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# SHASTA COUNTY

## DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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March 29, 1993

David E. Rinker  
Rinker Consulting Services  
P.O. Box 1129  
Cottonwood, CA 96022

Subject: Permits for the reopening of the Iron Mountain Mine

Dear Mr. Rinker:

This letter is in response to your letter dated March 18, 1993, in which you requested a "round table" discussion, coordinated by the Shasta County Department of Resource Management, Planning Division, to discuss the local, state and federal requirements and procedures for reopening the Iron Mountain Mine. It is our understanding that, as of this date, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) retains authority over the operations and reclamation of the Iron Mountain Mine. Apparently the recent litigation regarding Iron Mountain Mine affects only its status as a Superfund cleanup site and the reimbursement of cleanup costs, but not whether the EPA will retain authority for cleanup operations. It is our understanding that the U.S. District Court has ruled that the landowner cannot interfere with the EPA cleanup, and therefore cannot reopen the mine, unless approved by the EPA.

Shasta County has no authority to initiate, approve or issue any permits for mine operation or reclamation that would be inconsistent with the EPA program. Therefore it seems inappropriate for us to begin discussions regarding the reopening of the mine.

The County has the authority for permits for mining and reclamation on, or adjacent to, the mine site that would not interfere with the EPA cleanup operations. If this is what you are proposing, please indicate specifically what is being proposed and how it would not be inconsistent with the EPA program. Because of the complex and extremely technical nature of this mining operation, the County may require professional peer review of any such proposal. The cost of a peer review would to be charged to the applicant.

If you believe that our understanding is incorrect, please send us any documentation to help clarify the matter. If you have any questions or comments, or want to make an appointment to meet at our office, please call me at (916) 225-5532. The Planning Division office is located at 1855 Placer Street, Redding, CA 96001. We are open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Sincerely,

Bill Walker  
Associate Planner

cc: T.W. (Ted) Arman, President, Iron Mountain Mines, Inc. 1900 Point West Way, Suite 164, Sacramento, CA 95815

Richard Sugarek, Remedial Project Manager (H-6-2), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

Michael Hingerty, Assistant Regional Counsel, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9, 75 Hawthorne Street, 16th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

Jim Pedri, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, 415 Knollcrest Drive, Redding, CA 96002

County Counsel, Shasta County

Director, Shasta County Department of Resource Management

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