

589SERBSF10,634

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Site Name (Subject): TUNGSTEN QUEEN MINE/ATLAS MINE

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PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT

Tungsten Queen Mine

Townsville, Vance County, North Carolina

NCD 082 362 989

April 1985



North Carolina Department of Human Resources
Division of Health Services
P.O. Box 2091 • Raleigh, North Carolina 27602-2091

James G. Martin, Governor
Phillip J. Kirk, Jr., Secretary

Ronald H. Levine, M.D., M.P.H.
State Health Director
919/733-3446

April 1, 1985

Ms. Denise Bland
EPA NC 3012 Project Officer
Air and Hazardous Materials Division
345 Courtland Street, N.E.
Atlanta, GA 30365

CERCLA

Re: Preliminary Assessment Reports - Transmittal Letter

A.B. Carter, Inc. NC D003154010
Gastonia, NC 28052

Airco Ind. Gases NC D084172469
RTP, NC 27709

ESB Exide - Charlotte Service Center NC D091258806
Charlotte, NC 28208

Exide Corp. NC D075563932
AKA ESB Inc.
Raleigh, NC 27604

Guyton Battery Service NC D024459471
Chadbourn, NC 28431

Hull Service Station NC D083674713
Vale, NC 28186

Meadowlark Gliderport NC D107885188
Whitsett, NC 27377

Royal Development Company NC D003521960
Courtesy Road
High Point, NC 27261

Royal Development Company NC D991277898
Kettering Drive
High Point, NC 27260

Royal Development Company NC D057454571
Red Springs, NC 28377

Ms. Denise Bland
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Southchem
Durham, NC 27702

NC D980503148

Tungsten Queen Mine
Townsville, NC 27584

NC D082362989

Dear Ms. Bland:

Enclosed please find the Preliminary Assessment reports for the subject sites. Each priority is based on our review of available data, and on conversations and correspondence with site owners and operators.

A.B. Carter, Inc.
U.S. Hwy 321 South
Gastonia, NC 28052

NC D003154010
Gaston County

A.B. Carter, Inc., is presently a generator and a TSD facility. They generate, treat, and land dispose of wastewater and sludges from chrome and nickel plating operations. The surface impoundments are unlined and some appear to have been overtopped. Soil contamination, groundwater contamination, and surface water contamination may exist. The site has been assigned a Medium Priority for inspection. It is recommended that soil and groundwater in the vicinity of the surface impoundments be sampled and analyzed, and that the stream downgradient of the impoundment also be sampled and analyzed.

Airco Industrial Gases
P.O. Box 12338
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

NC D084172469
Durham County

Airco is listed as a small generator. The waste products consist of about 110 gallons of pump oil and 55 gallons of trichloroethylene generated every three years. These wastes are stored in drums and shipped off-site at least every 90 days. There is no indication that there has been any treatment, disposal, storage, or spillage of hazardous wastes or materials at this facility. No Further Action is recommended.

ESB Exide, Charlotte Service Center
3300 Piper Lane
Charlotte, NC 28208

NC D091258806
Mecklenburg County

ESB Exide is presently a small generator that generates waste batteries and a sludge containing iron and lead. These waste materials have always been sold to scrap dealers off-site for metals recovery. There is no indication that there has been any other treatment, storage, disposal, or spillage of hazardous wastes or materials at this facility. No Further Action is recommended.

Ms. Denise Bland
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Exide Corporation
AKA ESB, Inc.
2510 North Boulevard
Raleigh, NC 27604

NC D075563932
Wake County

Exide Corporation is in the process of closing this facility, which has been manufacturing batteries since 1954. An 1984, Exide sampled soil from several areas on the site. Analyses of the samples showed total lead content ranging from 90 ppm to 523 ppm. This site has been assigned a Medium Priority for inspection. Prior to Exide moving from the site, soil samples should be taken and analyzed for lead content using the EP toxicity method.

