

February 23, 2024

Ms. Sarah Johnson
Reporter, global development
Guardian News & Media

Ms. Johnson,

**RE: RESPONSE TO EMAIL DATED 20 FEBRUARY WITH SUBJECT: REQUEST
FOR COMMENT – PUEBLO VIEJO**

Thank you for contacting us regarding your concerns at the Pueblo Viejo Mine and for providing us with the opportunity to present you with the facts. At Barrick we pride ourselves on being good corporate citizens and conscientious and responsible stewards of the environment and, as such, take allegations against us extremely seriously.

Our commitment to our host communities and the protection of the environment are the foundation on which we have been able to build a sustainable, modern mining company not only in the Dominican Republic but around the world.

Although your email does not provide us with specifics to respond to, we are aware of these general, outdated and previously addressed allegations. These are often raised by small minorities who do not represent the communities surrounding the mine, and to which we have provided extensive public responses in the past. Despite evidence to the contrary, these actors continue to recycle these baseless and misinformed claims.

Below, we provided important history and context to Pueblo Viejo and an overview of our water stewardship before addressing the allegations raised in your e-mail. We trust this will provide you with further details and information so that an informed understanding can be reached. We are committed to encourage transparent engagement, and support responsible, independent reporting, and trust that your article will not perpetuate unfounded allegations, but rather seek to substantiate any statements with fact. We would also welcome the opportunity to review any draft article.

History and Context

Mining activity at Pueblo Viejo began as far back as the 1500s. Rosario Resources commenced mining operations on the property in 1975. In 1979, the Dominican Government acquired the mine and continued operations as Rosario Dominicana S.A. Operations ceased in 1999, without proper closure, leaving significant historical environmental contamination. The water flowing from the closed mine was highly acidic and contaminated the Margajita river leaving it unable to sustain aquatic life in certain areas.

In 2008, Barrick commenced construction of Pueblo Viejo and started commercial production in 2013. There are two water catchments around our operations, these are the Maguaca and the

Margajita. Our process plant and pits are located in the Margajita catchment, and we only discharge treated water, as per our permit, to the Margajita River. The water being discharged into the river must comply with the regulatory standard and Pueblo Viejo completes daily tests at the discharge point to ensure continued compliance.

As part of the Pueblo Viejo Special Lease Agreement of Mining Rights, Barrick committed to remediate the historical Rosario environmental impacts within the Pueblo Viejo development boundary, notably in the Margajita catchment. However, the Pueblo Viejo and Rosario boundaries are not congruent and Rosario legacy impacts, as well as those from other operating mines, persisted outside of the responsibility and liability of Barrick, notably in the Maguaca catchment.

Despite this, Barrick agreed to provide \$75 million dollars to fund the clean-up of areas that are the responsibility of the Dominican Government and are outside our development boundary. This includes the historical Mejita dam that resulted in impacts to the Maguaca river.

Since 2008, when construction commenced, Barrick has undertaken the largest environmental remediation in the Dominican Republic's history. As an example, we have rehabilitated and restored 225 hectares of land and removed 180,000 m³ of contaminated soil, removed the hazardous substances found within the development boundaries and importantly, funded and managed the construction and operation of a water treatment plant.

Most notably, the environmental remediation and water treatment undertaken by Barrick has resulted in significant improvement in the quality of water in local rivers and the environment around the mine. The extensive remediation has resulted in the Margajita River water quality now meeting regulatory standards and, in particular, shows a significant improvement in pH, some heavy metals concentrations and the return of and improvement in biodiversity.

Below is a before and after example of images that attest to the above.



Figure 1: Margajita River in July, 2012 prior to commercial production at Pueblo Viejo



Figure 2: Margajita River in March 2014 following the extensive remediation works undertaken by Barrick.

We recommend you verify these inherited conditions through public information and predates Barrick.

Various State Institutions have also evaluated the allegations of contamination, damage to health and livelihoods and concluded that these were not attributable to Pueblo Viejo. It is also important to note that the Environmental Department of the Ministry of Energy and Mines as well as the Customs Authorities have a permanent presence at our mine and continuously monitor our operations.

Some of these reports are provided for your benefit in Annex 1.

Environmental Management and Water Stewardship

Barrick's approach to water management is codified in our Environmental Policy, and a standalone Water Policy. Managing and using water responsibly is a critical part of our sustainability strategy. We recognize that access to water is both a fundamental human right and critical for the effective operation of our mines. We have a transparent and methodical approach to water stewardship,

Pueblo Viejo operates with an environmental management system that is ISO14001 certified. We are also certified under the Cyanide Management Code for our appropriate and safe management of cyanide solutions.

