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**South Dakota Science and Technology Authority (SDSTA) at  
Sanford Underground Research Facility (SURF)  
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RISK**

In consideration for being permitted to enter upon the property of the South Dakota Science and Technology Authority (referred to in this document as the “Authority”) located in and near Lead, South Dakota, including both the surface property and the underground workings and facilities owned by the Authority (referred to in this document as the “Authority’s Surface Property” or the “Authority’s Underground Property” and collectively, the “Authority’s Property”), which permission was granted at my request, I do hereby freely and knowingly state, declare, and agree as follows:

**(Initial)** \_\_\_\_\_ 1. I have independently investigated the risks to my health, life, and safety and the risks of damage to my property resulting from my entry, presence, and activities upon and in the Authority’s Property, including both the surface property and the underground property. Based upon that investigation, I have developed an informed understanding of the risks to me and my property resulting from my entry, presence, and activities upon either or both of the Authority’s Surface Property and the Authority’s Underground Property.

**(Initial)** \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Without limiting the generality of paragraph 1 above, I am aware that the Authority’s Surface Property is a former commercial mine which includes and contains heavy machinery, high-voltage electrical connections and conduits, open catwalks and other elevated walkways, apparent and hidden hazards of tripping or falling, industrial and mining chemicals and other agents, naturally-occurring minerals, naturally-occurring land and environmental conditions that are potentially hazardous, fully or partially reclaimed mine facilities (including, but not limited to, open pits, underground mine workings, process plants and waste rock areas), possible air-borne contaminants, high-pressure lines and vessels, falling or low-hanging items that present a risk of head injury and numerous other serious apparent, and unapparent risks to my health, life and safety and risks of damage to my property.

**(Initial)** \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Without limiting the generality of paragraph number 1 above, I am further aware that in addition to the risks associated with the Authority’s Surface Property described in paragraph 2 above, the Authority’s Underground Property is also a former commercial mine and it also includes and contains heavy machinery, high-voltage electrical connections, and conduits, open catwalks and other elevated walkways, underground mine workings, apparent and hidden hazards of tripping or falling, industrial and mining chemicals and agents, naturally-occurring minerals, naturally-occurring geologic and environmental conditions that are potentially hazardous, possible air-borne contaminants, high-pressure lines and vessels and falling or low-hanging rock or other items that present a risk of head injury. I am further aware that going underground involves a substantial risk of underground fires, underground floods, roof falls and collapse, failure of lifts, hoists and ventilation equipment, suffocation, being trapped, being crushed to death and numerous other serious apparent and unapparent risks to my health, life and safety, and risks of damage to my property.

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(Initial) \_\_\_\_ 4. I acknowledge I have the time, knowledge, and experience to make an intelligent choice concerning whether to assume the risks associated with my entry, and activities upon or in the Authority's Surface Property, the Authority's Underground Property, or both.

(Initial) \_\_\_\_ 5. I do hereby voluntarily, freely, and unconditionally assume any and all risk of damage to my health, personal injury, death, and damage to my property in any way associated with my entry, presence, or activities upon, in, or around Authority's Surface Property and the Authority's Underground Property.

(Initial) \_\_\_\_ 6. I acknowledge that I have been given a safety briefing or safety training, and I agree to abide by guidelines explained during that briefing or training.

(Initial) \_\_\_\_ 7. In the interest of safety and security, I agree that any person or property may be subject to inspection by Authority personnel at any time I am on Authority property.

(Initial) \_\_\_\_ 8. I acknowledge that my failure to comply with any applicable law, regulation, rule, or policy (including the guidelines explained during my safety briefing or safety training) is grounds for the Authority to immediately revoke my permission to enter Authority's Property, to order me to immediately leave the Authority's Property, and to deny me future access to the Authority's Property. I agree to immediately comply with all directions given by the Authority to me pursuant to this paragraph.

(Initial) \_\_\_\_ 9. I have been provided and have read and signed (or will sign), a document entitled "RELEASE, AGREEMENT NOT TO SUE AND WAIVER."

(Initial) \_\_\_\_ 10. I acknowledge that I have provided valid personal identification to Authority Personnel.



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In consideration for being permitted to enter upon the property of the South Dakota Science and Technology Authority (referred to in this documents as the "Authority") located in and near Lead, South Dakota, including both the surface property and the underground workings and facilities owned by the Authority (referred to in this document as the "Authority's Surface Property" or the "Authority's Underground Property" and collectively, the "Authority's Property"), which permission was granted at my request, I do hereby freely and knowingly state, declare and agree as follows:

**(Initial)** \_\_\_\_\_ 1. I have today been provided and have read and signed a form entitled "ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RISK," which describes in general terms the numerous apparent and unapparent risks of serious personal injury, death, or damage to my property, which exists on and in both the Authority's Surface Property, and the Authority's Underground Property.

