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CA-932.7

Mr. John C. Wise  
Deputy Regional Administrator  
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region IX  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

Re: Atlas Asbestos Mine Superfund Site

Dear John:

I have seriously considered your August 24, 1993, letter responding to BLM's summary of its past and prospective costs at the Atlas Mine Superfund Site as it relates to EPA's payment demand for past costs. I cannot accept your compromise offer of 75% of the \$1.1 million.

We strongly believe the costs BLM has incurred to date at the site (\$800,000) and the costs we will accrue (\$2,000,000) evidence the dedication and sincerity of BLM to remediate the site and protect human health and safety. BLM maintains its original position as stated in my August 2, 1993, letter.

I encourage you to reconsider EPA's stated intention of elevating this matter for resolution based on the consideration of the equities involved in this special case. I would like to add, however, our inability to resolve this issue will not impact any current or future coordination efforts by BLM with the EPA.

Sincerely,



Ed Hastey  
State Director

cc: Director WO 100, Room 5660, MIB

bc: AD WO 700, Room 5617, MIB  
WO 750, Room 407, LS  
DM, Bakersfield  
AM, Hollister  
T. Berger, Reg Sol.