All the water discharged from our operations is treated in our onsite water treatment plant to meet regulatory standards and monitored for compliance prior to being discharged. This technology and procedures have been applied since the start of the operation and the sole discharge point is the Margajita river. This data is submitted to the authorities biannually.

Beyond our permit requirements for water monitoring and management, Pueblo Viejo conducts quarterly community participatory monitoring to increase transparency and trust in host communities. Such monitoring began in 2012 and has since conducted around 50 participatory monitoring exercises, with the participation of more than 2,000 community members and a further 580 representatives of organizations from universities, media, NGOs, and Chambers of

Commerce, among others.

Participants spend a day collecting water samples from various points downstream in the Margajita River and other water sampling points not related to the mine, as requested by the communities. These samples are analyzed by an independent third-party certified laboratory and the results are presented to the community. Results are available at our Community Engagement and Development Office.

During the last 4 years, quarterly monitoring has been conducted by INTEC University, one of the most reputable universities in the country. The results taken by INTEC are shared with the communities and other participants.



Figure 3 Images of quarterly monitoring

Some of the representative organizations that have raised these allegations have rejected any invitation to be part of this transparent participatory monitoring. Annex 2 includes the letter to Leoncia Ramos, representative of the New Renacer Committee (group from communities asking for resettlement), inviting three designated representatives to conduct a review of the water quality. No response was received.

Responses to allegations

- I. One resident said she was told in 2014 by a doctor that she had elevated lead and heavy metal levels in her blood. In 2014, local media reported a study conducted by a public health doctor that found cyanide and heavy metals in the blood of residents living near the mine. Residents say they have developed respiratory, kidney and heart problems, and their eyesight has worsened. They blame pollution from mining operations.**

Health claims and allegations surfaced in 2011. Although you have not given us the link to the report you refer to, our knowledge of a 2014 local media report was based on samples taken in 2013. As explained above, Pueblo Viejo started commercial production in 2013, prior to which the region was mined by a state-owned enterprise.

The 2014 local media report to which you appear to refer was focused mainly on Panterra Gold (formerly EnviroGold). Nuria Piera, the journalist, recognized Barrick's transparency. Panterra Gold (nor EnviroGold) does not process any gold at Pueblo Viejo mine. Because we take these

allegations seriously, we have analyzed the report and have transcribed below some fragments of it to ensure that the facts are not misrepresented:

“This is a serious complaint because we have tests that have been ordered through serious labs that have produced alarming results. It has always been said that the Cotui mining area is highly contaminated and there is a mine called Panterra Gold where the evidence we have shown us the complaint and the results show that it is a mine that has greatly contaminated the area.”

“In this area, we have already heard the controversies surrounding the operation of Barrick’s Pueblo Viejo, where the company has been very open, publicizing its facilities and its procedures that it considers having a low impact on the environment; however, two years ago the Australian company Panterra Gold, formerly EnviroGold, processes gold and silver at the Las Lagunas project in Pueblo Viejo, Cotuí.¹ The Dominican state granted it a concession in 2004 giving it the right to process the tailings left by Rosario Dominicana and recover more than 3 tons of gold. “

“According to Salud Ambiental², during the interview he insisted on stating that the current companies are not responsible for the contamination.”

To be clear, Panterra Gold’s activities do not form part of Barrick’s Pueblo Viejo operations. Barrick cannot comment on Panterra Gold/EnviroGold’s environmental compliance and advise you to consult with the Ministry of Environment.

III. In 2019, the publication of a report showing widespread dissatisfaction with the gold mine was stopped by the government after Barrick raised concerns about the results.

We are not sure which publication you are referring to. If you could share the reference or any specifics, we could provide an informed comment.

IV. A report by Steven H. Emerson found that the environmental impact study documents that Barrick presented to the Dominican government were “incomplete”, did not properly explore safer alternatives and underestimated the consequences of failure. Barrick issued a response to the report saying it is “riddled with partial and flawed opinions” and “should not be passed off as an independent scientific investigation” which has been referenced.

We believe you are referring to the report issued by Mr. Emerman, as opposed to Mr. Emerson.