**(Initial)** \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Being fully aware of the risks as described in the accompanying "ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RISK," I do hereby voluntarily, freely, and unconditionally release and agree not to sue the following persons and entities for any damage to my health, personal injury, death and/or damage to my property in any way associated with my entry, presence or activities upon, in, or around the Authority's Surface Property and/or the Authority's Underground Property, and I further hereby waive any such claims I may have against the following persons and entities. This release, agreement not to sue and waiver is given in favor of the following persons and entities:

**(Initial)** \_\_\_\_\_ (a). The State of South Dakota and its elected representatives and officers, unelected officers, employees, agents, consultants and representatives; and

**(Initial)** \_\_\_\_\_ (b). The South Dakota Science and Technology Authority and its officers, directors, employees, agents, consultants and representatives, and any visitor, contractor, consultant, or any other person (natural or otherwise) that the South Dakota Science and Technology Authority directs to, invites or permits upon, or authorizes to use the Authority's Property and its or their agents, representatives, consultants, lessees, licensees, and invitees; and

**(Initial)** \_\_\_\_\_ (c). Barrick Gold Corporation; any person, partnership, joint venture, corporation, or any other form of enterprise which directly or indirectly controls, is controlled by or is under common control with Barrick Gold Corporation; any officer, director, employee, agent or consultant of Barrick Gold Corporation; and any visitor, contractor, consultant, or any other person (natural or otherwise) that Barrick Gold Corporation directs to, invites, or permits upon or authorizes to use the Authority's Property and its or their agents, representatives, consultants, lessees, licensees, and invitees; and

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(Initial) \_\_\_\_ (d). Homestake Mining Company of California, any person, partnership, joint venture, corporation, or any other form of enterprise which directly or indirectly controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with Homestake Mining Company of California; any officer, director, employee, agent, or consultant of Homestake Mining Company of California; and any visitor, contractor, consultant, or any other person (natural or otherwise) that Homestake Mining Company of California directs to, invites, or permits upon, or authorizes to use the Authority's Property and its or their agents, representatives, consultants, lessees, licensees, and invitees; and

(Initial) \_\_\_\_ (e). Mr. T. Denny Sanford or any other person or entity providing funding or other support for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Authority, the Authority's Property, and/or the Sanford Underground Research Facility.

(Initial) \_\_\_\_ 3. I understand that this document does not act to release, discharge, or waive any rights I may have to compensation or the payment of medical expenses under applicable workers compensation law.

(Initial) \_\_\_\_ 4. The release, agreement not to sue and waiver contained in this document includes any and all claims I or my heirs, representatives, successors, or assignees (including, but not limited to, my family) may have as a result of any damage to my health, injury to me, my death, or damage to my property, including incidental and consequential damages and loss of income, support, and companionship.

(Initial) \_\_\_\_ 5. I agree that if a court or other tribunal with jurisdiction rules that some portion of this document is for any reason unenforceable, the remaining portions of this document shall remain valid and enforceable.

(Initial) \_\_\_\_ 6. The release and waiver contained in this document and my agreement not to sue the parties named above is and will be binding on me and my heirs, representative, successors, and assignees (including, but not limited to, my spouse and other family).

(Initial) \_\_\_\_ 7. I acknowledge that I have provided valid personal identification to Authority Personnel.

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I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE, AGREEMENT NOT TO SUE AND WAIVER, CONSISTING OF THREE PAGES AND SEVEN NUMBERED PARAGRAPHS. I FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS TERMS, UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT, AND HAVE SIGNED IT FREELY AND VOLUNTARILY WITHOUT ANY INDUCEMENT, ASSURANCE, OR GUARANTEE BEING MADE TO ME. I INTEND MY SIGNATURE TO BE A COMPLETE AND UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF ALL LIABILITY, AGREEMENT NOT TO SUE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY TO THE GREATEST EXTENT ALLOWED BY LAW.

DATED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
[PRINT NAME]

I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE, AGREEMENT NOT TO SUE AND WAIVER

\_\_\_\_\_  
[SIGNATURE]

I am requesting permission to enter the Authority's Property as an officer, agent, employee, consultant, scientific investigator, student, visitor, and I am otherwise affiliated with

\_\_\_\_\_.

**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:**

Witnessed by: \_\_\_\_\_ Logged by: \_\_\_\_\_  
[Print Name]

Witnessed by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Logged: \_\_\_\_\_  
[Signature]

**Revision History**

Rev	Date	Section	Paragraph	Summary of Change	Authorized by
01	1/24/2024	NA	NA	Initial Release	CCR 904
02	11/19/2025	NA	NA	Updated document due to change to the document numbering of controlled documents due to the change from DocuShare system to SharePoint system	CCR 1190