Guyton Battery Service, Inc.
P.O. Box 451
Chadbourn, NC 28431

NC D024459471
Columbus County

This company has operated as a battery repair and recycling station for approximately 30 years. As best as could be determined, the operation consisted only of handling unbroken batteries. However, since the facility has been in operation for 30 years, there is significant concern about the past practices of battery repair and handling. The possibility of spilled or buried acid or lead wastes seems very high. For this reason, the site has been assigned a Medium Priority for inspection.

Hull Service Station
Route 4, Box 89
Vale, NC 28168

NC D083674713
Lincoln County

Old underground tanks and surface spillage at the service station, which is situated between the houses of Tom Hull and Ted Hull, is the apparent source of methyl benzene and trichloroethane found in the well water of the houses. Groundwater is the sole drinking water supply for the area. It is suspected that the bedrock aquifer and some of the overlying soil is contaminated. This site has been assigned a Medium Priority for inspection

Meadowlark Gliderport
P.O. Box 173 6504 Burlington Rd.
Whitsett, NC 27377

NC D107885188
Guilford County

A small area adjacent to the airstrip was found to have high levels of pesticides and other hazardous chemicals in the soil. Water from the gliderport well, however, showed no contamination when analyzed. The contamination of the soil does not appear to be very extensive, however, so this site has been assigned a Low Priority for inspection.

Ms. Denise Bland

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Royal Development Co., Inc.
1417 Courtesy Road
High Point, NC 27261

NC D003521960
Guilford County

Royal Development Co., Inc.
325 Kettering Drive
High Point, NC 27261

NC D991277898
Guilford County

Royal Development Co., Inc.
Highway 71 West
Red Springs, NC 28377

NC D057454571
Robeson County

These three facilities are essentially identical. All are listed as RCRA generators and the Courtesy Road plant is listed as a transporter also. The generated waste is lacquer thinner which contains alcohol, ketone, toluene, and xylene. The waste has apparently always been drummed and moved off-site to be recycled. There is no indication that there has ever been any treatment, storage, disposal, or spillage of hazardous wastes or materials at any of the three facilities. No Further action is recommended.

Southchem
750 East Markham Ave.
Durham, NC 27702

NC D980503148
Durham County

This site is an urban area where unknown chemicals and demolition rubble were dumped and covered over. It has been investigated by an EPA contractor, Ecology and Environment, which sampled leachate sediment and liquid, stream sediment and water, and soil. Twenty organic compounds, some of which are priority pollutants, were positively identified and thirteen were tentatively identified. This site lies adjacent to an intermittent tributary to a major surface water supply. It has been assigned a Medium Priority for inspection.

Tungsten Queen Mine
SR 1348, near Tungsten, NC
Townsville, NC

NC D082362989
Vance County

This mine was closed in 1972 and has not been reopened. The mine sites have a large tailings pond on the east bank of Island Creek. It is suspected that metals contamination may be present in the soil, the groundwater, and possibly in Island Creek. A Low Priority of inspection has been assigned.

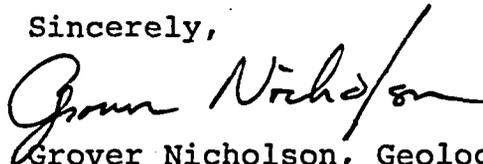
Ms. Denise Bland

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On 14 March 1985, each of the subject site was reviewed by Jerry Rhodes, Operations Chief, Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Branch, by RCRA 3012 personnel; and by the following representatives from the NC Department of Natural Resources and Community Development, Division of Environmental Management: Lee Laymon and Faye Sweat (Groundwater Section), Howard Bryant (Water Quality Section), and Glen Ross (Air Quality Section).

If you have any questions, please call me at (919) 733-2178.