As publicly disclosed in the Company’s press release of October 3, 2023, and as referenced in your email, Barrick conducted a thorough review of Mr. Emerman’s report and concluded that it lacked supporting data, facts and analysis, was not subject to peer review and is in large parts contradictory. Stakeholders are encouraged to review the detailed reasons for these conclusions which are fully set out in our press release at: [Emerman Report Response](#).

Barrick repeatedly sought to engage with Mr. Emerman and the sponsoring organization, who deliberately chose to operate outside of the national and internationally accepted Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) process.

¹ For clarity, the reference to Pueblo Viejo is not to Barrick’s Pueblo Viejo mine, but the location.

² A government institution that had analyzed the complaints.

The ESIA for the project was a comprehensive, multi-faceted process, undertaken by independent multi-disciplinary specialists, from the Dominican Republic and internationally, over the course of more than two years. It included over 3,000 meetings with community members, including one-on-one engagements to ensure maximum outreach and participation. In addition, we conducted two (2) open and public town hall meetings, advertised in local and national media, and attended by over 1,500 participants. The consultation process was transparent, comprehensive, and accessible to all stakeholders.



Figure 3 Images of the public participation meetings held in May and June 2022

Beyond electing to not engage with Barrick or Pueblo Viejo, within or outside of the ESIA process, we also understand that Mr Emerman's visit to the surrounding areas was met with community resistance and meetings were poorly attended.

For the reasons provided above, Barrick cautions against placing any reliance on the contents of the report and the allegations made by those backing it and it should not be passed off as an independent scientific investigation.

V. One academic alleged that Barrick's plans to expand operations, including the building of a new dam, were "against the law, all rules and science."

For Barrick to comment responsibly on the above limited and paraphrased statement, not attributed to a particular individual, we require more information. We would encourage transparent reporting that provides quotations and references within the broader context in which a statement was made for constructive engagement.

As explained above, a comprehensive ESIA was undertaken that included in country and international, independent experts in their field. Therefore, we reject insinuations or statements that we have operated against any law or rule, or that contrasts with 'science'.

Pueblo Viejo complies with Dominican laws, including the Environmental Law No. 64-00 and its regulation for application, the Mining Law of the Dominican Republic, the Special Lease Agreement of Mining Rights as well as other applicable regulation.

Barrick cautions against making any statement of non-conformance or illegal activities and, if you or any individual has any evidence of such actions, we would request these to be made available to Barrick for investigation.

VI. Community members say they have repeatedly highlighted possible water contamination and that problems started when Barrick started operations at the Pueblo Viejo mine. They say women and children as young as five, have vaginal problems and skin lesions from bathing in local water. They say cows that drank from the Maguaca river have died.

We have addressed the water and health allegations in this letter above.

Most notably, Barrick does not discharge any water into the Maguaca river, which is where the cows allegedly consumed water.

Once informed of the incident in September 2021, Barrick contacted the appropriate authorities, including the Ministry of Energy and Mines and the Ministry of Agriculture, to undertake an extensive investigation to determine the cause of death.

Despite the farmers being obstructive in the investigation, an epidemiology expert conducted the forensic work and the laboratory results and concluded that the cows died of an illness called *babesiosis bovine*, which is a parasitic illness transmitted by ticks.

Beyond the confirmation of cause of death being linked to a non-waterborne parasite, our extensive water quality monitoring program corroborated such conclusions. In addition to our regular sampling, water samples were taken by the Environmental Department of the Ministry of Energy and Mines. Community participatory monitoring (event No. 39) was also undertaken after the cattle deaths, with the participation of journalists, community leaders, environmentalists, students, authorities, and local and national academic institutions. All monitoring results from these separate monitoring events confirmed the water quality conditions were within acceptable standards and contrary to the allegations of the farmers.

For your reference, we are attaching as Annex 3, the reports issued by the Dominican authorities.

VII. Residents say they've been hit by an 80% decrease in cacao production. They described previously being able to grow their own produce but now fruits rot on the plant before they are ready.

In order for us to properly respond to this allegation, we would need more details or specifics, otherwise we would be merely speculating.

We can confirm that Pueblo Viejo has spent 12 years investing and developing community agribusiness projects, including significant investment into cacao plantations and the establishment of six nurseries, eighteen farms school, impacting more than two thousand hectares and with an estimated investment of US\$7,000,000. This includes extensive monitoring and evaluation of these investments and community development projects.

