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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING: Homestake Mining Permit DP-200
For Modification & Renewal Of Groundwater Discharge**

Hearing Scheduled For April 29, 2014 In Grants, New Mexico

Grants, NM – The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has scheduled a public hearing on Tuesday, April 29, 2014, 9:00 AM in Grants, New Mexico to consider the modification and renewal of Groundwater Discharge Permit DP-200 for Homestake Mining Company of California (HMC). The Public will be allowed to comment at the hearing. Please refer to the information below for more details.

Description of the Requested Action: The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has scheduled a public hearing to consider the proposed approval of a ground water Discharge Permit DP-200 modification and renewal, based on the application submitted dated July 14, 2000, an updated application dated February 8, 2010, and additional information that has been submitted as part of the modification and renewal process by Homestake Mining Company of California (HMC), P.O. Box 98, Grants, New Mexico 87020. Discharge Permits are modified and renewed pursuant to the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) Regulations, 20.6.2 NMAC.

Hearing Date, Time, and Location: The hearing begins with opening statements and the presentation of technical testimony on Tuesday, April 29, 2014, 9:00 a.m., at the Cibola County Government Building, 515 West High Street, in Grants, New Mexico. Non-technical public comment will be taken as specified by the Hearing Officer and also starting at 5:00 p.m. on April 29th. The hearing may continue on the following day as determined by the Hearing Officer. In lieu of oral public comments, written statements may be submitted to the Hearing Clerk for the record during or prior to the hearing.

Application and Facility Description: In the Discharge Permit DP-200 modification and renewal application for the HMC uranium millsite, HMC proposes to modify the existing

Discharge Permit to authorize the treatment and/or discharge of up to 5,500 gallons per minute of ground water that has been contaminated by seepage from former uranium milling operations. Contaminated ground water that is collected from wells is currently treated primarily by reverse osmosis, or is discharged to three synthetically-lined evaporation ponds. The Discharge Permit would authorize land application of contaminated ground water subject to water quality limitations for a maximum of two years, and implementation of additional reverse osmosis and evaporative capacity. Additionally, this modification and renewal of Discharge Permit DP-200 would authorize implementation of alternative treatment methods that HMC currently is pilot-testing, which would be subject to NMED approval before full-scale use. Water contaminants associated with this discharge include nitrate, selenium, uranium, combined radium-226 plus radium-228, chloride, sulfate, total dissolved solids, and molybdenum. Alluvial ground water below the tailings impoundments ranges from approximately 25 to 50 feet below ground surface.

Hearing Procedures: The hearing will be conducted in accordance with the WQCC Regulations at 20.6.2.3110 NMAC and NMED's Permitting Procedures at 20.1.4 NMAC, **NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING: IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF HOMESTAKE MINING COMPANY OF CALIFORNIA FOR MODIFICATION AND RENEWAL OF GROUND WATER DISCHARGE PERMIT DP-200 MILAN, NEW MEXICO** Page 2 of 3 , and at no charge from the NMED Hearing Clerk, Sally Worthington, Room S-2103, 1190 St. Francis Drive, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502, telephone (505) 827-2002, fax (505) 827- 2836. All interested persons will be given a reasonable opportunity at the public hearing to submit relevant evidence, data, views or arguments orally or in writing, and to examine persons who testify at the hearing. **NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING: IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF HOMESTAKE MINING COMPANY OF CALIFORNIA FOR MODIFICATION AND RENEWAL OF GROUND WATER DISCHARGE PERMIT DP-200 MILAN, NEW MEXICO**

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