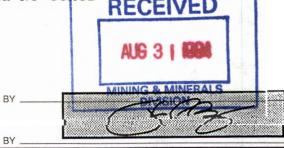
TO THE

ORDER OF State of New Mexico

Energy, Minerals & Natural Resource

2040 South Pacheco Street

Santa Fe NM 87505



Jegtron 23 Saction Water here! Reclaimed Jone 1997 - 9004 [050' 726' 800' Section 23: 32 - See Again
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Holu 7/14 Br14
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Homestake's Section 23 Mine (T 14N, R 10W). Panoramic view. June 28, 1995. Joe DeAguero Photographer



Homestake's Section 23 Mine (T 14N, R 10W). Panoramic view. June 28, 1995. Joe DeAguero Photographer



Homestake Section 23 Mine (T14N, R10W) From east side of site looking west





Section 32, T14N, R10W From middle of site facing southeast



Section 32, Tl4N, RlOW From east side of site facing west



Section 32, T14N, R10W

From north side of site facing northwest

(From left to right - Robert Young, Tacy Harling, Fred Craft)

RECLAMATION REPORT SECTION 23 MINE

2

HOMESTAKE MINING COMPANY OF CALIFORNIA

SUBMITTED TO

MINING AND MINERALS DIVISION ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT STATE OF NEW MEXICO

AUGUST 29, 1994

COMPILED BY AK GeoConsult, Inc.

REPORT OF RECLAMATION OF AN EXISTING MINE PRIOR TO JUNE 18, 1994 HOMESTAKE MINING COMPANY OF CALIFORNIA SECTION 23 MINE

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Homestake Mining Company of California (HMC) submits the following information on the closure of their Section 23 mine located in McKinley County, New Mexico (Figure 1). This information is provided to comply with Section 69-36-1B(3) of the New Mexico Mining Act and Section 5.10 of the new New Mexico Mining Rules and Regulations. The Section 23 mine is considered an "Existing Mining Operation" because it produced marketable minerals (uranium) for a total of at least two years between January 1, 1970 and the effective date of the act.

HMC Section 23 mine is located in the Ambrosia Lake valley in T14N, R10W as shown on Figure 1. The owner of the surface estate is Homestake Mining Company of California. The owner of the mineral rights is Cerrillos Land Company (Santa Fe Pacific Railroad). The mine was in operation from 1958 to 1990.

1.1 History of Operation

The HMC Section 23 mine went into operation in April, 1958 by the Homestake-Sapin Partners under a lease from Santa Fe Pacific Railroad. In 1968 this partnership became United Nuclear-Homestake Partners, which was subsequently dissolved in February 1981 and the operator became Homestake Mining Company - Grants, later renamed Homestake Mining Company of California.

1.2 Mine Site Description

1.2.1 Climatology

The climate is typical of High Sonoran Desert areas with average precipitation of about 9 to 10 inches at elevations of less than 6000 feet to more than 12 inches at elevations above 7000 feet. Annual air temperature range is about 54 degrees F at lower elevations and about 47 degrees F at higher elevations and the average frost-free period is 115 to 145 days. The prevailing wind is from the southwest. The rainy season is in the summer. About half of the annual precipitation falls during the period July through September, mostly during brief thunder storms (SCS, 1993).

1.2.2 Ecology

The soil and vegetation in and surrounding Section 23 were mapped and classified by the local Soil Conservation Service (SCS, 1994). Three basic soil complexes are within the site and surrounding areas. These are:

- A. Penistaja Tintero complex, 1 to 10 percent slopes
- B. Sparank-San Mateo Zia complex, 0 to 5 percent slopes
- C. Hagerman Bond fine sandy loams, 1 to 8 percent slopes

These soil complexes are found at elevations of 6200-7100 feet on dip slopes of cuestas, fan terraces, valley sides, flood plains and drainage ways. The vegetation communities consist mainly of blue grama, western wheatgrass, sand dropseed and alkali sacaton, bottlebrush squirreltail, fourwing saltbush and indian ricegrass. The soil and vegetation types are favorable for livestock grazing and wildlife habitat (SCS, 1994). The wildlife in the area is limited to species of small mammals and bird species typical of grassland/desert shrub communities.

1.2.3 Geology

Section 23 is located in the Ambrosia Lake District of northwestern New Mexico. This district occupies a portion of the southern limb of the San Juan Basin, called the Chaco Slope (Figure 2), and is bordered on the south by the Zuni uplift and on the east by the Mt. Taylor Volcanic Plateau.

The stratigraphic unit underlying Section 23 is shown on Figure 3 (Kelley, 1963). This shows the Cretaceous system of Mancos shale and Dakota sandstone overlying the Jurassic System of the Morrison Formation. Uranium ore is found in the A through D sandstone units of the Westwater Canyon member of the Morrison Formation.

Two distinctly different types of ore occur in Section 23. These are the coffinite and uraninite minerals of which coffinite represents 99 percent of the ore. The primary ore bodies consist of uraniferous blankets of humic organic matter which fills the intergranular space in the host rock. The blanket occurs along several trends, like beads on a string.

1.2.4 Topography

The topography in Section 23 consists of very gentle natural slopes of about 1.0 percent. Because of mining, these gentle slopes have been altered due to the recontouring and borrow soil removal for reclamation purposes. The reclaimed waste pile has created a small mound with side slopes of about 10:1 that blend into the natural landscape.

1.2.5 Hydrology

There are no perennial or intermittent streams in the mine area. All surface runoff drains to ephemeral water courses. Drainage in the area flows southeast to the San Mateo Drainage.

2.0 MINING OPERATION DESCRIPTION

The Section 23 mine was a typical underground mine (Figure 4) which used the modified room and pillar method to recover the primary and redistributed ore. The mine began operation in 1958 and stopped in 1990 due to the declining uranium market. In addition to the modified room and pillar method it was common to blast an opening in the lower part of the ore body which left it unsupported. When the ore fell to the bottom of the opening or stope it was removed by the miner using a machine called a slusher. This ore then was transferred by truck or rail car to the main shaft for transport to the surface.

In portions of the mined ore body that could not be economically mined any further using conventional mining methods, HMC used solution mining. Recycled mine water, without additives, was injected into holes drilled into the mined-out stope areas from ground surface. Water leached much of the remaining oxidized uranium and then flowed to the lowest part of the mine where it was collected and pumped to the surface for processing by ion exchange.

To support the underground mining operation, several support facilities were constructed on the surface. These included the supply yard, hoist, headframe, administrative building, parking lot and various other small facilities. A layout of these facilities is shown on Figure 5. All these support facilities were removed during reclamation as discussed in Section 3.0.

3.0 RECLAMATION

HMC reclamation of Section 23 consisted of three phases conducted by independent contractors which included:

- Removal of buildings, headframes, equipment; shaft and borehole sealing; pond closure; and injection well sealing.
- Earthwork for site and waste pile recontouring.
- Revegetation.

Some of these reclamation activities are shown in photos 23A-23G.

3.1 Reclamation Procedures

Reclamation procedures began in August 1991 and included the following activities:

- 1. removal of office, hoist, maintenance, and change room buildings
- 2. removal of compressor and pumphouse buildings
- demolition and scrapping of headframe and related equipment
- 4. removal of hoist and hoisting equipment and emergency hoist building
- vertical shaft sealing
- 6. injection well (about 420 wells) and borehole sealing
- scrap/trash removal

All buildings were removed down to the concrete foundations. All building material and equipment was buried on site, removed from the site for disposal in approved land fill, or salvaged by the contractor. Any trash on the site was also buried or removed.

Boreholes were backfilled to within five (5) feet of the surface and the casing was cut off 4-8 feet below original ground surface. Each borehole has a 2.0 foot thick, reinforced concrete cap, as shown on Figure 6. The vertical shaft was backfilled to within two (2) feet of the surface and capped with a reinforced concrete cap as shown in Figure 7.

The injection wells were excavated to about three feet below ground surface, then the injection pipes were bent 90 degrees and laid flat against the bottom of the excavation. A bridge was placed over the open hole, then a concrete cap, 0.5 feet thick by 3.0 feet in diameter, was placed over the bridge. The remainder of the hole was backfilled with soil to ground surface.

The piping and valves of the ponds were removed and either disposed of on site or salvaged. The containment berms were pushed into the pond to fill the basin, and the fill surface was graded to create a smooth surface.

This work was completed in approximately four weeks after start-up.

The earthwork phase for the reconfiguration and cover of the waste piles began in May 1992. This work consisted of waste pile reshaping, placement of top soil from borrow area and recontouring for natural drainage. The cut and fill areas are shown on Figure 8. This work was completed in June 1992.

The third and final phase of reclamation was reseeding 100 acres in the disturbed area of the site. This began in late June 1992 and was completed the early part of July 1992. The area was reseeded using a drill seeder and mulched at 1000 pounds per acre with the mulch crimped into the soil. The seed mixture used is shown on Table 1. The reseeded area was fenced to prevent livestock entry and enhance the reclamation process. The post-reclamation conditions of the site are shown in photographs 231-23L taken in June 1994. Additional color slides showing the reclamation procedures are available for the Division's review at HMC's Grants office.

The reclamation procedures described above have removed or sealed mine-related features that might pose hazards to the public health and safety. The shaft and borehole plugging was successful and in the time period since sealing there is no evidence of any subsidence. There are no known environmental impacts associated with ground or surface water from the reclamation procedures. The reseeding has established a vegetation cover that appears to be similar to that on surrounding undisturbed ground. The anticipated post-mining land use is grazing and wildlife habitat.

There are no other permits, licenses, or other regulatory requirements that affect this mine site.

HMC will continue to monitor the revegetation success until release by the MMD Director as outlined in section 5.10 of the Rules.

3.2 Achievement of Reclamation Requirements

Through the procedures described above, HMC has achieved the reclamation requirements as outlined in Section 69-36-11B(3) of the New Mexico Act. In accordance with the provisions of 5.10, Prior Reclamation, of the Rules, HMC is requesting an inspection of the reclaimed area by the Division.