Through this work, and with agricultural development partners, our experience is that cocoa production in the area has generally increased since 2008, with 2021-2022 being the highest cacao production in the region we have on record. Further, according to research and a publication of El Dinero Newspaper, the country's second highest production concentration of organic cocoa is in the Sanchez Ramirez province where the mine is located. This information can be validated with the purchasers of cocoa in the area including Conacado and Rizek.

We have sponsored various programs to replant farms and have worked in collaboration with reputable NGOs in the Dominican Republic including Junta Agroempresarial Dominicana, RedDom and Enda. We would suggest you contact them to obtain objective information, including any evaluation they have conducted.

VIII. They say they have asked Barrick and the government to be relocated. A plan was drawn up, but nothing has happened so.

We are unsure which communities you are referencing; however, we are aware of the communities of Las Lagunas, La Cerca and La Piñita which are the communities that have demanded relocation and incorrectly alleged contamination. These communities are located within the Maguaca river basin. Pueblo Viejo does not discharge any water into the Maguaca river basin and as explained above, Barrick agreed to fund and execute government remediation in this basin for legacy impacts prior to Barrick's involvement.

Barrick is not aware of any promise or plan to resettle such households. Approximately 38 families lived in the communities of La Cerca, Las Lagunas and la Piñita in 2008. Since 2008, many people have moved into the area around the mine with the express intention to be resettled and to benefit financially from such a process. Many of the families seeking resettlement, who are also claiming that Pueblo Viejo is contaminating their water, are located **upstream** of our operations and in the Maguaca river catchment. Based on their location it is impossible for the mine to have contributed to any contamination of waters, even setting aside the fact that we do not discharge into this catchment.

The Google satellite images included in Annex 4 clearly demonstrate the large influx of people into the area. A 2018 survey conducted by the Government with the support of ENTRE (lead by Fernando Peña), proved that 1,200 houses exist in the area, of which nearly half (48.5%) were uninhabited, 39.8 % were inhabited, 11.1% were under construction and the remaining 0.6% were used for non-residential purposes.

At the request of the communities and through the Community Development Committee (CDCs), Pueblo Viejo has contributed to providing electricity to that area and is undertaking various community development projects.

To ensure that there is no misunderstanding or conflation of issues, Pueblo Viejo is undertaking a Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) for the communities associated with the Naranjo TSF, which is a proposed new development. This RAP is ongoing and is independent and in a different location to the allegations you have inferred.

IX. A letter to Barrick and government ministries, coordinated by *El Espacio Nacional por la Transparencia de la Industria Extractiva* and signed by 16 Dominican and international organisations, claims “the harms alleged by community members may suggest a contravention of Barrick’s international human rights commitments, its contractual obligations, and the company’s own environmental, social, and governance standards.” It has received no reply.

Barrick has responded in detail to ENTRE and published this response on our webpage in this link: <https://www.barrick.com/English/operations/pueblo-viejo/default.aspx> in the section *Our Commitment to Responsible Mining and Transparent Communication*.

We also wrote to ENTRE as part of our outreach associated with Mr. Emerman’s report. Mr. Emerman, ENTRE and their associated sponsoring organizations did not engage with Barrick.

Despite requests for engagement neither ENTRE nor Earthwork have engaged with Barrick.

Please find attached as Annex 6 the letter we sent to ENTRE in March 2023 inviting them to visit the mine and participate in the community environmental monitoring conducted by INTEC University.

Conclusion

In your email, you noted that your *story will detail that the communities have alleged grave harm to their health, livelihoods, and environment due to mining operations at Pueblo Viejo*.

We trust that the above information has clarified that these allegations have been credibly disproven, and that Barrick and Pueblo Viejo (PV) are committed to operating in an environmentally and socially responsible manner. Contrary to the allegations, the water quality surrounding our operations has improved due to the extensive environmental remediation and water treatment activities we have undertaken.

As a company that prides itself in partnering with our stakeholders, notably our local communities, we have worked tirelessly to improve the health, livelihoods, and socio-economic status of our communities. Some key statistics to support this statement include:

- Employment:
 - 98% of our workforce are Dominican nationals;
 - 2,887 employees are Dominican nationals;
 - 1,497 employees are from nearby communities; and
 - 758 female employees (25% of total PV employees).

