

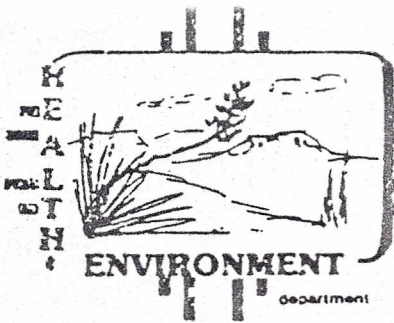
TONEY ANAYA
GOVERNOR

DENISE D. FORT
DIRECTOR

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT DIVISION

P.O. Box 968, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-0968
(505) 984-0020



CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

March 21, 1986

Dick Graeme
Gold Fields Operating Company-Ortiz
P.O. Box 47
Cerrillos, New Mexico 87010

Dear Mr. Graeme:

As we have previously discussed, the recent monitoring results at well 119 appear to indicate little, if any, improvement in ground water quality immediately below the waste residue pile. This well is located approximately 140 feet downgradient from the catchment pond, which was believed to be the primary source of the contamination.* The clay lining of the catchment pond in May of 1985 should have significantly reduced or eliminated the source. Based on estimated groundwater flow velocities of 0.5 to 3 feet per day, there should have been by now an observed improvement in water quality at well 119.

Rather than waiting until December 1986 to take any action (as stated in your discharge plan) I am requesting that you investigate why there has not been an observed change in water quality below the residue pile and then propose actions you will take to remedy this problem.

If you have any questions, please call me at 827-2893.

Sincerely,

Albert Dye
Water Resource Specialist
Ground Water Section

- * - cyanide
- cobalt
- nitrogen
- hypochlorite

AD/mp

cc: John Draper, Montgomery and Andrews

P 307 892 423

Handwritten notes:
Dick Graeme
P.O. Box 47
Cerrillos, N.M. 87010