SPEED MESSAGE

TO MINERALS FILE – GOLDSTRIKE MINE
M/053/005

FROM (D. WAYNE HEDBERG)
DEBRA BRANNUM (TENNECO MINERALS)

DOGM
MINERALS PROGRAM
FILE COPY

SUBJECT RECORD OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION, TENNECO MINERALS, GOLDSTRIKE MINE, M/053/005
NOTICE OF RELEASE, DUE TO RECORD RAINFALL (6-7 INCHES)

DATE 3/4/91

I RECEIVED A PHONE CALL FROM DEBRA BRANNUM (TENNECO MINERALS) NOTIFYING DOGM OF A PROCESS SOLUTION RELEASE AT THE GOLDSTRIKE MINE (@ 2:30pm) ON 3/1/91 WHICH CONTINUED UNTIL @ 4:00AM ON 3/3/91. CAUSE OF THE RELEASE WAS DUE TO EXCESSIVE PRECIPITATION ALLEDGEDLY AMOUNTING TO APPROXIMATELY SEVEN (7) INCHES ONSITE OVER THE TIME FRAME ABOVE. MS. BRANNUM INDICATED PRIOR TO DISCHARGING FROM THE PROCESS SOLUTION PONDS (AT A RATE OF @ 250 gpm), ALL EFFORTS WERE MADE NEUTRALIZE CYANIDE LEVELS DOWN TO NEGLIGIBLE VALUES TO MINIMIZE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS. VOLUME OF DISCHARGE OVER THE DURATION OF PUMPING FROM THE PONDS YIELDS APPROX. 550,000 gallons (1.7 acre/ft.). ALL SOLUTIONS DISCHARGED WERE CAPTURED/DETAINED BY THE DOWNSTREAM SEDIMENT DAM/IMPOUNDMENT. THE SEDIMENT POND UPON FILLING, SUBSEQUENTLY BEGAN LEAKING. RATES OF LEAKAGE WERE NOT DETERMINED. SIX SAMPLE LOCATIONS ESTABLISHED & MONITORED FOR FREE CYANIDE AND HEAVY METALS (1/HR., DURING ACTIVE DISCHARGE, THEN 1/8 HRS., AFTER DISCHARGE TERMINATED). HACH METER TEST RESULTS GAVE A HIGH VALUE OF 20 ppm FREE CYANIDE (DISCHARGE FROM SED. POND), WHICH WAS "SUSPECT" TO FURTHER CONFIRMATION. 4 SAMPLE AVERAGE FROM SED. POND WAS 1.5 ppm HCN. A VALUE OF <0.2 ppm free HCN REPORTED @ 1½ MILES DOWNSTREAM (CABIN SITE). DEBRA HEADED OUT TO SITE THAT EVENING, WILL CALL AGAIN W/UPDATE ON TUESDAY (3/5/91).

SIGNED

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