- Livelihood Support:
 - Our supported Agroemprende supported 3,077 beneficiaries in 35 community³.
- Potable water:
 - 70% and 96% of direct and indirect communities have access to potable water, compared to the pre-mining baseline of 31%.
 - PV supported the communities around the mine by constructing a potable water plant and more than 60 rural aqueducts to provide potable water.
- Access to healthcare:
 - 19 healthcare professionals per 10 000 population, compared to a pre-mining status of less than 1 healthcare per 10 000 people.
 - There are several health clinics and 1 hospital.
 - PV is currently building an intensive care unit for Cotui.
- Procurement⁴:
 - US\$37.1 M was spent procuring goods and services from local businesses
 - US\$668.8 M was spent procuring goods and services from Dominican businesses

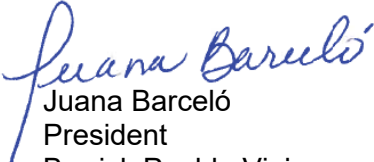
We are proud of our track record and are committed to positively contributing to the Dominican Republic and our host communities, of which our employees are a substantial part.

We are available to meet with you and provide any other clarification that you may deem relevant.

We were informed by the community that you might recently have visited the region. In the spirit of transparency and with the intention that you understand and confirm the veracity of the information we have provided, we offer you an invitation to the Pueblo Viejo mine and, specifically, we invite you to participate in the next community participatory monitoring program, which is scheduled for March 2024.

We look forward to your response and availability to undertake a site visit.

Regards,


 Juana Barceló
 President
 Barrick Pueblo Viejo

³ As at end 2023

⁴ 2023 Spend

Annexes

Annex 1

A) Public available reports:

The following reports are provided at the link below:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/rjs8ynugn2c3zaj7cpamd/h?dl=0&rlkey=b0e1y9cxvqxhiylzwbojn vq0x:>

1. Preliminary Evaluation report prepared by the Dominican Government preceding our mining rights for Pueblo Viejo (2001). The reports conducted under the SYSMIN I and II Programs including:
 - i) Contamination study of the underground waters of the Hatillo limestone as of November 2008;
 - ii) Design for the recuperation of the Mejita basin, Pueblo Viejo Mine as of the year 2008; and
 - iii) Study of the hydrographic basin of the Margajita and Maguaca rivers and the Hatillo dam impoundment as of November 2008.

B) Other Government reports:

Numerous audit reports from the Ministry of Environment have confirmed that PV's water discharge complies with the regulatory standards and that water quality in the Margajita River has improved as a result of our operations.

1. Report from the Ministry of Environment dated April 27, 2015 located in this link <https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:VA6C2:6ff73636-372d-402d-97c4-57b89ce37beb>, which indicates the following:

"According to the results of the analyses, it is observed that all the parameters evaluated comply with the maximum acceptable values of physical and chemical parameters present in surface water bodies classified Class C (water used for navigation, cooling, and other uses that do not involve direct contact)."

"The Arroyo Margajita basin was negatively impacted by the operations of Rosario Dominicana mining projects. In the Environmental Improvement Study, presented by the company in October 2005, the following refinement was made in relation to the quality of the company's water:

"The Margajita Stream is severely polluted by the drainage of acidic water from the existing mine (Rosario Dominicana) that flows into its headwaters. The pH of the stream fluctuates between 2.1 and 2.5 and the concentrations of dissolved meta/s exceed the water quality standards by order of magnitude. The stream is tinged red or orange due to the high concentration of dissolved iron in the precipitates along the creek bed... No fish or amphibian can survive in it"

The environmental state described above was corroborated by water sampling carried out by this Ministry in 2010, where the results of the analyses confirmed the low pH levels and high concentrations of dissolved metals, in addition to the total absence of aquatic life.

The historical analysis indicates that after the application of sediment control measures, diversion and storage of acid water, and the commissioning of the water treatment plant, the quality of the waters of the Margajita Stream has improved significantly.”



c) Reports from Ministry of Agriculture reflecting the conditions and illness affecting agriculture
<https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:VA6C2:b605d3b8-fcfc-4c9a-8b52-296f364e3a40>

d) Report from the Ministry of Health conducted after the 2014 allegations
<https://acrobat.adobe.com/link/review?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:5b323c68-84a1-453e-a595-a4d3d6e03623>

Annex 2 Letter to Ms. Leoncia Ramos, representative of New Renacer by which PV requested her to appoint 3 representatives to conduct a review.



Annex 3. Report from Ministry of Agriculture confirming that cows died due to an illness caused by the tick

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DSA-1502/21

Santo Domingo, D. R. 04 de octubre de 2021

RECIBIDO SIN LEE

04-10-21

Oficina Nueva Carra

Al : Señor
Lic. Limber Cruz López
Ministro de Agricultura
Su Despacho.-

Via : **Dr. Geovanny Molina Abramo**
Director General de Ganadería
Presente.-

Asunto : **Informe sobre muerte de bovinos del Sr. Juan Gálvez Polanco.**

Anexo : Resultados y documentación.


