



Project Name: Program Upgrade and Certification

Client: Homestake Mining Company

Location: Worldwide

Project Goal

With operations in six countries and with sixteen operating gold mines, Homestake Mining Company is one of the top five gold mining companies in the world. As a leading company in their industry, Homestake must meet environmental health and safety (EHS) regulatory requirements in many countries along with the Gold Institute Standards. As a leading edge company in the area of environmental awareness, Homestake was interested in evaluating its EHS audit program and obtaining recommendations for improving its effectiveness.

Waterstone's Role

Waterstone was retained by Homestake's senior management to observe several compliance and management system audits conducted of operating mines, to review the company's EHS audit procedures and training, and compare the audit program to industry standards. Initially, Waterstone evaluated and developed a comparison matrix of the various environmental management standards proposed or established in the applicable states and operating countries. Waterstone reviewed Homestake's Environmental Management Procedures and Programs and accompanied project teams during their performance of audits of operating mines. A report was generated that described the areas of strength and weakness with the audit program.

Project Challenges and Successes

Homestake wanted the evaluation to conform to various environmental management standards proposed or established (i.e., The Gold Institute, ISO 14000, etc.) throughout the world. Based on the comparison of environmental management standards and the results of the audit program evaluation, Homestake began implementing improvements in the company's environmental management systems. Based on Waterstone's recommendations, Homestake's auditing team was able to deliver auditing reports to the most senior management levels so that changes and improvements could be considered and implemented without hindrance by internal policy. These reports also provide written documentation of the environmental management program, objectives and procedures. The overall program culminated with a certification of Homestake's EHS audit program by Waterstone and Waterstone's findings have been presented in Homestake's Environmental, Health and Safety Annual report for several years.