



COLORADO

Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety

Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street, Room 215
Denver, CO 80203

April 5, 2017

Bill Ferdinand
Homestake Mining Company
C/O Barrick Gold of North America, Inc.
460 West, 50 North, Ste. 500
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101

Re: Pitch Project, M-1977-004, Division Request for Long Term Reclamation Plans

Dear Mr. Ferdinand,

On September 14, 2016 the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (DRMS) completed its annual inspection of the Pitch Project (M-1977-004). During the course of onsite discussions DRMS inquired about a long term reclamation and final release strategy for Homestake. Those discussions did not indicate any clear plan to achieve final reclamation but rather various projects moving in a general direction.

DRMS notes that the permit is 39 years old. Due to its age, the permit is missing certain key components that would be helpful to both Homestake and DRMS in monitoring reclamation success and moving the site towards final release. As indicated in the inspection report the site is being maintained through certain reclamation activities that include a pilot project for groundwater remediation, some surface reclamation activities, and continued monitoring of the slide area. While these are key components of completing reclamation, it is unclear how they tie together in an overall cohesive plan to obtain final reclamation and ultimately final release of the site.

Based on the complexity of the site it is understood that any final release is years away. However, DRMS is requesting that Homestake develop a plan with measureable benchmarks that ultimately leads to final release of the permit. DRMS is requesting that this reclamation timetable plan be submitted as an amendment to the permit by January 2, 2018. The submission date should allow sufficient time for Homestake and DRMS staff to collaborate on site as to what the plan should include and what benchmarks should be contemplated.



If you need additional information or discussions please feel free to contact me or Dustin Czapla at the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, Grand Junction Field Office by telephone at (303) 866-3567, ext 8185 or 8188, or via e-mail at russ.means@state.co.us or dustin.czapla@state.co.us

Sincerely,



G. Russell Means
Senior Environmental Protection Specialist
Grand Junction Field Office

CC: Tony Waldron / DRMS Minerals Program Director - Denver
Dustin Czapla / DRMS EPS II - Grand Junction Field Office