Por medio de la presente, me dirijo a ese Superior Despacho para remitirle el diagnóstico definitivo de la causa de la muerte de los animales de especie bovina de la finca propiedad del señor **Juan Gálvez Polanco**, ubicada en la Provincia Sánchez Ramírez, Municipio Cotul, sección Las Lagunas, paraje La Pifita.

El señor Juan Gálvez Polanco, había denunciado que se le estaban muriendo sus animales, específicamente de la especie bovina, y alegaba que por su aproximada con la Barrick, estaban muriendo por intoxicación.



El día 09 de septiembre de 2021, enviamos una brigada de Médicos Veterinarios, encabezada por el Dr. Felipe Reyes, Director Pecuuario de la Regional Nordeste, donde se procedió a tomar las muestras a los animales las cuales detallamos a continuación y se les envió a realizar pruebas de toxicología, parasitológica e histopatológica.

Sangre Entera
Suero sanguíneo
Riñón
Bazo

Intestino
Íligado
Corazón
Líquido Estomacal
Heces



Autopista 30 de Mayo, Ciudad Ganadera, Santo Domingo, R.D.
(809) 535-9689, ext. 263,280 y 289
digega@ganaderia.gob.do / ganaderia.gob.do

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Los resultados de las pruebas solicitadas fueron los siguientes:

Toxicológico	Negativo
Parasitológico	Positivo a Babesia
Histopatológico	Lesiones compatible con anaplasmosis piroplasmosis, enfermedad transmitida por garrapata del ganado Rhipicephalus microplus

En conclusión, la Dirección de Sanidad Animal basándose en los resultados de laboratorio, certifica que los animales del Sr. Gálvez, murieron por infestación por ectoparásito.


Sin otro particular, se despide de usted,

Atentamente,


Dr. Rafael Buenavista Núñez Mieses
Director de Sanidad Animal

REVM/glf

CC. Sr. Orlando Jorge Mera, Ministro de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales
Sr. Juan Gálvez Polanco, Pecuuario animal San Pedro Barrio
Sr. Andres Rodríguez, Asistente Depto. Legal BARBUCK
Dr. Felipe Reyes, Director Pecuuario de la Regional Nordeste



Autopista 30 de Mayo, Ciudad Ganadera, Santo Domingo, R.D.
(809) 535-9689, ext. 263,280 y 289
digega@ganaderia.gob.do / ganaderia.gob.do



Laboratorio Veterinario Central

Ave. Monumental, Los Girasoles, Santo Domingo, D. N., Rep. Dom.
lab.veterinario@lavecen.gob.do / info@lavecen.gob.do
Tel.: 809-564-7700 Fax.: 809-560-0469

Departamento de Diagnóstico División Parasitología

Resultados Hemoparásitos

Propietario: Juan Gálvez Polanco
Remite: Dr. Aristides Flores
Procedencia: Sánchez Ramírez, Cotuí
Especie: Bovino
Muestra: Un (01) Tejido
Método: Tinción Wright

Registro: 4063-21
Fecha Recepción: 10.09.2021
Reporte Resultados: 15.09.2021

Los resultados emitidos en este reporte se relacionan exclusivamente con las muestras ensayadas.

Identificación	Resultado
Tejido	
Bazo	Presencia de Babesia sp

Lic. Mariya Pérez
Técnico Responsable



Laboratorio Veterinario Central
Dra. Julia Vargas
División Parasitología

Dirección Sanidad Animal
AUTORIZADO
Rm: 28/9/20

220-2021

San Francisco de Macorís,
28 de Septiembre, 2021

Señor
Dr. Rafael B. Núñez M.
Director Sanidad Animal, Digega

Asunto: Resultados Situación Serológica de los Animales
Del Señor Juan Gálvez Polanco

Anexo: Resultados

Distinguido Señor Núñez

De manera cordial, me dirijo a ustedes con la finalidad de informarles que en fecha 15/9/2021 se tomaron muestra de (Riñón, Hígado, Vaso y contenido estomacal (Ruminal), a los animales que habían muerto en la finca propiedad del Señor Juan Gálvez Polanco, la cual coincide con la empresa Barrick Gold, dichas muestras fueron enviadas al Laboratorio Veterinario Central (Lavecen) para fines de investigación (Toxicológico, Parasitológico e Histopatológico), obteniendo como resultados la presencia de Hemoparásitos (Babesia) por lo que se descarta la posibilidad de intoxicación, ya que todas las lesiones encontradas en los órganos antes descritos son compatibles con la presencia de Hemoparásitos, por lo cual concluimos que la causa de la mortalidad de esos animales es por la presencia de una Babesia.

