

Rio Algom Mining Corp.

Smith Ranch Uranium Facility

Docket NO.: 40-8964

Certified Mail - P 560 606 489
Return Receipt Requested

January 24, 2000

Ms. Georgia Cash
WDEQ/LQD
Herschler Building, 4th Floor West
122 West 25th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82002

RE: Smith Ranch Project
Permit to Mine 633
Notification of Spill

Dear Ms. Cash:

Please find enclosed a Spill Report for the incident that occurred on January 17, 2000. The spill has been reported by telephone to the proper agencies as required.

If you need any further information, please feel free to contact me at (307) 358-3744 ext. 62.

Sincerely,



John W. Cash
Supervisor, Environmental &
Regulatory Affairs

xc: B. Ferdinand (RAMC/SRP)
M. Freeman (RAMC/OKC)
P. Goranson (RAMC/OKC)
J. Lusher (NRC/Rockville) Certified Mail - P 560 606 490
file

FEB 3 2000

P.O. Box 1390 • Glenrock, Wyoming 82637 • 762 Ross Road • Douglas, Wyoming 82633
Phone (307) 358-3744 or (307) 266-2449 • Fax (307) 358-9201

NMSSD (Public)

RIO ALGOM MINING CORP.
SPILL NOTIFICATION

On January 17, 2000 at 2:30 p.m., an unplanned release occurred from well 4-P-2 in wellfield 4, NE quarter of the SE quarter of Section 34, T. 36 N., R. 74 W. An estimated 6,300 gallons of production fluid was released. The spill stayed within the fenced wellfield and did not leave the permit area or threaten any waters of the state.

The spill was caused by a failed manufacturer's crimp fitting connecting a flexible hose coming out of the wellhead to poly pipe which runs to the header house. RAMC is considering several options for minimizing the risk of manufacturer's crimp fittings in the future. One potential option is to commence using a product manufactured by Goodyear called "Gorilla Hose." "Gorilla Hose" is electronically crimped and is rated at 500 psi as opposed to the current hose which is rated at 200 psi. Another option is to test 5% of the current installations and 10% of inventory to determine the failure rate and whether or not a problem exists. In the interim, wellfield hands are inspecting all similar crimp fittings and replacing any that appear to have poor ferrule placement. As of January 21, 2000 all wells in Wellfields 1 and 3 had been checked. Wellfield 4 will be checked the week of the January 24th.

Environmental impact was limited to minor erosion near the wellhead. Areas adversely affected by the spill will be reseeded as the seasons permit.

The natural uranium content of the production fluid was approximately 26 mg/l.

After a review and determination of the facts, telephone calls were made to the DEQ/LQD Spill Hotline and the NRC. The report was given by telephone to a DEQ representative at 2:10 p.m., on January 18, 2000. Mr. John Lusher, of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, was notified by telephone voice mail at 2:20 p.m. on January 18, 2000.

Department of Environmental Quality
Initial Pollution Incident Report

Incident number: 000118-1410
Date and Time (YYMMDD-0000)

Report taken by: Pat

Report Date: <u>1/18/00</u>	Time of Report: <u>2:10 pm.</u>
Reported by Name: <u>John Cash</u>	Responsible Party Name: <u>Rio Algom Mining Corp</u>
Title: <u>Sup. Envir. & Reg. Affairs</u>	Title:
Company: <u>Rio Algom Mining Corp.</u>	Company:
Address: <u>P.O. Box 1390 Glenrock WY</u>	Address:
C, S & Z <u>Glenrock, WY 82637</u>	C, S & Z
Phone: <u>307-358-3744</u>	Phone:
Date of release: <u>1/17/00</u>	Time of release: <u>2:30 pm.</u>
Location of release: County <u>Converse</u>	Legal <u>1/4, 1/4 NE SE S 34 T 36 N R 74 W</u>
Mile post, highway, county road <u>Ross Rd.</u>	Street address: <u>762 Ross Rd. Douglas WY 82633</u>
Tank battery, well #, etc. <u>well 4-P-2</u>	Additional info:
Source: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fixed <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation ----- <input type="checkbox"/> Refinery <input type="checkbox"/> Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> O&G <input type="checkbox"/> Train <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mine <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Business/Industry <input type="checkbox"/> LAUST - FAC ID _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	Cause: <input type="checkbox"/> Accident <input type="checkbox"/> Pipeline incident <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Equipment failure <input type="checkbox"/> Human error <input type="checkbox"/> Dumping <input type="checkbox"/> Other Additional info on cause: <u>Failed crimp fitting</u>
Substance: <input type="checkbox"/> Diesel <input type="checkbox"/> Crude oil <input type="checkbox"/> Condensate <input type="checkbox"/> Oil <input type="checkbox"/> Haz waste <input type="checkbox"/> Gasoline <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Produced water <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	Quantity: <u>6,300</u> UoM: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> gallons <input type="checkbox"/> barrels Other _____
Media affected: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Land <input type="checkbox"/> Air <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Storm sewer <input type="checkbox"/> Sanitary sewer <input type="checkbox"/> Groundwater <input type="checkbox"/> Surface water Name of water _____	Sara Title III release: <input type="checkbox"/> If marked, contact the State Emergency Response Commission at 777-4900

If water is affected, notify the WQD district supervisor immediately. Contact Game and Fish. If storm sewer, sanitary sewer or surface water is affected, copy the Watershed section. If air is affected, contact AQD. If UST, contact LAUST district supervisor.