Sincerely,



Grover Nicholson, Geologist
Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Branch
Environmental Health Section

GN/lw/2
Enclosures



**POTENTIAL HAZARDOUS WASTE SITE
PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT
PART 1 - SITE INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENT**

I. IDENTIFICATION

01 STATE	02 SITE NUMBER
NC	D082362989

II. SITE NAME AND LOCATION

01 SITE NAME (Legal, common, or descriptive name of site) Tungsten Queen Mine		02 STREET, ROUTE NO., OR SPECIFIC LOCATION IDENTIFIER SR 1348 Near Tungsten, NC			
03 CITY Townsville	04 STATE NC	05 ZIP CODE 27584	06 COUNTY Vance	07 COUNTY CODE 091	08 CONG DIST 02
09 COORDINATES LATITUDE 36 30 50 0		LONGITUDE 078 28 25 0 (ELEVEN) 11th CCN			

10 DIRECTIONS TO SITE (Starting from nearest public road)
From Townsville, go NW on SR 1348 to Tungsten, NC.

III. RESPONSIBLE PARTIES

01 OWNER (If known) HECLA Mining Co.		02 STREET (Business, mailing, residential) PO Box 320			
03 CITY Wallace	04 STATE ID	05 ZIP CODE 83873	06 TELEPHONE NUMBER (208) 752-1251		
07 OPERATOR (If known and different from owner)		08 STREET (Business, mailing, residential)			
09 CITY	10 STATE	11 ZIP CODE	12 TELEPHONE NUMBER ()		

13 TYPE OF OWNERSHIP (Check one)
 A. PRIVATE B. FEDERAL: _____ (Agency name) C. STATE D. COUNTY E. MUNICIPAL
 F. OTHER: _____ (Specify) G. UNKNOWN

14 OWNER/OPERATOR NOTIFICATION ON FILE (Check all that apply)
 A. RCRA 3001 DATE RECEIVED: ____/____/____ MONTH DAY YEAR B. UNCONTROLLED WASTE SITE (CERCLA 103 c) DATE RECEIVED: ____/____/____ MONTH DAY YEAR C. NONE

IV. CHARACTERIZATION OF POTENTIAL HAZARD

01 ON SITE INSPECTION
 YES DATE ____/____/____ MONTH DAY YEAR BY (Check all that apply)
 NO

A. EPA B. EPA CONTRACTOR C. STATE D. OTHER CONTRACTOR
 E. LOCAL HEALTH OFFICIAL F. OTHER: _____ (Specify)

CONTRACTOR NAME(S): _____

02 SITE STATUS (Check one) 03 YEARS OF OPERATION

A. ACTIVE B. INACTIVE C. UNKNOWN _____ BEGINNING YEAR _____ ENDING YEAR UNKNOWN

04 DESCRIPTION OF SUBSTANCES POSSIBLY PRESENT, KNOWN, OR ALLEGED
This tungsten mine was closed in 1972 and has not been reopened. The mine does have a large tailings pond on the bank of Island Creek. It is suspected that metals contamination may be present.

05 DESCRIPTION OF POTENTIAL HAZARD TO ENVIRONMENT AND/OR POPULATION

V. PRIORITY ASSESSMENT

01 PRIORITY FOR INSPECTION (Check one. If high or medium is checked, complete Part 2 - Waste Information and Part 3 - Description of Hazardous Conditions and Incidents)
 A. HIGH (Inspection required promptly) B. MEDIUM (Inspection required) C. LOW (Inspect on time available basis) D. NONE (No further action needed, complete current disposition form)

VI. INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM

01 CONTACT Colleen Kelley Envir. Super.		02 OF (Agency/Organization) Hecla Mining Co.		03 TELEPHONE NUMBER (208) 752-1251	
04 PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR ASSESSMENT Grover Nicholson/Lee Crosby		05 AGENCY NC DHR/ DHS	06 ORGANIZATION Sol. & Haz. Waste Mgt. Br.	07 TELEPHONE NUMBER (919) 733-2178	08 DATE 2, 18, 85 MONTH DAY YEAR



POTENTIAL HAZARDOUS WASTE SITE
PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT
PART 3 - DESCRIPTION OF HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS AND INCIDENTS

