



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 8**

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Ref: 8SEMD

Mr. Devon Horntvedt  
Director, Legacy Site Management  
Newmont Corporation  
Sent via email only to [devon.horntvedt@newmont.com](mailto:devon.horntvedt@newmont.com)

Re: Idarado Response, General Notice Letter for San Miguel Fluvial Tailings Site

Dear Mr. Horntvedt:

This letter is in response to Lawrence Fiske's July 21, 2022 letter to Chris Thompson regarding the above-mentioned Site in and around Telluride, Colorado. Historic operations from the Idarado Mine and Pandora Mill deposited metals-laden tailings in various areas of Telluride. Though some historic contamination was addressed through previous actions with the State of Colorado, dispersed deposits of tailings remain on the banks of the San Miguel River. In 2020, the State of Colorado requested EPA assistance in addressing the remaining contamination. The tailings are adjacent to a community ballfield, regularly accessed by adults and children, and continuously eroding into the San Miguel River. EPA assessed the Site in 2021 and confirmed the tailings contain elevated levels of lead and arsenic. To address these ongoing releases of hazardous substances, this letter invites Newmont USA Limited and/or Idarado Mining Corporation (collectively, "Newmont") to enter an administrative order on consent for removal action. Such order would be based on EPA's model removal administrative order, which is available here: [https://cfpub.epa.gov/compliance/models/view.cfm?model\\_ID=754](https://cfpub.epa.gov/compliance/models/view.cfm?model_ID=754).

Please notify us no later than September 16, 2022 if Newmont is willing to negotiate an order on consent. Should Newmont decline, EPA will review options available under CERCLA and proceed as appropriate. If a phone call or meeting to discuss the scope of a potential removal action would be helpful, we are happy to schedule one prior to September 16, 2022.

Sincerely,

Joni Sandoval  
On-Scene Coordinator

cc: Amelia Piggott, EPA  
Max Greenblum, EPA  
Lawrence Fiske, Newmont  
Scott Hardt, Davis, Graham & Stubbs