REFERENCES

Kelley, V.C., 1963; "Geology and Technology of the Grants Uranium Region", Memoir 15, New Mexico Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources

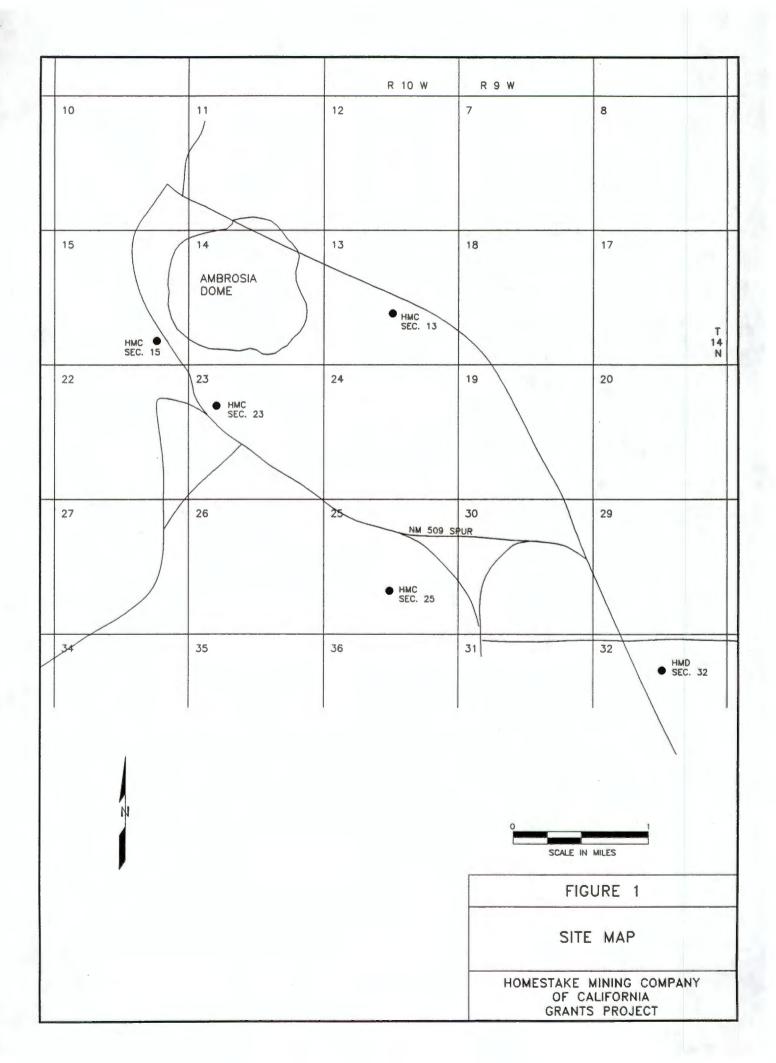
Soil Conservation Service, 1993; "Soil Survey, McKinley County, New Mexico", Grants, New Mexico

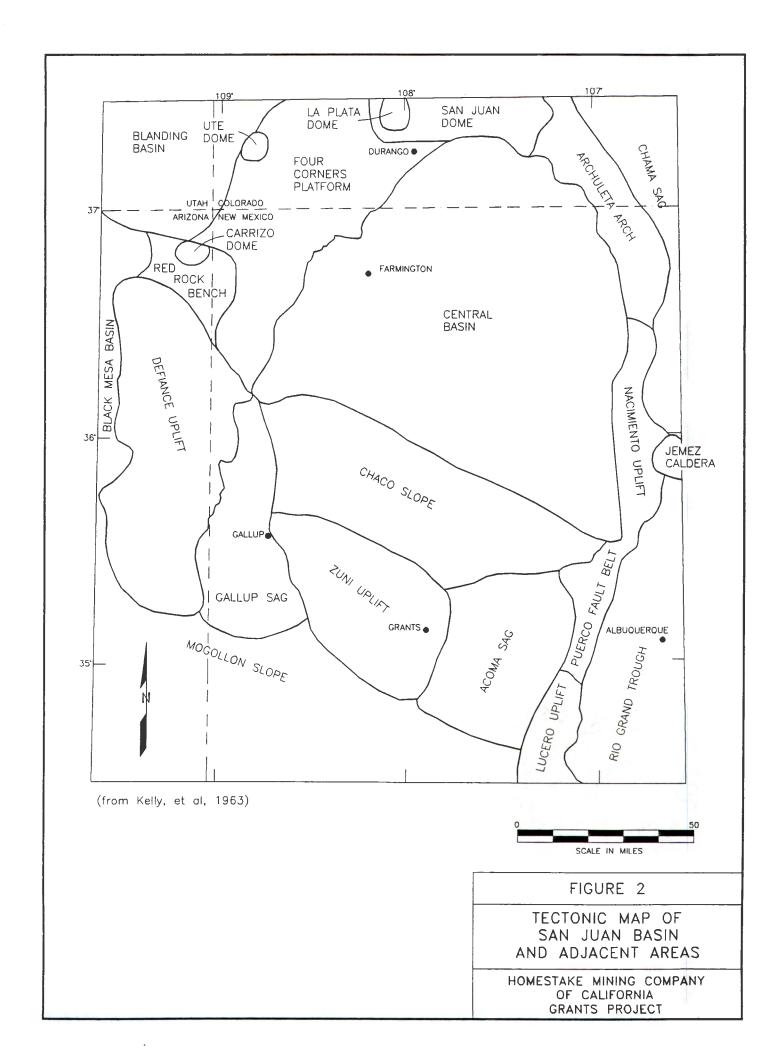
Soil Conservation Service, 1994; oral communication with W.E.Jenkins

TABLE 1
RECLAMATION SEED MIXTURE

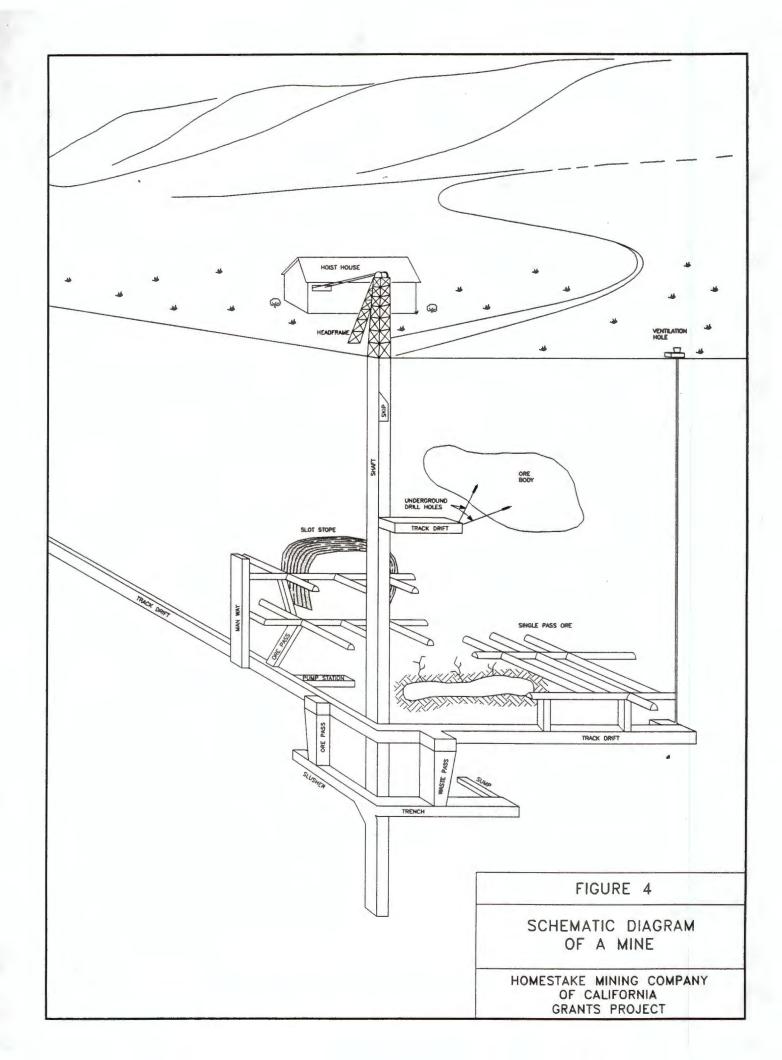
Common Name	Variety	Pounds Pure Live Seed/Acre
Western Wheatgrass	Arribu	3.2
Blue Grama	Lovington	0.5
Sand Dropseed		1.0
Galleta	Caryopsis	0.5
Galleta	Florets	1.2
Alkali Sacaton	Salado	1.5
	Total	7.9

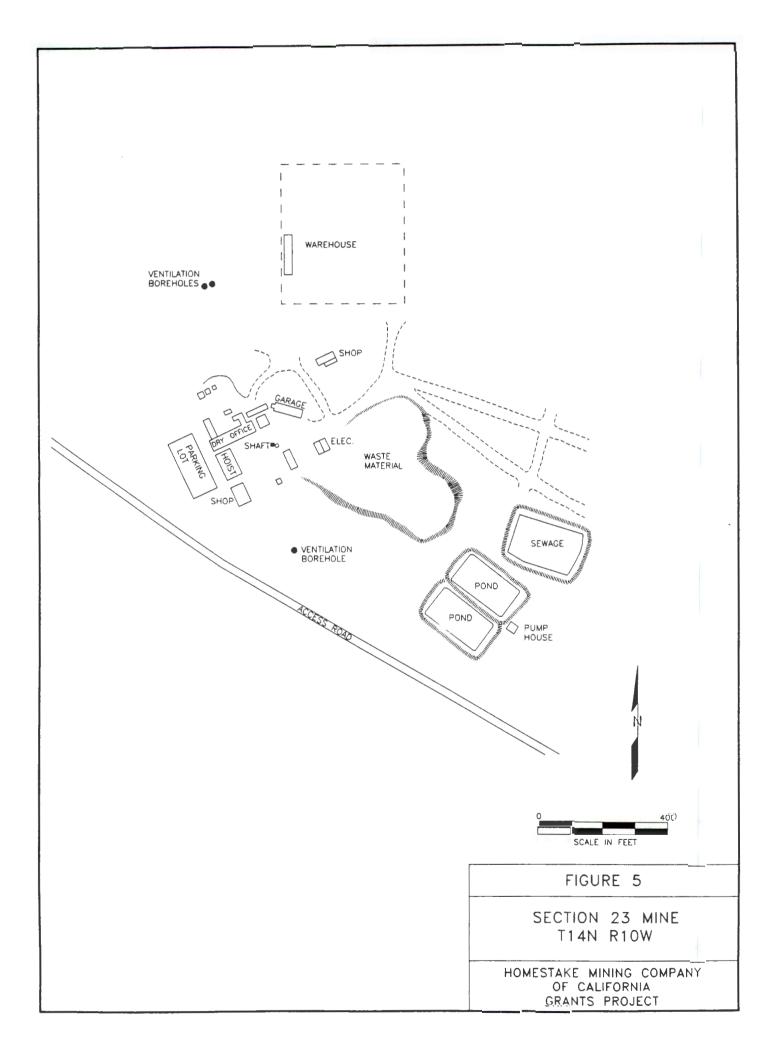
Seed obtained from Curtis & Curtis, Clovis, New Mexico.