Sin otro particular por el momento, le saluda con alta estima,



FR:lab

Dr. Felipe Reyes Marmolejos
Director Pecuario Regional Nordeste

Autorizada por el Mago, Ciudad Constanza, Santo Domingo, R.D.
(000) 555-4888 ext. 205, 206 y 207
@lavecen.gob.do / info@lavecen.gob.do



LABORATORIO VETERINARIO CENTRAL

AV. MONUMENTAL NO. 35 LOS GIRASOLES, SANTO DOMINGO, REPUBLICA DOMINICANA

DEPARTAMENTO DE DIAGNÓSTICO

División de Parasitología

Página 1 de 1

FECHA DE ENTRADA: 15/09/2021
FECHA DE SALIDA: 17/09/2021
REGISTRO: 4063-21

PROPIETARIO: Juan Gálvez
REMITENTE: Dr. Aristides Flores
ESPECIE: Bovino
PROCEDENCIA: Sánchez Ramírez, Cotuí
MUESTRA: Tejidos
ANÁLISIS SOLICITADO: Histopatología
MÉTODO: Hematoxilina-Eosina

RESULTADO:

Hígado: Necrosis centrolobulillar y a nivel de otras áreas del parénquima hepático caracterizado por muerte de los hepatocitos con proliferación de tejido conectivo de cicatrización. Hiperplasia de las células de defensa del órgano.

Bazo: Congestión y hemorragia severa. Hiperplasia de folículos linfoides.

Riñón: Glomerulonefrosis severa caracterizada por necrosis del epitelio que forma los túbulos y los glomerulos, hiperplasia de las células mesangiales. Glomerulitis supurativa difusa asociada a complejos inmunológicos.

Corazón: Distrofia muscular cardíaca severa caracterizada por necrosis de la fibra muscular del órgano con proliferación de tejido conectivo de cicatrización

Dirección Sanidad Animal
AUTORIZADO
Rm: 28/9/20

Dr. Lorenzo Javier Pascual
Enc. División de Parasitología



Laboratorio Veterinario Central
Dra. Julia Vargas
Encargada Departamento de Diagnóstico

Report on the investigation about cows 2015

INFORME SOBRE LA SITUACION MUERTE DE ANIMALES EN LA ZONA DE BARRICK PUEBLO VIEJO COTUI

Debemos informar que por instrucciones del Señor Director General de Ganadería **DR. BOLIVAR TORIBIO** nos dirigimos a la zona de influencia de la Barrick Gold para la continuidad a la denuncia de muertes de animales por contaminación de esta empresa minera.

Siendo así, en fecha 23/1/15 procedimos a realizar una reunión conjunta con los ministerios de energía, mina y agricultura. En esta reunión decidimos visitar la hacienda Gálvez del **SEÑOR JUAN GALVEZ POLANCO**, ubicada en pueblo viejo del distrito municipal de zabrana provincia Juan Sánchez Ramírez

Ya en la hacienda se nos informo que en una población de 808 cabezas de bovinos había muerto 1 animal hacía varias semanas.

Dada esta situación procedimos a tomar muestras para diagnosticar posibles parasitosis, obteniendo resultados positivos a Coccidia e inmediatamente aplicamos el tratamiento de lugar, con resultados muy satisfactorios, a tal punto que hasta la fecha no hemos recibido informe de nuevos casos de muerte.

También hacemos constar que hemos iniciado los trabajos de sanidad animal (Pruebas Brucelosis y Tuberculosis) llevando hasta el momento 180 animales muestreado con resultados negativos.

Queremos resaltar que hemos mantenido un monitoreo de las demás especie de interés pecuario que cohabitan en esta zona, sin encontrar ningún evento de consideración.

Recomendamos la realización de estudio toxicológico del agua que consumen los animales para seguir profundizando las investigaciones en relación a este caso.

