

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION**

CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT ORDER NO. 87-109

AGAINST

CAMP ROCK MINE

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, INC. - MINE OWNER

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT - LANDOWNER

Northeast of Lucerne Valley - San Bernardino County

The Executive Officer of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Regions finds that:

1. Natural Resource Management, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as the discharger), 100 N. Citrus Avenue, Suite 310, West Covina, California 91791, is the owner of Camp Rock Mine which is located northeast of Lucerne Valley (Section 28, T7N, R3E, SBB&M). The U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management (hereinafter also referred to as the discharger) is the owner of the land at the Camp Rock Mine site.
2. On September 21, 1987, the Regional Board received a complaint report from the Bureau of Land Management regarding the release of a significant amount of mercury at Camp Rock Mine on September 19, 1987. The mine had been using mercury to extract gold from ore concentrates. The Bureau of Land Management ordered the mine owner to discontinue the gold recovery operation until further notice.
3. The discharger reported removing the pools of mercury and some of the contaminated soil at the surface.
4. On October 1, 1987, the Regional Board staff conducted a joint site inspection with representatives from the discharger, the San Bernardino County Department of Environmental Health Services and the Bureau of Land Management. During the inspection, small beads of mercury were observed remaining on the rocks and soil at the surface in the tailings basin. Preliminary soil and water samples were taken from the tailings basins for mercury analyses. Also, background samples were taken upgradient of the gold recovery plant and at the stockpiled unprocessed ore. Results of the analyses indicates mercury contamination of the soil, extending 20 feet from the discharge point.
5. The discharger has caused or permitted an unauthorized release of hazardous waste to land which poses a threat to the quality of the waters of the State.

*Cancelled  
1/14/88*

6. Section 13304 of the California Water Code states, in part, that:

"Any person . . . who has caused or permitted . . . any waste to be discharged or deposited where it is, or probably will be, discharged into the waters of the State and creates, or threatens to create, a condition of pollution or nuisance, shall upon order of the regional board clean up such waste or abate the effects thereof or, in the case of threatened pollution or nuisance, take other necessary remedial action."

7. The Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin Region identifies the beneficial uses of the ground waters in the Lucerne Hydrologic Unit as:

- a. Municipal
- b. Industrial
- c. Agricultural

8. This enforcement action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to Sections 15308 and 15321, Chapter 3, Title 14 of the California Administrative Code.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that pursuant to Section 13304 of Division 7 of the California Water Code, the discharger shall comply with the following:

Clean up or abate the effects of the discharge of mercury to the soil at Camp Rock Mine which is located northeast of Lucerne Valley. The following procedures, as a minimum, shall be taken:

- a. Immediate removal of the gross contaminated soil in the vicinity of the discharge area. The contaminated soil shall be handled as a hazardous material and shall be properly transported, manifested, and disposed of. The excavated area shall not be backfilled without prior approval from the Regional Board's Executive Officer.
- b. Submit to the Regional Board a technical report with the results of a complete subsurface investigation, which includes as a minimum the lateral and vertical extent of the contamination from the discharge of mercury to the soil. The report shall be prepared by a qualified professional and submitted to the Regional Board office by December 1, 1987.
- c. Submit a remedial action plan within two weeks after submittal of the above requested technical report.

ORDERED BY:

  
Executive Officer

  
Date