

From: Myers, Kevin, OSE
Sent: Tuesday, November 10, 2009 10:30 AM
To: Shepherd, Holland, EMNRD
Cc: Rappuhn, Doug H., OSE; Johnson, Mike S., OSE
Subject: NM OSE Comments on Revised SAP and Response to Comments for Roca Honda Mine Project - RHR - MMD Permit No. MK025RN

Holland,

NM OSE Hydrology Bureau received a request for review and comment on the Revised Sampling and Analysis Plan for the Roca Honda Mine (SAP). MMD's request letter is dated October 28, 2009 and was received on October 30, 2009.

NM OSE Hydrology Bureau has reviewed the responses and portions of the SAP. The SAP is adequate for completion of the baseline data report. NM OSE Hydrology reserves further comments and review for the baseline data report. Apart from the two clarifications below, NM OSE Hydrology Bureau has no further comments. The clarifications should be addressed in the baseline data report.

1. Page 51 of the response to comments, No. 5. The RHR response appears to illustrate some confusion about the mentioned U S DOE background wells. As a clarification, these wells are located south of San Mateo Creek and near the confluence with Arroyo del Puerto. RHR mentions that the wells are somehow close to the Homestake Mill, which is not the case. Please see Figure 2.1 in the May 31, 2001 report entitled Application for Alternate Concentration Limits in the Alluvial Materials at the Quivira Mill Facility Ambrosia Lake, New Mexico with US NRC document number ML011690068.

http://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/idmws/doccontent.dll?library=PU_ADAMS^PBNTAD01&ID=060200209

2. Page 54 of the response to comments, No. 14. The RHR response indicates that Figure 9.6 (actually Figure 9-2, Potentiometric Surface of Westwater Canyon Member) has been revised to incorporate recent water level data, yet the water levels used are from 1955 to 1978, when there exists water level data for measurements made over the last 20 years. As presented in Section 9, it is unclear if any figure shows a representation of a potentiometric surface from recent water level measurements in the Westwater Canyon member.

If you or the applicant have any questions concerning the above comments, contact me by phone or email.

KCM

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