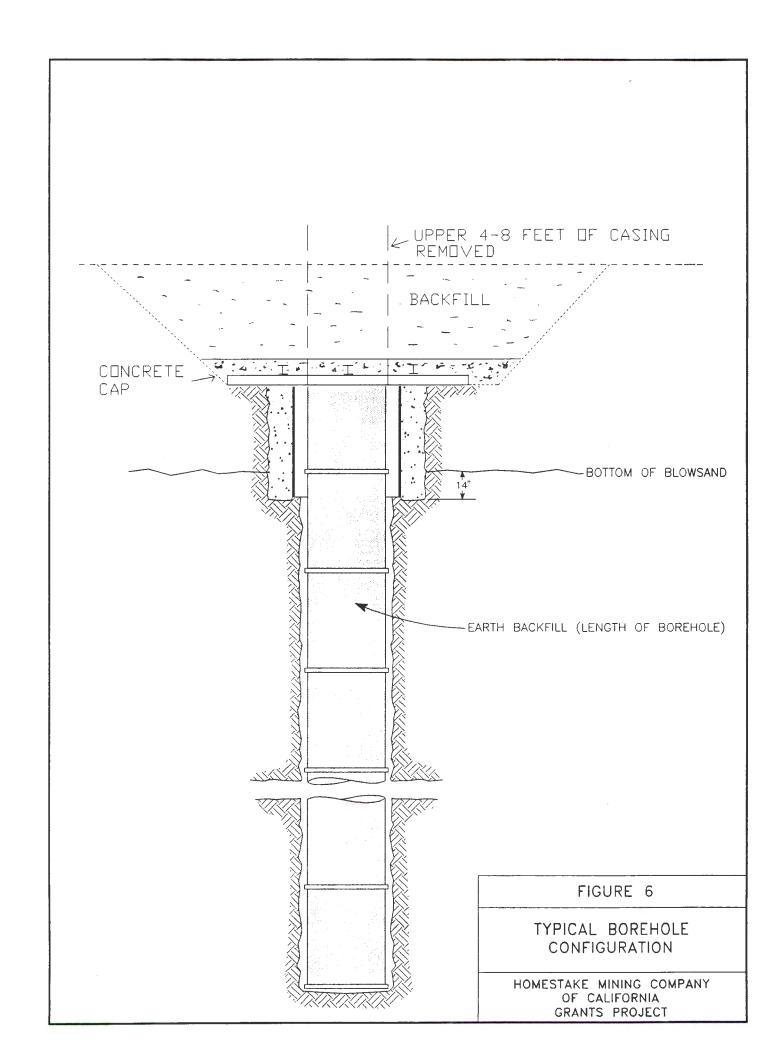


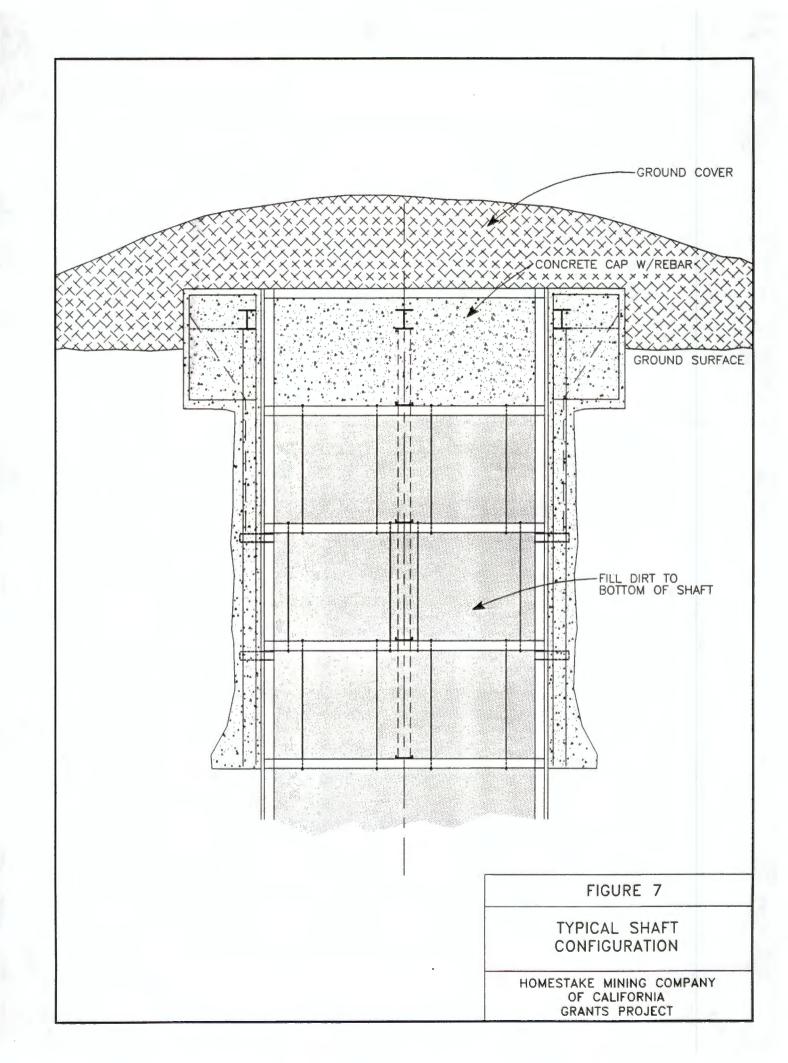


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)AKO	TA SANDSTONE		
				BRUSHY BASIN MEMBER		
	JURASSIC	MORRISON FORMATION	WESTWATER CANYON MEMBER	"A" SANDSTONE "K" SHALE "B" SANDSTONE "K1" SHALE "C" SANDSTONE		
			\$	"D" SANDSTONE	FIGURE 3	-
				RECAPTURE MEMBER	DIVISIONS OF WESTWATER CANYON HOMESTAKE MINING CO	MEMBER









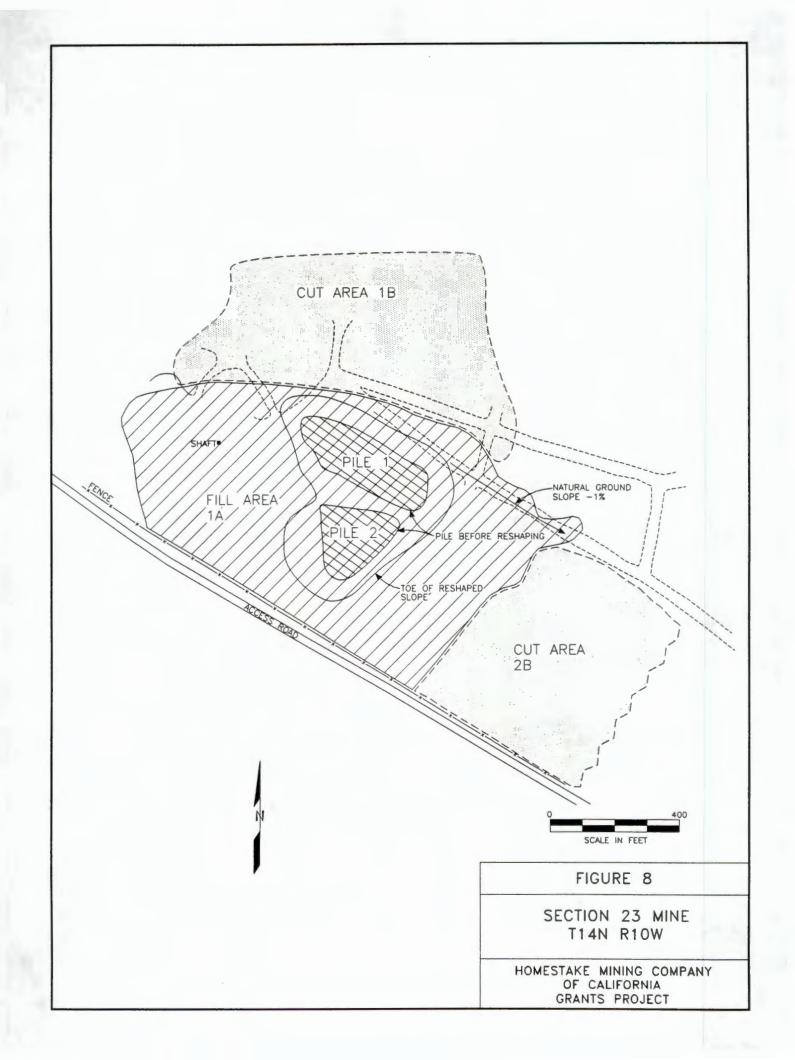


PHOTO LOG - SECTION 23 MINE RECLAMATION

23A:	View east across mine site prior to reclamation.
23 B :	Mine buildings undergoing demolition.
23C:	Burial pit for mine building debris.
23D:	Mine waste pile being recontoured.
23E:	Backfilling of mine shafts.
23F:	Borehole cap reinforcement in place.
23G:	Borehole cap after concrete pour.
23H:	Mine site after placement of soil cover and reseeding.
231:	Reclaimed mine area viewed across office and shaft area toward waste pile in the background.
23J:	Reclaimed mine area looking south across warehouse and office building area.
23K:	Reclaimed area viewed south showing growth of vegetation.
23L:	View across reclaimed mine site looking toward area of waste piles and storage ponds.



PHOTO 23A



PHOTO 23B



PHOTO 23C



PHOTO 23D



PHOTO 23E



PHOTO 23F



PHOTO 23G



PHOTO 23H



PHOTO 23I



PHOTO 23J



PHOTO 23K



PHOTO 23L

MINING AND MINERALS DIVISION 2040 South Pacneco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505 (505) 827-5970

Kathleen A. Garland DIVISION DIRECTOR

July 24, 1996

Mr. F. R. Craft, Resident Manager Homestake Mining Company P.O. Box 98 Grants, NM 87020

Re: Approval of Variance Request for the Section 23 Mine, Homestake Mining Co.

Dear Mr. Craft:

Jennifer A. Salisbury

CABINET SECRETARY

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 March 29, 1996 variance request regarding the Section 23 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, Homestake will conduct a statistically valid vegetation survey of the site in the fall of 1996 following the summer rains but before the end of the estimated growing season. If the results of the 1996 survey demonstrate that release criteria are met Homestake will ask MMD to release the mine from further liability for reclamation. If release criteria are not met, Homestake will repeat the above procedure during 1997. If the site still does not meet release criteria at the end of the 1997 vegetation survey, Homestake will determine the appropriate course of action to take to meet release criteria and will then provide MMD with an opportunity to review and comment on the proposed course of action.

By Order of the Director,

Kathleen Garland

Director, Mining and Minerals Division

KAG/HWS/RSY

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

Larry Frank

Indian Art of North America
New Mexico Folk Art
P. O. Box 290
Arroyo Hondo, New Mexico 87513
(808) 776-2281
(808) 776-8539





Dear Holland Skeyslerd,

in my earlier letter to you, of request a public hearing concerning the Homestake Frining Corps Request for variance in me tinley County.

Thanks in advance,

Leerry Frank

MINING AND MINERALS DIVISION 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505 (505) 827-5970

Jennifer A. Salisbury CABINET SECRETARY

Kathleen A. Carland Division director

May 10, 1996

Mr. Larry Frank Post Office Box 290 Arroyo Hondo, NM 87513

Re: Request for Variance, Homestake Mining Corp.

Dear Mr. Frank:

Homestake Mining Company is requesting a variance regarding one of their prior reclamation sites in McKinley County. Since you have requested to be notified regarding public requests relative to Section 903.F of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules, we are sending you a copy of the notice for variance. For more specific information concerning the request please read the attached copy of Homestake's notice.

Please contact us within 30 days after the receipt of this letter if you have any comments or wish to request a public hearing.

Sincerely,

HOLLAND SHEPHERD, Bureau Chief

Mining Act Reclamation Bureau Mining and Minerals Division

HS/fg

Attachment

MINING AND MINERALS DIVISION 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505 (505) 827-5970

Jennifer A. Salisbury CABINET SECRETARY

Kathleen A. Garland DIVISION DIRECTOR

May 10, 1996

Ms Maxine Goad Post Office Box 2502 Santa Fe, NM 87504

Re: Request for Variance, Homestake Mining Corp.

Dear Ms. Goad:

Homestake Mining Company is requesting a variance regarding one of their prior reclamation sites in McKinley County. Since you have requested to be notified regarding public requests relative to Section 903.F of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules, we are sending you a copy of the notice for variance. For more specific information concerning the request please read the attached copy of Homestake's notice.

Please contact us within 30 days after the receipt of this letter if you have any comments or wish to request a public hearing.

Sincerely.

HOLLAND SHEPHERD, Bureau Chief

Mining Act Reclamation Bureau Mining and Minerals Division

HS/fg

Attachment

Jennifer A. Salisbury

Kathleen A. Garland DIVISION DIRECTOR

May 10, 1996

Mr. Grove Burnett/Eric Ames Western Environmental Law Center Post Office Box 1507 Taos, New Mexico 87571

Re: Request for Variance, Homestake Mining Corp.

Dear Mr. Burnett and/or Mr. Ames:

Homestake Mining Company is requesting a variance regarding one of their prior reclamation sites in McKinley County. Since you have requested to be notified regarding public requests relative to Section 903.F of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules, we are sending you a copy of the notice for variance. For more specific information concerning the request please read the attached copy of Homestake's notice.

Please contact us within 30 days after the receipt of this letter if you have any comments or wish to request a public hearing.

Sincerely

HOLLAND SHEPHERD, Bureau Chief

Mining Act Reclamation Bureau Mining and Minerals Division

HS/fg

Jennifer A. Salisbury CABINET SECRETARY

Kathleen A. Garland

May 10, 1996

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

Re: Request for Variance, Homestake Mining Corp.

