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Laura Dunn  
National Freedom of Information Officer  
Mine Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Dept. of Labor  
1111 Wilson Blvd.  
Arlington, VA 22209

**FOIA REQUEST**

**Fee benefit requested**

**Fee waiver requested**

**Expedited review requested**

Over a period of several years in the late 1990's, the refinery at Newmont's Twin Creeks mine in Nevada was having substantial problems with high levels of mercury in the air inside the facility as a result of the process of extracting gold from processed ore. The concentrations were serious enough that workers inside the facility were required to wear respirators during their shifts. We understand that MSHA was aware of this problem and was working with Newmont to reach a solution, which ultimately entailed the construction of a new ventilation system.

I filed an earlier Foia request with MSHA asking for citations MSHA made against the facility with regard to this problem as well as any inspection reports that highlighted the issue of potential mercury contamination inside the Twin Creeks refinery. But there may also be written communication between MSHA and Newmont over the problem and how the company was going to solve it. We'd like those documents as well, and Doris Cash suggested we file an addendum to the original Foia specifying that request. Please consider this correspondence as that addendum. I've already been in telephone contact with Gene Audio (sp??), who is processing the original Foia and is aware of the additional request.

Thanks for your attention and your time.

JAN 31 2004

Regards,



Michael Riley  
The Denver Post