I. IDENTIFICATION	
01 STATE	02 SITE NUMBER
NC	D082362989

II. HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS AND INCIDENTS *(Continued)*

01 J. DAMAGE TO FLORA
04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

02 OBSERVED (DATE: _____) POTENTIAL ALLEGED

01 K. DAMAGE TO FAUNA
04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION *(Include name(s) of species)*

02 OBSERVED (DATE: _____) POTENTIAL ALLEGED

01 L. CONTAMINATION OF FOOD CHAIN
04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

02 OBSERVED (DATE: _____) POTENTIAL ALLEGED

01 M. UNSTABLE CONTAINMENT OF WASTES
(Spills/runoff/standing liquids/leaking drums)
03 POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: _____

02 OBSERVED (DATE: _____) POTENTIAL ALLEGED

04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

01 N. DAMAGE TO OFFSITE PROPERTY
04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

02 OBSERVED (DATE: _____) POTENTIAL ALLEGED

01 O. CONTAMINATION OF SEWERS, STORM DRAINS, WWTPs
04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

02 OBSERVED (DATE: _____) POTENTIAL ALLEGED

01 P. ILLEGAL/UNAUTHORIZED DUMPING
04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

02 OBSERVED (DATE: _____) POTENTIAL ALLEGED

05 DESCRIPTION OF ANY OTHER KNOWN, POTENTIAL, OR ALLEGED HAZARDS

III. TOTAL POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: _____

IV. COMMENTS

V. SOURCES OF INFORMATION *(Cite specific references, e. g., state files, sample analysis, reports)*



POTENTIAL HAZARDOUS WASTE SITE
PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT

PART 3 - DESCRIPTION OF HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS AND INCIDENTS

I. IDENTIFICATION

01 STATE NC 02 SITE NUMBER D082362989

II. HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS AND INCIDENTS

01 A. GROUNDWATER CONTAMINATION 02 OBSERVED (DATE: _____) POTENTIAL ALLEGED
03 POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: _____ 04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

01 B. SURFACE WATER CONTAMINATION 02 OBSERVED (DATE: _____) POTENTIAL ALLEGED
03 POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: _____ 04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

01 C. CONTAMINATION OF AIR 02 OBSERVED (DATE: _____) POTENTIAL ALLEGED
03 POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: _____ 04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

01 D. FIRE/EXPLOSIVE CONDITIONS 02 OBSERVED (DATE: _____) POTENTIAL ALLEGED
03 POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: _____ 04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

01 E. DIRECT CONTACT 02 OBSERVED (DATE: _____) POTENTIAL ALLEGED
03 POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: _____ 04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

01 F. CONTAMINATION OF SOIL 02 OBSERVED (DATE: _____) POTENTIAL ALLEGED
03 AREA POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: _____ (Acres) 04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

01 G. DRINKING WATER CONTAMINATION 02 OBSERVED (DATE: _____) POTENTIAL ALLEGED
03 POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: _____ 04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

01 H. WORKER EXPOSURE/INJURY 02 OBSERVED (DATE: _____) POTENTIAL ALLEGED
03 WORKERS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: _____ 04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

01 I. POPULATION EXPOSURE/INJURY 02 OBSERVED (DATE: _____) POTENTIAL ALLEGED
03 POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: _____ 04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

TUNGSTEN, VA. N.C.

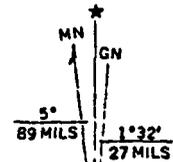
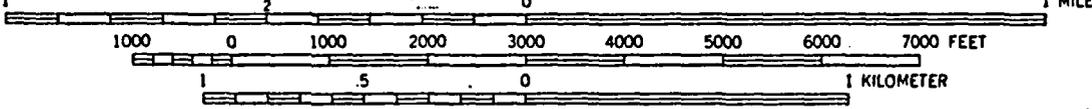
SW/4 BOYDTON 15' QUADRANGLE
N3630—W7822.5/7.5