Dear Ms. McIntosh:

Homestake Mining Company is requesting a variance regarding one of their prior reclamation sites in McKinley County. Since you have requested to be notified regarding public requests relative to Section 903.F of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules, we are sending you a copy of the notice for variance. For more specific information concerning the request please read the attached copy of Homestake's notice.

Please contact us within 30 days after the receipt of this letter if you have any comments or wish to request a public hearing.

Sincerely,

HOLLAND SHEPHERD, Bureau Chief

Mining Act Reclamation Bureau Mining and Minerals Division

HS/fg

Jennifer A. Salisbury CABINET SECRETARY

Kathleen A. Garland

May 10, 1996

Mr. Doug Meiklejohn/Doug Wolf N.M. Environmental Law Center 103 Cienega St. Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Re: Request for Variance, Homestake Mining Corp.

Dear Mr. Meiklejohn and/or Mr. Wolf:

Homestake Mining Company is requesting a variance regarding one of their prior reclamation sites in McKinley County. Since you have requested to be notified regarding public requests relative to Section 903.F of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules, we are sending you a copy of the notice for variance. For more specific information concerning the request please read the attached copy of Homestake's notice.

Please contact us within 30 days after the receipt of this letter if you have any comments or wish to request a public hearing.

Sincerely,

HOLLAND SAEPHERD, Bureau Chief

Mining Act Reclamation Bureau Mining and Minerals Division

HS/fg

Kathleen A. Garland DIVISION DIRECTOR

Jennifer A. Salisbury

May 10, 1996

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

Re: Request for Variance, Homestake Mining Corp.

Dear Mr. Robinson:

Homestake Mining Company is requesting a variance regarding one of their prior reclamation sites in McKinley County. Since you have requested to be notified regarding public requests relative to Section 903.F of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules, we are sending you a copy of the notice for variance. For more specific information concerning the request please read the attached copy of Homestake's notice.

Please contact us within 30 days after the receipt of this letter if you have any comments or wish to request a public hearing.

Sincerely.

HOLLAND SHEPHERD, Bureau Chief

Mining Act Reclamation Bureau Mining and Minerals Division

HS/fg

Jennifer A. Salisbury

Kathleen A. Garland DIVISION DIRECTOR

May 10, 1996

Mr. Brian Shields Amigos Bravos Post Office Box 238 Taos, New Mexico 87571

Re: Request for Variance, Homestake Mining Corp.

Dear Mr. Shields:

Homestake Mining Company is requesting a variance regarding one of their prior reclamation sites in McKinley County. Since you have requested to be notified regarding public requests relative to Section '903.F of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules, we are sending you a copy of the notice for variance. For more specific information concerning the request please read the attached copy of Homestake's notice.

Please contact us within 30 days after the receipt of this letter if you have any comments or wish to request a public hearing.

Sincerely,

HOLLAND SHEPHERD, Bureau Chief

Mining Act Reclamation Bureau Mining and Minerals Division

HS/fg

Jennifer A. Salisbury CABINET SECRETARY

Kathleen A. Garland DIVISION DIRECTOR

May 10, 1996

Mr. John J. Pfeil
Office of the Natural
Resources Trustee
Post Office Box 26110
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

Re: Request for Variance, Homestake Mining Corp.

Dear Mr. Pfeil:

Homestake Mining Company is requesting a variance regarding one of their prior reclamation sites in McKinley County. Since you have requested to be notified regarding public requests relative to Section 903.F of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules, we are sending you a copy of the notice for variance. For more specific information concerning the request please read the attached copy of Homestake's notice.

Please contact us within 30 days after the receipt of this letter if you have any comments or wish to request a public hearing.

Sincerely

HOLLAND SHEPHERD, Bureau Chief

Mining Act Reclamation Bureau Mining and Minerals Division

HS/fg

Jennifer A. Salisbury

Kathleen A. Garland DIVISION DIRECTOR

May 10, 1996

Ms. Sally Smith 300 W. Yankee Silver City, New Mexico 88061

Re: Request for Variance, Homestake Mining Corp.

Dear Ms. Smith:

Homestake Mining Company is requesting a variance regarding one of their prior reclamation sites in McKinley County. Since you have requested to be notified regarding public requests relative to Section 903.F of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules, we are sending you a copy of the notice for variance. For more specific information concerning the request please read the attached copy of Homestake's notice.

Please contact us within 30 days after the receipt of this letter if you have any comments or wish to request a public hearing.

Sincerely.

HOLLAND SHEPHERD, Bureau Chief

Mining Act Reclamation Bureau Mining and Minerals Division

HS/fg

P.O. BOX 98 GRANTS, NEW MEXICO 87020 (505) 287-4456

March 26, 1996

Mr. Ted Rushton Editor The Gallup Independent Post Office Box 1210 Gallup, New Mexico 87305

Dear Mr. Rushton:

Please publish the enclosed Public Notice in the classified section and a general 1/8 page advertisement on Friday March 29, 1996. An affidavit of publication is required and should be submitted along with the billing for this notice to Post Office Box 98, Grants, New Mexico 87020.

Please contact us should you have questions concerning this Public Notice.

Sincerely,

F. R. Craft

Resident Manager

P.O. BOX 98 GRANTS, NEW MEXICO 87020 (505) 287-4456

March 26, 1996

Mr. J. D. Meisner Editor Cibola County Beacon Post Office Box 579 Grants, New Mexico 87020

Dear Mr. Meisner:

Please publish the enclosed Public Notice in the classified section and a general 1/8 page advertisement on Friday March 29, 1996. An affidavit of publication is required and should be submitted along with the billing for this notice to Post Office Box 98, Grants, New Mexico 87020.

Please contact us should you have questions concerning this Public Notice.

Sincerely,

F. R. Craft

Resident Manager

P.O. BOX 98 GRANTS, NEW MEXICO 87020 (505) 287-4456

March 26, 1996

CERTIFIED MAIL NO.: P 369 600 935

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

Dear Mr. Harrison:

Homestake Mining Company of California (HMC) has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for its Section 23 Mine at Ambrosia Lake, in accordance with the provisions 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 McKinley County at Ambrosia Lake, in Township 14 North, Range 10 West, New Mexico Principal Meridian. The Mine covers 100 acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the Mine site has been reclaimed according the requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for up to two additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Divison (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from additional revegetation requirements.

The applicant's address is:

Homestake Mining Company of California P.O. Box 98 Grants, New Mexico 87020

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
State of New Mexico
2042 South Pacheco Street
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittals is Monday, April 29, 1996.

A copy of the Application for a Variance is available for public inspection at the Public Library and Cibola County Clerk's office in Grants, New Mexico and at the Public Library and McKinley County Clerk's office in Gallup, New Mexico.

Sincerely,

F. R. Craft

P.O. BOX 98 GRANTS, NEW MEXICO 87020 (505) 287-4456

March 26, 1996

CERTIFIED MAIL NO.: P 369 600 934

Mr. George Wagner Cerrillos Land Company Post Office Box 27019 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87125

Dear Mr. Wagner:

Homestake Mining Company of California (HMC) has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for its Section 23 Mine at Ambrosia Lake, in accordance with the provisions 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 McKinley County at Ambrosia Lake, in Township 14 North, Range 10 West, New Mexico Principal Meridian. The Mine covers 100 acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the Mine site has been reclaimed according the requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for up to two additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Divison (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from additional revegetation requirements.

The applicant's address is:

Homestake Mining Company of California P.O. Box 98 Grants, New Mexico 87020

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
State of New Mexico
2042 South Pacheco Street
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittals is Monday, April 29, 1996.

A copy of the Application for a Variance is available for public inspection at the Public Library and Cibola County Clerk's office in Grants, New Mexico and at the Public Library and McKinley County Clerk's office in Gallup, New Mexico.

Sincerely,

F. R. Craft

P.O. BOX 98 GRANTS, NEW MEXICO 87020 (505) 287-4456

March 26, 1996

CERTIFIED MAIL NO.: P 369 600 933

Mr. Albert Hale
President
The Navajo Nation
Post Office Box 9000
Window Rock, Arizona 86515

Dear Mr. Hale:

Homestake Mining Company of California (HMC) has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for its Section 23 Mine at Ambrosia Lake, in accordance with the provisions 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 McKinley County at Ambrosia Lake, in Township 14 North, Range 10 West, New Mexico Principal Meridian. The Mine covers 100 acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the Mine site has been reclaimed according the requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for up to two additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Divison (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from additional revegetation requirements.

The applicant's address is:

Homestake Mining Company of California P.O. Box 98 Grants, New Mexico 87020

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
State of New Mexico
2042 South Pacheco Street
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittals is Monday, April 29, 1996.

A copy of the Application for a Variance is available for public inspection at the Public Library and Cibola County Clerk's office in Grants, New Mexico and at the Public Library and McKinley County Clerk's office in Gallup, New Mexico.

Sincerely,

F. R. Craft

P.O. BOX 98 GRANTS, NEW MEXICO 87020 (505) 287-4456

March 26, 1996

CERTIFIED MAIL NO.: P 369 600 932

Mr. Terry Fletcher Quivira Mining Company Post Office Box 218 Grants, New Mexico 87020

Dear Mr. Fletcher:

Homestake Mining Company of California (HMC) has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for its Section 23 Mine at Ambrosia Lake, in accordance with the provisions 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 McKinley County at Ambrosia Lake, in Township 14 North, Range 10 West, New Mexico Principal Meridian. The Mine covers 100 acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the Mine site has been reclaimed according the requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for up to two additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Divison (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from additional revegetation requirements.

The applicant's address is:

Homestake Mining Company of California P.O. Box 98 Grants, New Mexico 87020

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
State of New Mexico
2042 South Pacheco Street
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittals is Monday, April 29, 1996.

A copy of the Application for a Variance is available for public inspection at the Public Library and Cibola County Clerk's office in Grants, New Mexico and at the Public Library and McKinley County Clerk's office in Gallup, New Mexico.

Sincerely,

F. R. Craft

P.O. BOX 98 GRANTS, NEW MEXICO 87020 (505) 287-4456

March 26, 1996

CERTIFIED MAIL NO.: P 369 600 929

Mr. Jerry Elkins Post Office Box 2326 Milan, New Mexico 87021

Dear Mr. Elkins:

Homestake Mining Company of California (HMC) has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for its Section 23 Mine at Ambrosia Lake, in accordance with the provisions 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 McKinley County at Ambrosia Lake, in Township 14 North, Range 10 West, New Mexico Principal Meridian. The Mine covers 100 acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the Mine site has been reclaimed according the requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for up to two additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Divison (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from additional revegetation requirements.

The applicant's address is:

Homestake Mining Company of California P.O. Box 98 Grants, New Mexico 87020

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
State of New Mexico
2042 South Pacheco Street
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittals is Monday, April 29, 1996.

A copy of the Application for a Variance is available for public inspection at the Public Library and Cibola County Clerk's office in Grants, New Mexico and at the Public Library and McKinley County Clerk's office in Gallup, New Mexico.

Sincerely,

F. R. Craft

P.O. BOX 98 GRANTS, NEW MEXICO 87020 (505) 287-4456

March 26, 1996

Ms. Patricia Aragon Cibola County Clerk 515 West High Grants, New Mexico 87020

Dear Ms. Aragon:

Homestake Mining Company of California (HMC) has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for its Section 23 Mine at Ambrosia Lake, in accordance with the provisions 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 McKinley County at Ambrosia Lake, in Township 14 North, Range 10 West, New Mexico Principal Meridian. The Mine covers 100 acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the Mine site has been reclaimed according the requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for up to two additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Divison (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from additional revegetation requirements.

