



COGEMA

Mining, Inc.

May 18, 2000

**LICENSE SUA-1341
DOCKET NO. 40-8502**

Mr. Thomas H. Essig, Chief
Uranium Recovery Branch
Division of Waste Management
Mail Stop T7J9
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

RE: Excursion status reporting of monitor well M2 (Event # 36996)

Dear Mr. Essig:

As per license Section 11.2, this letter is to confirm my telephone notification to the NRC Operations Center on May 12, 2000, regarding the excursion status of monitor well M2.

A routine quarterly (every 3 months) water sample collected on May 9, 2000 from monitor well M2, exceeded 2 of its 3 upper control limits (UCLs). A confirmation sample was collected on May 11, which also exceeded 2 of its 3 UCLs. Monitor well M2 was then placed on excursion status as per license Section 11.2 and its sampling frequency increased to weekly. This will continue until 3 consecutive weekly samples indicate that not more than one UCL is exceeded.

M2 is a perimeter ore zone monitor well located approximately 440 feet west of the Production Unit 2 boundary, at the Irigaray Project. Mining and groundwater restoration have been completed in Production Unit 2. The following table gives the sample analysis data and the water level elevations for the two sample analysis which confirmed the excursion for M2 and the initial weekly sample. The bold values exceed their designated UCLs.

Sample Date	Chloride mg/l UCL 18.0	Conductivity umhos/cm UCL 685	Alkalinity mg/l UCL 131.1	Uranium mg/l as U3O8	pH	Water Level Elevation
5-09-00	19.3	814	94.3	< 0.4	8.5	4259.5
5-11-00	19.3	799	96.6	< 0.4	8.7	4259.4
5-15-00	19.1	786	94.9	< 0.4	8.5	4251.0

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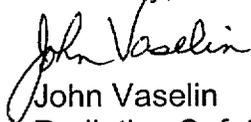
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Corrective recovery pumping is being conducted in ore zone trend wells T10 and T11 located approximately 260 and 150 feet north of M2, respectively. Wells T10 and T11 served as trend wells for the restored E Field and are located 98 and 136 to the west of the E field, respectively. It is believed that since the E field was restored to an average chloride concentration of 40.2 mg/l, some of the restored water may have migrated from this field to the M2 area. Samples of these two wells were collected on May 15, 2000 and are as follows.

<u>Well</u>	<u>Chloride mg/l</u>	<u>Conductivity umhos/cm</u>	<u>Alkalinity mg/l</u>
T10	22.1	857	89.1
T11	20.2	719	99.5

Written progress reports describing the status of all monitor wells on excursion status will be submitted on a quarterly basis, as per license Section 11.2. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this report.

Sincerely,



John Vaselein
Radiation Safety Officer

cc: Division Director/NRC, Arlington, TX
Wayne Heili/COGEMA