1968
PHOTOINSPECTED 1974
AMS 5357 III SW—SERIES V834

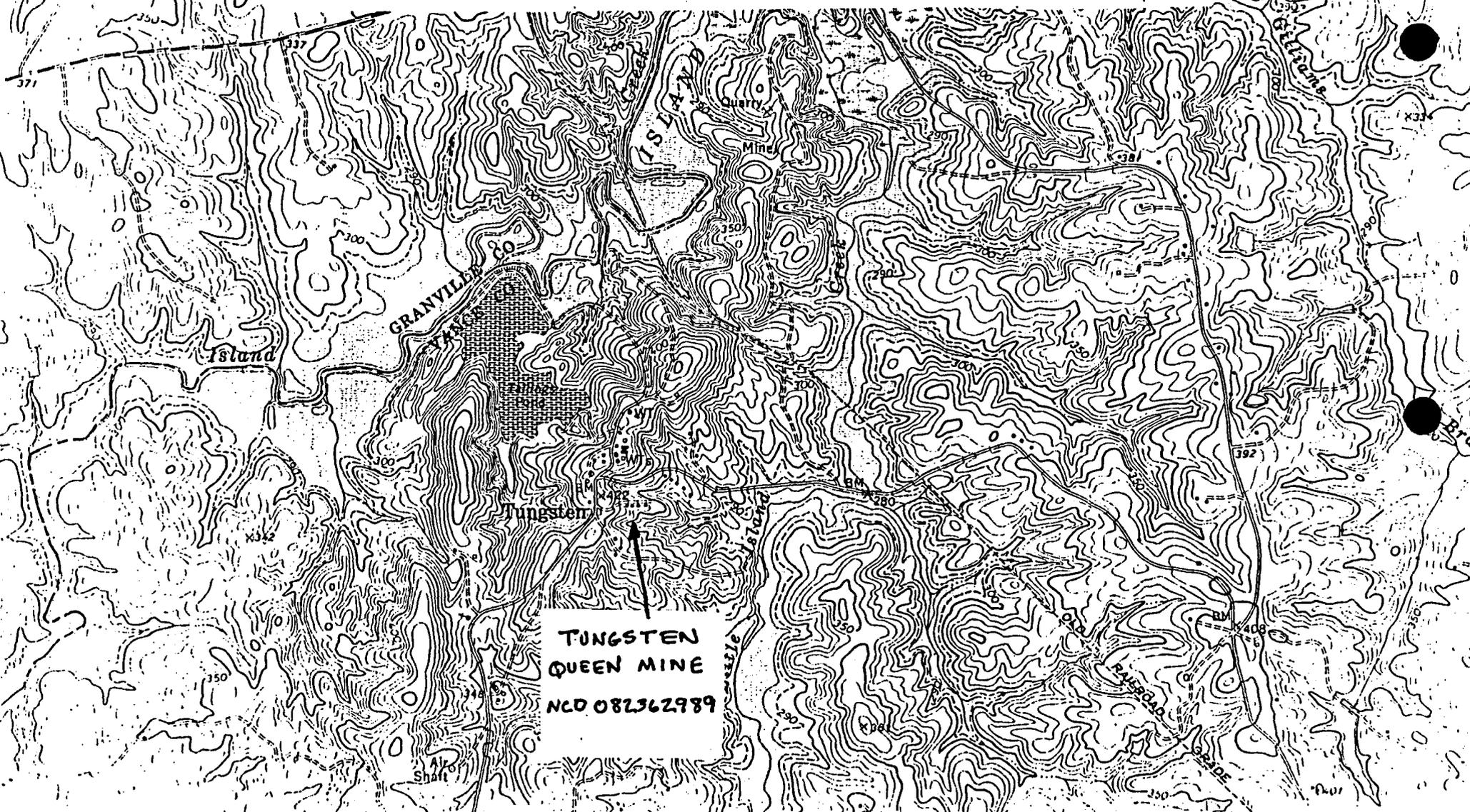
VIRGINIA
NORTH CAROLINA

MICKLENBURG CO
GRANVILLE CO

SCALE 1:24 000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929



TUNGSTEN
QUEEN MINE
NCO 082362989



Ronald H. Levine, M.D., M.P.H.
STATE HEALTH DIRECTOR

Kelly

DIVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES
P.O. Box 2091
Raleigh, N.C. 27602-2091

Date: July 20, 1982

Mr. James M. Rosel
Ranchers Exploration and
Development Corporation
Box 6217
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87197

Re: Facility ID No. NCD082362989

Dear Mr. Rosel:

Based on information supplied by you we have processed and accepted at the State level your request for the facility identified with the above ID number to receive the indicated change in classification under RCRA:

Add As

Delete As

generator

transporter

treater

storer

disposer

small generator

We are advising EPA of the change in your status. Please notify us if there is any further change in your operations which would again affect your status. Your EPA ID NO. is is not being cancelled.