The applicant's address is:

Homestake Mining Company of California P.O. Box 98 Grants, New Mexico 87020

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
State of New Mexico
2042 South Pacheco Street
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittals is Monday, April 29, 1996.

A copy of the Application for a Variance is available for public inspection at the Public Library and Cibola County Clerk's office in Grants, New Mexico and at the Public Library and McKinley County Clerk's office in Gallup, New Mexico.

This letter is for your information. Please make the enclosure available for public review for 30 days starting March 29, 1996. After April 30, 1996 dispose of.

Sincerely,

F. R. Craft

Resident Manager

P.O. BOX 98 GRANTS, NEW MEXICO 87020 (505) 287-4456

March 26, 1996

Ms. Carol K. Sloan McKinley County Clerk Post Office Box 1268 Gallup, New Mexico 87301

Dear Ms. Sloan:

Homestake Mining Company of California (HMC) has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for its Section 23 Mine at Ambrosia Lake, in accordance with the provisions 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 McKinley County at Ambrosia Lake, in Township 14 North, Range 10 West, New Mexico Principal Meridian. The Mine covers 100 acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the Mine site has been reclaimed according the requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for up to two additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Divison (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from additional revegetation requirements.

The applicant's address is:

Homestake Mining Company of California P.O. Box 98 Grants, New Mexico 87020

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
State of New Mexico
2042 South Pacheco Street
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittals is Monday, April 29, 1996.

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This letter is for your information. Please make the enclosure available for public review for 30 days starting March 29, 1996. After April 30, 1996 dispose of.

Sincerely,

F. R. Craft

Resident Manager

Thelast

P.O. BOX 98 GRANTS, NEW MEXICO 87020 (505) 287-4456

March 26, 1996

Ms. Jay Luree King Librarian Mother Whitside Library 525 W. High Street Grants, New Mexico 87020

Dear Ms. King:

Homestake Mining Company of California (HMC) has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for its Section 23 Mine at Ambrosia Lake, in accordance with the provisions of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996 (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

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The applicant's address is:

Homestake Mining Company of California P.O. Box 98 Grants, New Mexico 87020

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
State of New Mexico
2042 South Pacheco Street
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittals is Monday, April 29, 1996.

A copy of the Application for a Variance is available for public inspection at the Public Library and Cibola County Clerk's office in Grants, New Mexico and at the Public Library and McKinley County Clerk's office in Gallup, New Mexico.

This letter is for your information. Please make the enclosure available for public review for 30 days starting March 29, 1996. After April 30, 1996 dispose of.

Sincerely,

F. R. Craft

Resident Manager

P.O. BOX 98 GRANTS, NEW MEXICO 87020 (505) 287-4456

March 26, 1996

Ms. Mary Browder Librarian Octavia Fellin Library 115 West Hill Avenue Gallup, New Mexico 87301

Dear Ms. Browder:

Homestake Mining Company of California (HMC) has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for its Section 23 Mine at Ambrosia Lake, in accordance with the provisions of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996 (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

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The applicant's address is:

Homestake Mining Company of California P.O. Box 98 Grants, New Mexico 87020

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
State of New Mexico
2042 South Pacheco Street
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittals is Monday, April 29, 1996.

A copy of the Application for a Variance is available for public inspection at the Public Library and Cibola County Clerk's office in Grants, New Mexico and at the Public Library and McKinley County Clerk's office in Gallup, New Mexico.

This letter is for your information. Please make the enclosure available for public review for 30 days starting March 29, 1996. After April 30, 1996 dispose of.

Sincerely,

F. R. Craft

Resident Manager

P.O. BOX 98 GRANTS, NEW MEXICO 87020 (505) 287-4456

March 26, 1996

Mr. Toby Martinez
State Forester
NM Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department
Forestry and Resources Conservation Division
P.O. Box 1948
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-1948

Dear Mr. Martinez:

Homestake Mining Company of California (HMC) has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for its Section 23 Mine at Ambrosia Lake, in accordance with the provisions of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996 (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

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The applicant's address is:

Homestake Mining Company of California P.O. Box 98 Grants, New Mexico 87020

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
State of New Mexico
2042 South Pacheco Street
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittals is Monday, April 29, 1996.

A copy of the Application for a Variance is available for public inspection at the Public Library and Cibola County Clerk's office in Grants, New Mexico and at the Public Library and McKinley County Clerk's office in Gallup, New Mexico.

Sincerely,

F. R. Craft

Thut

P.O. BOX 98 GRANTS, NEW MEXICO 87020 (505) 287-4456

March 26, 1996

Mr. Jerry Maracchini
Director
New Mexico Department of Game & Fish
Post Office Box 25112
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504

Dear Mr. Maracchini:

Homestake Mining Company of California (HMC) has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for its Section 23 Mine at Ambrosia Lake, in accordance with the provisions 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 McKinley County at Ambrosia Lake, in Township 14 North, Range 10 West, New Mexico Principal Meridian. The Mine covers 100 acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the Mine site has been reclaimed according the requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for up to two additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Divison (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from additional revegetation requirements.

The applicant's address is:

Homestake Mining Company of California P.O. Box 98 Grants, New Mexico 87020

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
State of New Mexico
2042 South Pacheco Street
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittals is Monday, April 29, 1996.

A copy of the Application for a Variance is available for public inspection at the Public Library and Cibola County Clerk's office in Grants, New Mexico and at the Public Library and McKinley County Clerk's office in Gallup, New Mexico.

Sincerely,

F. R. Craft

P.O. BOX 98 GRANTS, NEW MEXICO 87020 (505) 287-4456

March 26, 1996

Mr. James McDonald NM Environmental Department Groundwater Protection & Remediation Bureau 1190 St. Francis Drive Santa Fe. New Mexico 87501

Dear Mr. McDonald:

Homestake Mining Company of California (HMC) has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for its Section 23 Mine at Ambrosia Lake, in accordance with the provisions of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996 (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

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The applicant's address is:

Homestake Mining Company of California P.O. Box 98 Grants, New Mexico 87020

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
State of New Mexico
2042 South Pacheco Street
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittals is Monday, April 29, 1996.

A copy of the Application for a Variance is available for public inspection at the Public Library and Cibola County Clerk's office in Grants, New Mexico and at the Public Library and McKinley County Clerk's office in Gallup, New Mexico.

Sincerely,

F. R. Craft

P.O. BOX 98 GRANTS, NEW MEXICO 87020 (505) 287-4456

March 26, 1996

Dr. Lynn Sevastian State Historic Preservation Officer Historic Preservation Division 228 E. Palace Avenue Santa Fe, New Mexico 87503

Dear Dr. Sevastian:

Homestake Mining Company of California (HMC) has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for its Section 23 Mine at Ambrosia Lake, in accordance with the provisions 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 McKinley County at Ambrosia Lake, in Township 14 North, Range 10 West, New Mexico Principal Meridian. The Mine covers 100 acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the Mine site has been reclaimed according the requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for up to two additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Divison (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from additional revegetation requirements.

The applicant's address is:

Homestake Mining Company of California P.O. Box 98 Grants, New Mexico 87020

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
State of New Mexico
2042 South Pacheco Street
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittals is Monday, April 29, 1996.

A copy of the Application for a Variance is available for public inspection at the Public Library and Cibola County Clerk's office in Grants, New Mexico and at the Public Library and McKinley County Clerk's office in Gallup, New Mexico.

Sincerely,

F. R. Craft

P.O. BOX 98 GRANTS, NEW MEXICO 87020 (505) 287-4456

March 26, 1996

Mr. J. T. Smith Supervisor, District 1 State Engineers Office 3311 Candelaria, NE, Suite A Albuquerque, New Mexico 87107

Dear Mr. Smith:

Homestake Mining Company of California (HMC) has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for its Section 23 Mine at Ambrosia Lake, in accordance with the provisions 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 McKinley County at Ambrosia Lake, in Township 14 North, Range 10 West, New Mexico Principal Meridian. The Mine covers 100 acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the Mine site has been reclaimed according the requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for up to two additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Divison (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from additional revegetation requirements.

The applicant's address is:

Homestake Mining Company of California P.O. Box 98 Grants, New Mexico 87020

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
State of New Mexico
2042 South Pacheco Street
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittals is Monday, April 29, 1996.

A copy of the Application for a Variance is available for public inspection at the Public Library and Cibola County Clerk's office in Grants, New Mexico and at the Public Library and McKinley County Clerk's office in Gallup, New Mexico.

Sincerely,

F. R. Craft

P.O. BOX 98 GRANTS, NEW MEXICO 87020 (505) 287-4456

March 26, 1996

CERTIFIED MAIL NO.: P 369 600 936

Mr. Joe Murrietta County Manager 515 W. High Grants, New Mexico 87020

Dear Mr. Murrietta:

Homestake Mining Company of California (HMC) has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for its Section 23 Mine at Ambrosia Lake, in accordance with the provisions of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996 (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

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Sincerely,

F. R. Craft

P.O. BOX 98 GRANTS, NEW MEXICO 87020 (505) 287-4456

March 26, 1996

CERTIFIED MAIL NO.: P 369 600 931

Mr. Steve Fisher NCA Supervisor Bureau of Land Management 435 Montaño, NE Albuquerque, New Mexico 87107

Dear Mr. Fisher:

Homestake Mining Company of California (HMC) has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for its Section 23 Mine at Ambrosia Lake, in accordance with the provisions 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 McKinley County at Ambrosia Lake, in Township 14 North, Range 10 West, New Mexico Principal Meridian. The Mine covers 100 acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the Mine site has been reclaimed according the requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for up to two additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Divison (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from additional revegetation requirements.

The applicant's address is:

Homestake Mining Company of California P.O. Box 98 Grants, New Mexico 87020

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
State of New Mexico
2042 South Pacheco Street
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittals is Monday, April 29, 1996.

A copy of the Application for a Variance is available for public inspection at the Public Library and Cibola County Clerk's office in Grants, New Mexico and at the Public Library and McKinley County Clerk's office in Gallup, New Mexico.

Sincerely,

F. R. Craft

State of New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division 2040 South Pacheco St. Santa Fe, NM 87505

Fax Cover Sheet

rax Cover Sneet					
Date: 5/23/96					
To: Marine Good	From: Ha Wand Shackerd				
Company: MMED	Agency: Mining and Minerals Division				
Telephone:	Telephone: (505) 827-5970				
Fax #: 7-2413	Fax #: (505) 827-7195				
Number of Pages: 7 (including coverage)	er sheet)				
Message: Homestake vanance request					
Original will be sent by mail yes no					

P.O. BOX 98 GRANTS, NEW MEXICO 87020 (505) 287-4456

April 2, 1996

Fx: 287-1281



CERTIFIED MAIL NO.: P 369 600 938

Ms. Kathleen A. Garland, Director Mining and Minerals Division of New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department P.O. Box 6429 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6429

Re: Application for Variance for Section 23 Mine, Homestake Mining Company

Dear Ms. Garland:

As I stated in my letter of March 29, 1996, I would be mailing to you, under separate cover, the copies of proof of publication and returned certified mail receipts. Enclosed are these items.

Should you have any questions please contact me at the Grants Project office.

Sincerely,

F. R. Craft

Resident Manager

FRC:jg

s de la solicitad pare Copias de la solicitad pare universidad de la cione estan disponibles para inspeccion publica en la Biblioteca Publica y en la oficina del Secretario del Condado de Cibloa, en Grants, New Mexico, y en la Biblioteca Publica y en la oficina del Secretario del Condado de McKinley, en Gallup, New Masdoo.