Ministerio de Energía y Minas Dirección de Remediación Minera Ambiental

Departamento de Control Ambiental

Informe investigación Calidad de las Aguas de los Pozos donde Beben las Vacas del Sr. Juan Gálvez

Atendiendo a solicitud del Ing. Aurelio Rojas, asesor en la dirección de remediación ambiental, mina pueblo viejo, Cotui, R.D. procedimos a realizar monitoreo de calidad de las aguas en la finca del Sr. Juan Gálvez, en los lugares donde toman agua las vacas que habitan en la finca.

Los resultados de estos análisis, se pueden observar en la tabla de más abajo. Estos indican que las aguas se encuentran en condiciones normales cumpliendo con los establecidos en las normas para este tipo de agua y que no ofrecen peligro para la flora, la fauna ni para los seres vivo.

Se realizó un gran recorrido por la finca y se procedió a realizar toma de muestras en los pozos donde bebe agua el ganado ya que el Sr. Juan Gálvez presento una denuncia de que su ganado tenia problema de salud por la toma de agua en los bebederos habilitado para esos fines.

En las fotos, se evidencia a los técnicos realizados los monitoreo correspondiente en distintos puntos, también se puede visualizar las condiciones de las vacas.

Departamento de Control Ambiental

Determinación Calidad de aguas, en los pozos donde toman agua las vacas del Sr. Juan Gálvez

Tabla 1. Análisis in situ de los parámetros que se indican dentro y fuera de la mina en fecha 06/09/21

Estaciones Aguas Superficiales	pH	Conductividad	TDS	Oxígeno Disuelto	Temperatura
	6.5-8.5	<1000µS/cm	<1000mg/L	≥4mg/L	35°C
Pozo No. 1	7.15	517	234	5.25	28.3
Pozo No. 2	7.51	117	273	5.44	30.4

Annex 4. Google satellite image – Influx:

Approximately 38 families lived in the communities of La Cerca, Las Lagunas and la Piñita in 2008. Since 2008, many people have moved into the area around the mine with the express intention to be resettled and to benefit financially from such a process. The google satellite images below evidence the influx.

La Cerca



Las Lagunas



La Piñita

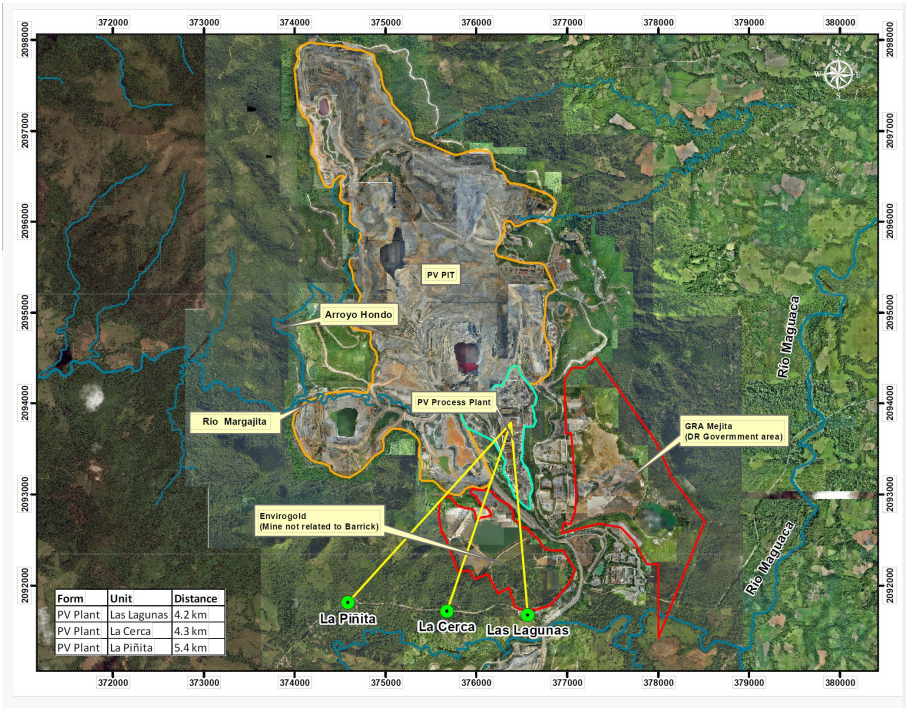
La Piñita settlements in 2007



La Piñita settlements in 2023



Annex 5. Map with the location of our pits and process plant and the communities:



Annex 6. Letter from PV to ENTRE requesting engagement

<https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:VA6C2:ecaccd95-c4fd-43b1-b525-b259ec8ed521>