Cordially,

O. W. Strickland, Jr., Head
Solid & Hazardous Waste Management Branch
Environmental Health Section

OWS

cc: John Herrmann
EPA Region IV
Emil Breckling

DHS Form 3048 3/82
Solid & Haz. Waste Mgt. Branch

DATE: 12 March 1985
TO: FILE
FROM: Grover Nicholson *G.Nicholson*
RE: Confidentiality of Hecla Mining Co. Information

I requested information from Hecla Mining Company concerning the tailings pond at the Tungsten Queen Mine. Part of the information that they furnished was the Meyertons Report. In an accompanying letter, Ms. Colleen Kelley, Environmental Supervisor for Hecla, formally requested that this report be classified as proprietary and confidential.

I asked Anne Allen^{*Branch Attorney gcn*} of this Branch to read over the report and advise me about handling the confidentiality of the material. After listening to her excellent advice, I have decided on the following actions.

- 1) Each page of the Meyerton Report and associated data will be stamped "Confidential."
- 2) The material will be photocopied and sent to Region IV, EPA, in the Preliminary Assessment package.
- 3) Both the original report and the copy sent to EPA will be placed in envelopes stamped "Confidential."
- 4) The information will not be released to the public without a formal request, review by the Branch legal staff, and permission from Hecla Mining Company.

GN/lw

DATE: 18 February 1985

TO: File

FROM: Grover Nicholson *gon*

RE: PA for Tungsten Queen Mine

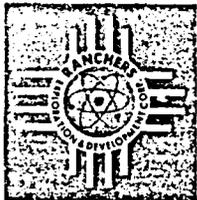
Today I spoke with Mr. Roger Kaufman and Ms. Colleen Kelley by telephone. Mr. Kaufman is the Manager of New Mines and Industrial Mineral Division and Ms. Kelley is the Environmental Supervisor for Hecla Mining Company. From them, I received the following information.

The Tungsten Queen Mine is now owned by Hecla Mining Company, P.O. Box 320, Wallace, Idaho 83873. The mine was previously owned by Ranchers Exploration and Development Corporation of New Mexico. The companies merged in July 1974 and became Hecla.

The mine was closed in 1972 and has not been reopened.

The caretaker of the mine is Mr. Howard Compton. He used to be an electrician at the mine and is now also the sheriff in Townsville.

GN/lw/2071A



RANCHERS EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Box 6217 / 1776 Montano Road, N.W. / Albuquerque, New Mexico 87197
Telephone (505) 344-3542 / TWX 910 989 1688 RANC EXPLO ABQ
TLX 66 0422 RAN EXP ALB

269 952-1251

July 14, 1982



O. W. Strickland
Office of Solid & Hazardous Waste
Division of Health Services
P. O. Box 2091
Raleigh, NC 27602

RE: Tungsten Queen Mine

Dear Mr. Strickland:

The above referenced facility was recently visited by Joseph Deakins, with the Solid Waste Branch in Burlington. Mr. Deakins suggested that we contact you regarding the mine property.

Please be advised that no activities are conducted at the Tungsten Queen Mine. It has been shut down for approximately ten years. No hazardous wastes are treated, stored or disposed of at the site.

Please remove us from your listing as a hazardous waste site. We were initially listed during a confusing stage of the Federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) legislative process which has since been clarified.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to call us.

Very truly yours,

RANCHERS EXPLORATION AND
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

James M. Rose
Assistant Vice President
and Assistant Secretary

JMR/nlp
cc: Jerrel Stallard