Legal #12804 Publisheldat The Independent March 29, 1994.

LEGAL NOTICE Gollap McKinley County New Mexico

Homestalin Mining Company of California (FasC) has submitted an APPLICATION POR & WARLANCE for its Section
23 Mine at Asshrosis Lake, in accordance
with the provisions of Subpart 10 of the
New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996 (IS NIMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).
The Mine is located in McKinley County
at Ambrosis Lake in Township 14 North,
Range 10 West, New Mexico Principal Meridian. The Mine covers 100 acres of lend
previously disturbed for ususium mining, All of the Mine site has been reclaimed according the requirements of apclaimed according the requirements of ap-plicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for up to pose or the variance is to provide for up to two additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from addi-

tional revegetation requirement The applicant's address is: Homestake Mining Company of California

P.O. Box 98

-CH-M

Granta, New Mexico 87020

Granta, New Mexico 87020

Interested persons wishing to submit writter comments or a request for a public written come hearing on this matter may do so by writ-

Director, Mining and Minerals Division Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department State of New Mexico 2042 South Pacheco Street

Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittals is Monday,
April 29, 1996.

April 29, 1996.

Copies of the Application for a Variance is available for public inspection at the Public Library and Cibola County Clerk's offfice in Grants, New Mexico, at the Public Library and McKinley County Clerk's office in Gallup, New Mexico.

AVISO PUBLICO
Homerake Mining Company of California (HMC) ha sometido una SOLICITUD PARA UNA VARIACION para su Mina de Seccion 23 en Ambrosia Like, de Mina de Sección 23 en Amorosa Lake, de acuerdo con las provisiones de Subparte 10 de las Regias de Acto de Mineia del estado de Nuevo Mexico, del 15 de febrero de 1996 (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

de 1996 (19 NMAC 10.2 Suppar 10).

La Mini de Seccion 23 esta situada en el Condado de McKinley, en Ambrosia Lake, en Township 14 Norte, Estension 10 Oeste, New Mexico Principal Meridian, La Oeste, New Medoo Principal Meridian. La Mina tiene uma extension de 100 acres de tierra anteriormente perturbado por la mineria del usanio. Todo el sitio de la Mi-na ha sido rehabilitado conforme a los req-uisitos de las leyes y reglamentos aplica-bles. El proposito de la variación es proveer para que pase dos mas estaciones de crecimiento antes de la determinación, a ser becho prer la Division de Mineria y oe crecimiento anies de la determinación, 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 reveg-etación.

La direction del suplicanate es: Homestake Mining Company of California PO OR

Grants, New Medico 87020.

Personas interesadas que desean some-ter algun comentario, o una suplica para una audencia publica sobre este materia, deben dirigir su solicitud escrito a: Director, Mining and Minerals Division Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Carrier - Marie 1 2

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With the state of **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Homestake Mining Company of California (HMQ) has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for its Section 23 Mine at Ambrasia Lake, in accordance with the provisions of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996 (19 NMAC 10.2 Subport 10)

The Mine is located in McKinley County at Ambrosia Lake, in Township 14' North, Range 10 West, New Mexico Principal Meridian. The Mine covers 100 acres of land previcousts disturbed for uranium mining. All of the Mine site has been reclaimed according the requirements, of applicable laws and regualtions. The purpose of the variance is to provide for up to two 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 applicant's address is:

Homestake Mining Company of California

P.O. Box 98

Grants, New Mexico 87020

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

State of New Mexico

2042 South Pacheco Street

Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittals is Manday, April 29, 1996

Copies of the Application for Mariance is available for public inspection at the Public Library and Cibola County Clerk's office in Grants, New Mexico, at the Public Library and McKinley County Clerk's office Friday, March 29, 1996."

AVISO PUBLICO

JUNEYE - V Horsestake Mining Company of California (HMC) ha sometido una SOLICITUD PARA UNA VARIACION para su Mina de Sección 23 en Ambrosia Lake, de acuardo con las pro-visiones de Subparte 10 de las Reglas del Acto de Mineria del estado de Nuevo México, del 15 de febrero de 1996 (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10):

La Mina de Sección 23 está situada en el Condado de McKinley, en Ambrasia Lake, en La Mina de Sección 23 esta situada en el comunidad Meridiani. La Mina tiene.
Township 14 Norte: Extensión 10 Oeste, New Mexico Principal Meridiani. La Mina tiene,
una extensión de 100 ocres de tierra anteriormente perturbado por la mineria del urania. Todo el sitio de la Mina ha sido rehabilitado catiforme o los 3 requisitos de las leyes y reglamentos aplicables. El propósito de la variación es proveer para

que pase dos más estaciones de crecimiento ante de la determinación, a ser hecho por la División de Minería y Minerales (MMD), que el sitio cumple con los criteios para releva de las obligaciones de algún requisito adicional para la revegetación.

DEVENEU

La dirección del suplicante es:

-Homestake Mining Company of California

(P.O.,98 9 7 7 8 7020

Personas interesadas que desear someter algún comentario escrito, o una súplica para una audiencia pública sobre esta materia, deben dirigir su solicitúd escrito a:

Director, Mining and Minerals Division

Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

2040 South Pacheco Street

Santa Fe. New Mexico 87505

La fecha final para someter propuestas o comentari os es el lunes, día 29 de abril

Copias de la solicitud para una variación están disponibles para inspección pública en la Biblioteca Pública y en la oficina del Secretario del Condado de McKinley, en Gallup, New Mexico.

Viernes, 29 de marzo, 1996

AVISO PUBLICO

Homestake Mining Company (HMC) ha sometido una SOLICITUD PARA UNA VARIACION para su Mina de Sección 23 en Ambrosia Lake, de acuerdo con las provisiones de Subparte 10 de las Reglas del Acto de Minería del estado de Nuevo México, del 15 de febrero de 1996 (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

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La dirección del suplicante es:

Homestake Mining Company of California

PO 98

2 1 1 10 00

Grants, New Mexico 87020.

Personas interesadas que desean someter algún comentario escrito, o una súplica para una audiencia pública sobre esta materia, deben dirigir su solicitud escrito

Director, Mining and Minerals Division

Energy, Minerals Natural Resources Department

2040 South Pacheco Street

Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505.

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Copias de la solicitud para una variación están disponibles para inspección pública en la Biblioteca Pública y en la oficina del Secretario del Condado de Cibola, en Grants, New Mexico, y en la Biblioteca Pública y en la oficina del Secretario del Condado de McKinley, en Gallup, New Mexico. Viernes, 29 de marzo, 1996.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Homestake Mining Company of California (HMC) has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for its Section 23 Mine at Ambrosia Lake, in accordance with the provisions 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 McKinley County at Ambrosia Lake, in Township 14 North, Range 10 West, New Mexico Principal Meridian. The Mine covers 100 acres of land previously distrubed for uranium mining. All of the Mine site has been reclaimed according the requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for up to/two additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals divison (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from additional revegetation requirements.

The applicant's address is:

The applicant's accress is.
Homestake Mining Company of California

vs. Grants; New Mexico 87020 - 8%

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

The . I have be a

1 Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department State of New Mexico 2042 South Pacheco Street

2042 South Pacheco Street

7 Santa Fe, Netl Medico 87505

The deadline for submittals is Monday, April 29, 1996, 2 2017 Copies of the Application for a Variance is available for public inspection at the Public Library and Cibola County Clerk's office in Grants, New Mexico, at the Public Library and McKinley County Clerk's office in Gallup, New Mexico, at the Public Library and McKinley County Clerk's office in Gallup, New Mexico, at the Public Library and McKinley County Clerk's office in Gallup, New Mexico, at the Priday, March 29, 1996, at a principle of the County Clerk's office in Gallup.

1. SPECIAL NOTICES

AVISO PUBLICO

Homestake Mining Company (HMC) ha some-tido una SOLICITUD PARA UNA VARIACION para su Mina de Sección 23 en Ambrosia Lake, de acuerdo con las provisiones de Subparte 10 de las Regias del Acto de Minería del estado de Nuevo México, del 15 de febrero de 1996 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

La Mina de Sección 23 está situada en el Condado de McKinley, en Ambrosia Lake, en Township 14 Norte, An Extensión 10 Oeste, New Mexico Principal Meridian. La Mina tiene una extensión de 100 acres de tierra anteriormente perturbado por la mineria del uranio. Todo el sitio de la Mina ha sido rehabilitado conforme a los requisitos de las leyes y regiamentos apli-cables. El propósito de la variación es proveer para que pase dos más estaciones de crecimiento antes de la determinación, a ser hecho por la División de Minería y Minerales (MMD), que el sitio cumple con los criterios para releva de las obligaciónes de algún requisito adicional para la revegetación.

La dirección del supli-

cante es:

Homestake Mining Company of California P.O. 98 Grants, New Mexico

87020.

Personas interesadas que desean someter algún comentario escrito, o una súplica para una audiencia pública sobre esta materia. deben dirigir su solicitúd escrito a:

Director, Mining and Minerals Division Energy, Minerals Natural Resources Department 2040 South Pacheco

Street Santa Fe, New Mexico

87505. La fecha final para som-

eter propuestas o comentari os es el lunes, día 29 de abril de 1996.

Copias de la solicitud para una variación están disponibles para inspección pública en la Biblioteca Pública y en la oficina del Secretario del Condado de Cibola, en Grants, New Mexico, y en la Biblioteca Pública y en la oficina del Secretario del Condado de McKinley, en Gallup, New Mexico. Viernes, 29 de marzo,

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The applicant's address

Homestake Mining Company of California P.O. Box 98 Grants, New Mexico

87020 Interested persons wishing to submit written comments or a request for a public hearing on this mat-

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Street Santa Fe. New Mexico 87505

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Elleguague nin87167	Always obtain signature of addressee or agent and DATE DELIVERED.
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3 and 4. Put your address in the "RETURN TO" Space on the reverse from being returned to you. The return receipt fee will provide the date of delivery. For additional fees the following service and check box(es) for additional service(s) requested. 1. Show to whom delivered, date, and addressee's an (Extra charge)	side. Failure to do this will prevent this card you the name of the person delivered to and es are available. Consult postmaster for fees
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and check box(es) for additional service(s) requested. 1. Show to whom delivered, date, and addressee's a (Extra charge)	ddress. 2. Restricted Delivery (Extra charge)
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albuquerae nm 87125	Always obtain signature of addressee or agent and DATE DELIVERED.
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Surey Heteline		P 369 600 932		
11:0	AUC	Type of Service:		
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		· Ann 对以	Always obtain signature of addressee or agent and DATE DELIVERED.
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	Oate of Delivery 3 -27	96	
*	PS Form 3811, Apr. 1989 +0	S.G.P.O. 1989-238-815	DOMESTIC RETURN RECEIPT

P.O. BOX 98 GRANTS, NEW MEXICO 87020 (505) 287-4456

March 29, 1996

CERTIFIED MAIL NO.: P 369 600 937

Ms. Kathleen A. Garland, Director Mining and Minerals Division of New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department P.O. Box 6429 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6429



Re: Application for Variance for Section 23 Mine, Homestake Mining Company

Dear Ms. Garland:

Enclosed is the *Application for Variance* for Section 23 Mine located in McKinley County, Township 14 North, Range 10 West. We have followed Subpart 9 - Public Participation for an application for a variance. As per Subpart 903.A the following adjacent land owners were given notice: Quivira Mining Company, Bureau of Land Management and Mr. Jerry Elkins. Subpart 903.B requires that McKinley County and Navajo Nation be given notice. Published notice in English and Spanish was done on March 29, 1996 in the Gallup Independent and Cibola County Beacon as required by Subpart 903.C. Subpart 903.D required posting of notice in four locations, which were done at: McKinley County Clerk's office and McKinley Public Library in Gallup, New Mexico; and Public Library and Cibola County Clerk's office in Grants, New Mexico. Subpart 903.E required mailing notice to Cerrillos Land Company mineral lessor. Subpart 903.G required notice to be sent to Environmental Department, State Engineer, Department of Game and Fish, Forestry Division and State Historic Preservation Division. See attached letters for proof of notice. Copies of returned certified mail receipts and newspaper proof of publication will be forwarded to you under a separate cover letter.

I believe that the *Application for Variance* is complete and answers all concerns dealing with this variance. Enclosed is the \$522.50 fee for an application for variance. I'm looking forward to a timely response and should you or you staff have any questions please contact me at the Grants Project office.

Sincerely,

F. R. Craft

Resident Manager

FRC:jg

APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE Pursuant to New Mexico Mining Act Rules Subpart 10 (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10)

1002.A 1. The applicant is:

Homestake Mining Company of California

P.O. Box 98

Grants, New Mexico 87020

Contact person:

Mr. Fred Craft

Telephone:

505 287-4456

Fax:

505 287-9289

- 2. This application is submitted 29 March 1996
- 3. A variance is sought for the Section 23 Mine at Ambrosia Lake.
- 4. The mine is located in Township 14 North, Range 10 West, McKinley County.
- 5. A variance is sought from Subpart 5, Section 510.B, which requires that a permit application be submitted within 6 months after the owner receives notice of the determination that prior reclamation measures do not satisfy the requirements for reclamation. Rather than submit a permit application, Homestake proposes the course of action described below.
- 6. This section describes the extent to which, and why, Homestake wishes to vary from Subpart 5.
- 6. a. Background As a result of an MMD inspection of the Section 23 Mine conducted on 29 June 1995, the Director determined in a letter dated 29 September 1995 (which was received by Homestake on 16 November 1995) that: "The Section 23 Mine was identified by staff as having insufficient cover to meet release." The Director went on to say: "However, since Homestake has completed most reclamation measures at the mine, Homestake may apply for a variance from the provisions of the NMMA Rules pursuant to Rule 10. Otherwise, Homestake must apply for a permit under the provisions of Rule 5.10.B." Subsequent communications between Holland Shepherd of MMD and Fred Craft of Homestake determined that all other reclamation measures, other than revegetation, have been satisfactorily completed at the Section 23 Mine.

- 6. b. Proposal Therefore, Homestake proposes the following course of action for the Section 23 Mine. In the fall of 1996, following summer rains but before the estimated end of the growing season, Homestake will conduct a statistically-valid vegetation survey of the site, including enough 30-meter line intercept transects to meet sample adequacy. The survey will measure vegetation cover by species, and photographs will be taken to document the condition of the vegetation. If the results of the 1996 survey demonstrate that release criteria are met, then Homestake will ask MMD to release the Mine from further liability for reclamation. If the 1996 survey results do not meet release criteria, Homestake will follow the same survey procedure in 1997. If the site does not meet release criteria at the end of the 1997 vegetation survey, Homestake will determine the appropriate course of action to take in order meet release criteria, and will then provide MMD with an opportunity to review and comment on the proposed course of action.
- 6. c. Justification The MMD report dated 26 September 1995 says that 5 species of plants that were seeded in 1992 are present on the site, in addition to 10 other species (or 12 if you include the two species listed in the first paragraph of the Section 23 narrative but not listed in the subsequent Table). According to the Prior Reclamation Report for the Section 23 Mine which Homestake submitted to MMD, dated 29 August 1994, only 5 species of plants were seeded at the site. Therefore, all species seeded have apparently germinated. Among the non-seeded species indicated to be present in 1995 are 3 valuable perennials, namely Scarlet globemallow, Winterfat, and Fourwing saltbush, that are commonly use in revegetation of mines in northwest New Mexico. The presence of at least 8 perennial species on the site, in spite of the fact that none of them showed up in the transect MMD measured, indicates that Section 23 is capable of supporting a diverse mix of the native perennial plant species that are desirable for the site. Moreover, there is no evidence from the MMD survey, or from any other source, that any soil contamination or other problems exist that would interfere with plant growth at the site.

Native vegetation such as that found at Ambrosia Lake is commonly described in the literature as "patchy" (see, for example, New Mexico Vegetation Past, Present, and Future, by W.A. Dick-Peddie, p. 123.). This fact, combined with the uneven distribution of precipitation that is characteristic of the area, means that it is not unusual to find native sites where the distribution of plant species is uneven and considerable bare ground is present after a disturbance. Likewise, it is not unusual to find revegetated areas where the seeded species are also patchy, especially given the fact that, without supplemental irrigation, native plants can take as many as 5 complete growing seasons (or more) to establish in northwest New Mexico. Note that only two complete growing

seasons (those of 1993 and 1994) elapsed between the June 1992 seeding of Section 23 and the June 1995 MMD inspection.

The MMD report of the June 1995 inspection, on page 9, notes: "Homestake may need to consider reseeding this site or wait to see if an adequate cover can be achieved in another season or two of growth" (emphasis added). In this variance application, Homestake proposes to take the latter course of action, i.e., to wait one or two more growing seasons to see if adequate cover can be achieved. This seems to be justified because of the presence on the site of at least 8 species of perennial vegetation, and the fact that only 2 complete growing seasons elapsed between seeding and the MMD inspection. It is also worth noting that total precipitation at Grants airport (the nearest National Weather Service station, located approximately 19 miles south of Ambrosia Lake) in 1994, the year before the MMD inspection, was 7.73 inches, which is only about 72% of the annual average. And, in the 2 months prior to the MMD inspection (May and June, 1995), only 0.74 inch of precipitation was recorded at the Homestake Grants mill site, which is located approximately 14 miles south of Ambrosia Lake. Therefore, if the growing season before the inspection had below-average precipitation, and the months immediately prior to the inspection had little precipitation, then it is reasonable to assume that the vegetative cover measured during the inspection may not reflect the amount of cover that might be present if the site is given two more growing seasons (1996 and 1997) with average precipitation.

7. If the requested variance is not granted, Homestake will be forced to apply for a permit pursuant to Subpart 5, and then wait 12 years following the issuance of the permit for the site to be released. The cost of compiling a complete permit application for the Section 23 Mine pursuant to Subpart 5 and the other applicable Subparts, is estimated to be approximately \$25,000. Fees associated with a permit are estimated according to the following calculations.

1.	Permit application	(Rule 201.A.1) (201.A.2.)	\$ 1,000.00 1,000.00	
		(205.A)	90.00	
		Total permit appl	ication fee:	\$ 2,090
2.	Annual fee	(202.A.1.)	\$ 1,000.00	
		(202.A.2)	900.00	
		(205.A)	85.50	
		Annual fee:	\$ 1,985.50	
		Total annual fee	for 12 years:	
		\$1,985.50	X 12 years =	\$ 23,826

The reclamation performance bond is estimated to be approximately \$150,000 (100 acres X \$1,500 per acre for revegetation only), resulting in an opportunity cost (the cost of having this amount of money, plus other costs associated with the permit, unavailable for investment, conservatively estimated on the basis of only 5% possible return on investment) of \$200,916 X 5% per year for 12 years = \$120,552. In total, the cost of permitting the Section 23 Mine is estimated as follows:

Prepare permit application:	\$ 25,000
Permit application fee:	2,090
Annual fee for 12 years:	23,826
Performance bond:	150,000
Opportunity cost:	120,552

Total estimated cost of permitting:

\$321,468

It is not reasonable to require Homestake to spend approximately \$321,468, and wait 12 years to see if the vegetation becomes established, given what is known about the time required to establish vegetation in northwest New Mexico and the opportunity to resolve this issue in less time (see above in section 6.). By the end of the growing season of 1997, if the vegetation at the site does not meet release criteria, then Homestake will at that time determine the appropriate course of action to take in order meet release criteria. Before undertaking any action, Homestake will provide MMD with an opportunity to review and comment on the proposed course of action. Until then, there is no justification to require the expenditure of approximately \$321,468, especially given the fact that not one dollar of that money will result in expediting the establishment of vegetative cover at the Section 23 Mine.

- 8. As indicated above in section 6., all of the reclamation requirements at the site, other than revegetation, have been satisfactorily completed. The site does not now constitute in any way a threat to human health, safety, or the environment, according to the 26 September 1995 report of the MMD inspection of 29 June 1995. Granting this variance would not result in any change at the site that would modify that status. Therefore, granting this variance would not result in a significant threat to human health, safety or the environment.
- 9. Pursuant to Rules 201.K and 205.A, the fee for an application for a variance is \$522.50, which is enclosed.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Homestake Mining Company of California (HMC) has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for its Section 23 Mine at Ambrosia Lake, in accordance with the provisions 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 McKinley County at Ambrosia Lake, in Township 14 North, Range 10 West, New Mexico Principal Meridian. The Mine covers 100 acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the Mine site has been reclaimed according the requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for up to two additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Divison (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from additional revegetation requirements.

The applicant's address is:

Homestake Mining Company of California

P.O. Box 98

Grants, New Mexico 87020

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

State of New Mexico

2042 South Pacheco Street

Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittals is Monday, April 29, 1996.

Copies of the Application for a Variance is available for public inspection at the Public Library and Cibola County Clerk's office in Grants, New Mexico, at the Public Library and McKinley County Clerk's office in Gallup, New Mexico.

Friday, March 29, 1996.

AVISO PUBLICO

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La Mina de Sección 23 está situada en el Condado de McKinley, en Ambrosia Lake, en Township 14 Norte, Extensión 10 Oeste, New Mexico Principal Meridian. La Mina tiene una extensión de 100 acres de tierra anteriormente perturbado por la minería del uranio. Todo el

sitio de la Mina ha sido rehabilitado conforme a los requisitos de las leyes y reglamentos aplicables. El propósito de la variación es proveer para que pase dos más estaciones de crecimiento antes de la determinación, a ser hecho por la División de Minería y Minerales (MMD), que el sitio cumple con los criterios para releva de las obligaciónes de algún requisito adicional para la revegetación.

La dirección del suplicante es:

Homestake Mining Company of California

P.O 98

Grants, New Mexico 87020.

Personas interesadas que desean someter algún comentario escrito, o una súplica para una audiencia pública sobre esta materia, deben dirigir su solicitúd escrito a:

Director, Mining and Minerals Division

Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

2040 South Pacheco Street

Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505.

La fecha final para someter propuestas o comentari os es el lunes, día 29 de abril de 1996.

Copias de la solicitud para una variación están disponibles para inspección pública en la Biblioteca Pública y en la oficina del Secretario del Condado de Cibola, en Grants, New Mexico, y en la Biblioteca Pública y en la oficina del Secretario del Condado de McKinley, en Gallup, New Mexico.

Viernes, 29 de marzo, 1996.

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SIMILL TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET

ESTAKE MINING COMPANY OF CALIFORNIA GRANTS RECLAMATION PROJECT

P.O. BOX 98 GRANTS, NEW MEXICO 87020-0011

TELEPHONE - (505) 287-4456 FACSIMILE - (505) 287-9289

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GRANTS - REV 2 DATE: December 199:

Holland Shephera

March 29, 1996

CERTIFIED MAIL NO .: P 369 600 937

Ms. Kathleen A. Garland, Director
Mining and Minerals Division of
New Mexico Energy, Minerals and
Natural Resources Department
P.O. Box 6429

Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505 6429

Application for Variance for Section 23 Mine, Homestake Mining Company

Dear Ms. Garland:

Enclosed is the Application for Variance for Section 23 Mine located in McKinley County. Township 14 North, Range 10 West. We have followed Subpart 9 - Public Participation for an application for a variance. As per Subpart 903.A the following adjacent land owners were given notice: Quivira Mining Company, Bureau of Land Management and Mr. Jerry Elkins. Subpart 903.B requires that McKinley County and Navajo Nation be given notice. Published notice in English and Spanish was done on March 29, 1996 in the Gallup Independent and Cibola County Beacon as required by Subpart 903.C. Subpart 903.D required posting of notice in four locations, which were done at: McKinley County Clerk's office and McKinley Public Library in Gallup, New Mexico; and Public Library and Cibola County Clerk's office in Grants. New Mexico. Subpart 903.E required mailing notice to Cerrillos Land Company mineral lessor. Subpart 903.G required notice to be sent to Environmental Department, State Engineer, Department of Game and Fish, Forestry Division and State Historic Preservation Division. See attached letters for proof of notice. Copies of returned certified mail receipts and newspaper proof of publication will be forwarded to you under a separate cover letter.

I believe that the Application for Variance is complete and answers all concerns dealing with this variance. Enclosed is the \$522.50 fee for an application for variance. I'm looking forward to a timely response and should you or you staff have any questions please contact me at the Grants Project office.

Sincerely,

F. R. Craft Resident Manager

FRC:jg

Enclosures

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Humestake Mining Company of California Section 23 Mine Variance Application 29 March 1996 Page 1 of 4

APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE Pursuant to New Mexico Mining Act Rules Subpart 10 (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10)

1002.A

1. The applicant is:

Homestake Mining Company of California

P.O. Box 98

Grants, New Mexico 87020

Contact person:

Mr. Fred Craft

Telephone:

505 287-4456

Fax:

505 287-9289

2. This application is submitted 29 March 1996

3. A variance is sought for the Section 23 Mine at Ambrosia Lake.

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- 4. The mine is located in Township 14 North, Range 10 West, McKinley County.
- 5. A variance is sought from Subpart 5, Section 510.B, which requires that a permit application be submitted within 6 months after the owner receives notice of the determination that prior reclamation measures do not satisfy the requirements for reclamation. Rather than submit a permit application, Homestake proposes the course of action described below.
- 6. This section describes the extent to which, and why, Homestake wishes to vary from Subpart 5.
- 6. a. Background As a result of an MMD inspection of the Section 23 Mine conducted on 29 June 1995, the Director determined in a letter dated 29 September 1995 (which was received by Homestake on 16 November 1995) that: "The Section 23 Mine was identified by staff as having insufficient cover to meet release." The Director went on to say: "However, since Homestake has completed most reclamation measures at the mine, Homestake may apply for a variance from the provisions of the NMMA Rules pursuant to Rule 10. Otherwise, Homestake must apply for a permit under the provisions of Rule 5.10.B." Subsequent communications between Holland Shepherd of MMD and Fred Craft of Homestake determined that all other reclamation measures, other than revegetation, have been satisfactorily completed at the Section 23 Mine.

Homestake Mining Company of California Section 23 Mine Variance Application 29 March 1996 Page 2 of 4

- 6. b. Proposal Therefore, Homestake proposes the following course of action for the Section 23 Mine. In the fall of 1996, following summer rains but before the estimated end of the growing season, Homestake will conduct a statistically-valid vegetation survey of the site, including enough 30-meter line intercept transects to meet sample adequacy. The survey will measure vegetation cover by species, and photographs will be taken to document the condition of the vegetation. If the results of the 1996 survey demonstrate that release criteria are met, then Homestake will ask MMD to release the Mine from further liability for reclamation. If the 1996 survey results do not meet release criteria, Homestake will follow the same survey procedure in 1997. If the site does not meet release criteria at the end of the 1997 vegetation survey, Homestake will determine the appropriate course of action to take in order meet release criteria, and will then provide MMD with an opportunity to review and comment on the proposed course of action.
- 6. c. Justification The MMD report dated 26 September 1995 says that 5 species of plants that were seeded in 1992 are present on the site, in addition to 10 other species (or 12 if you include the two species listed in the first paragraph of the Section 23 narrative but not listed in the subsequent Table). According to the Prior Reclamation Report for the Section 23 Mine which Homestake submitted to MMD, dated 29 August 1994, only 5 species of plants were seeded at the site. Therefore, all species seeded have apparently germinated. Among the non-seeded species indicated to be present in 1995 are 3 valuable perennials, namely Scarlet globemallow, Winterfat, and Fourwing saltbush, that are commonly use in revegetation of mines in northwest New Mexico. The presence of at least 8 perennial species on the site, in spite of the fact that none of them showed up in the transect MMD measured, indicates that Section 23 is capable of supporting a diverse mix of the native perennial plant species that are desirable for the site. Moreover, there is no evidence from the MMD survey, or from any other source, that any soil contamination or other problems exist that would interfere with plant growth at the site.

Native vegetation such as that found at Ambrosia Lake is commonly described in the literature as "patchy" (see, for example, New Mexico Vegetation Past, Present, and Future, by W.A. Dick-Peddie, p. 123.). This fact, combined with the uneven distribution of precipitation that is characteristic of the area, means that it is not unusual to find native sites where the distribution of plant species is uneven and considerable bare ground is present after a disturbance. Likewise, it is not unusual to find revegetated areas where the seeded species are also patchy, especially given the fact that, without supplemental irrigation, native plants can take as many as 5 complete growing seasons (or more) to establish in northwest New Mexico. Note that only two complete growing

seasons (those of 1993 and 1994) elapsed between the June 1992 seeding of Section 23 and the June 1995 MMD inspection.

The MMD report of the June 1995 inspection, on page 9, notes: "Homestake may need to consider reseeding this site or wait to see if an adequate cover can be achieved in another season or two of growth" (emphasis added). In this variance application. Homestake proposes to take the latter course of action, i.e., to wait one or two more growing seasons to see if adequate cover can be achieved. This seems to be justified because of the presence on the site of at least 8 species of perennial vegetation, and the fact that only 2 complete growing seasons clapsed between seeding and the MMD inspection. It is also worth noting that total precipitation at Grants airport (the nearest National Weather Service station, located approximately 19 miles south of Ambrosia Lake) in 1994, the year before the MMD inspection, was 7.73 inches, which is only about 72% of the annual average. And, in the 2 months prior to the MMD inspection (May and June, 1995), only 0.74 inch of precipitation was recorded at the Homestake Grants mill site, which is located approximately 14 miles south of Ambrosia Lake. Therefore, if the growing season before the inspection had below-average precipitation, and the months immediately prior to the inspection had little precipitation, then it is reasonable to assume that the vegetative cover measured during the inspection may not reflect the amount of cover that might be present if the site is given two more growing seasons (1996 and 1997) with average precipitation.

7. If the requested variance is not granted, Homestake will be forced to apply for a permit pursuant to Subpart 5, and then wait 12 years following the issuance of the permit for the site to be released. The cost of compiling a complete permit application for the Section 23 Mine pursuant to Subpart 5 and the other applicable Subparts, is estimated to be approximately \$25,000. Fees associated with a permit are estimated according to the following calculations.

Permitiannlication (Rule 201 A 1)

1.	1 ernicappiicado	(201.A.2.)	1,000.00		
		(205.A)	90,00		
		Total permit appli	cation fee:	\$ 2,090	
2.	Annual fee	(202.A.1.)	\$ 1,000.00	:	
		(202.A.2)	900.00		
		(205.A)	85.50		
		Annual fee:	\$ 1,985.50		
		Total annual fee fo	\$ 23,826		
	5	\$1,985.50	\$1,985.50 X 12 years =		

The reclamation performance bond is estimated to be approximately \$150,000 (100 acres X \$1,500 per acre for revegetation only), resulting in an opportunity cost (the cost of having this amount of money, plus other costs associated with the permit, unavailable for investment, conservatively estimated on the basis of only 5% possible return on investment) of \$200,916 X 5% per year for 12 years = \$120,552. In total, the cost of permitting the Section 23 Mine is estimated as follows:

Prepare permit application: \$ 25,000
Permit application fee: 2,090
Annual fee for 12 years: 23,826
Performance bond: 150,000
Opportunity cost 120,552

Total estimated cost of permitting:

\$321,468

It is not reasonable to require Homestake to spend approximately \$321,468, and wait 12 years to see if the vegetation becomes established, given what is known about the time required to establish vegetation in northwest New Mexico and the opportunity to resolve this issue in less time (see above in section 6.). By the end of the growing season of 1997, if the vegetation at the site does not meet release criteria, then Homestake will at that time determine the appropriate course of action to take in order meet release criteria. Before undertaking any action, Homestake will provide MMD with an opportunity to review and comment on the proposed course of action. Until then, there is no justification to require the expenditure of approximately \$321,468, especially given the fact that not one dollar of that money will result in expediting the establishment of vegetative cover at the Section 23 Mine.

- 8. As indicated above in section 6., all of the reclamation requirements at the site, other than revegetation, have been satisfactorily completed. The site does not now constitute in any way a threat to human health, safety, or the environment, according to the 26 September 1995 report of the MMD inspection of 29 June 1995. Granting this variance would not result in any change at the site that would modify that status. Therefore, granting this variance would not result in a significant threat to human health, safety or the environment.
- Pursuant to Rules 201.K and 205.A, the fee for an application for a variance is \$522.50, which is enclosed.

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The applicant's address is:

Homestake Mining Company of California

P.O. Box 98

Grants, New Mexico 87020

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Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

State of New Mexico

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Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

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Friday, March 29, 1996.

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Viernes, 29 de marzo, 1996.

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HOMESTAKE MINING COMPANY

P.Q. BOX 98 GRANTS, NEW MEXICO 87020 (505) 287-4458

March 26, 1996

CERTIFIED MAIL NO.: P 369 600 935

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

Dear Mr. Harrison:

Homestake Mining Company of California (HMC) has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for its Section 23 Mine at Ambrosia Lake, in accordance with the provisions of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996 (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

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Senta Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittals is Monday, April 29, 1996.

A copy of the Application for a Variance is available for public inspection at the Public Library and Cibola County Clerk's office in Grants, New Mexico and at the Public Library and McKinley County Clerk's office in Gallup, New Maxico.

Sincerely,

F. R. Craft

Resident Manager

An Equal Opportunity Employer

H^ IESTAKE MINING COMPAI*

50 California Street San Francisco, California 94108

CHECK NO:

25388

DATE:28-MAR-96

VENDOR NAME NM Energy. Minerals

VENDOR NO:

4620

	A 1 E:28-MAR-96	VENDOR NAME: NM Energy, Minerals	VENDOR N	U: 4620
26-MAR-96 Variance for prior reclamation S .00 52	NVOICE NO INVOICE	E DATE DESCRIPTION	DISCOUNT	NET AMOUNT
				522.5
LEASE DETACH AND RETAIN THIS STATEMENT AS YOUR RECORD OF PAYMENT .00 5				522.

Thank you

BY

HOMESTAKE MINING COMPANY ASO CALIFORNIA SALE AND AN ANGLE - VOID IF NOT PRESENT DRAWN ON:

650 California Street San Francisco, California 94108 in cooperation with Wells Pargo Bank, NA #4759-008618

60 - 162/433

CHECK DATE | CHECK NO AMOUNT 28-MAR-96 25388 522.50

PAY Five Hundred Twenty Two Dollars and 50 Cents***************

TO THE ORDER OF

NM Energy, Minerals and Natural Resourc Mining & Minerals Division P. O. Box 6429 Santa Fe NM 87505-6429

HOMESTAKE MINING COMPANY

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE