



# Rio Algom

William Paul Goranson, P.E.  
Manager, Radiation Safety  
Regulatory Compliance and Licensing

Quivira Mining Company  
6305 Waterford Boulevard  
Suite 325, Oklahoma City  
Oklahoma 73118  
405.858.4807 tel  
405.810.2860 fax

July 25, 2000

CERTIFIED MAIL Z 277 714 082  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Philip Ting  
Branch Chief  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Fuel Cycle Licensing Branch  
11545 Rockville Pike  
Mail Stop T-7J8  
Rockville MD 80852

**Subject: Wellfield #4A Pre-Operational Data  
Smith Ranch Facility  
License Number SUA-1548, Docket No. 40-8964**

Dear Mr. Ting:

Rio Algom Mining Corp. is submitting the pre-operational data report for Wellfield #4A located at the Smith Ranch Facility. Wellfield #4A is immediately adjacent to Wellfield #4, and it will be constructed and operated as an expansion of Wellfield #4. This report includes the data from the hydrological testing, baseline water sampling, and geologic review, and is included in two volumes. License condition 12.1 (a) and (b) require this data report. Additionally, Rio Algom would like to amend license condition 12.1 to include the following change:

- 12.1** *At least 2 months prior to lixiviant injection in each mining unit, baseline water quality data shall be submitted to the NRC. Upper control limits (UCLs) and restoration criteria shall be calculated in accordance with the licensee's application dated March 31, 1988 as amended.*
- a. *The submittal shall propose, in the form of a license amendment, UCLs for chloride, conductivity, and alkalinity in all monitoring wells for each mining unit.*
  - b. *The submittal shall propose in the form of a license amendment, ground-water restoration criteria for each mining unit.*

*Current UCLs and groundwater restoration criteria are designated in:*

<i>Submittal Date</i>	<i>Wellfield No.</i>
<i>May 27, 1997 (Pages F1-F3; Tables F1.2, F2.2, F3.2, F4.2)</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>June 1, 1998 (Tables H1-2, H2.2, H3.2, and H4.2)</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>April 26, 1999 June 1, 2000 (Tables J1-2, J2.2, J3.2, and J4.2) (Tables L-1.2, L-2.2, L-3.2, and L-4.2)"</i>	<i>4</i>

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The underlined June 1, 2000 submittal refers to the Wellfield #4A pre-operational data that is attached to this letter. This submittal is an amendment to the April 26, 1999 submittal, and it adds the are designated as the expansion wellfield #4A to the existing Wellfield #4. The UCL and groundwater restoration criteria designated in the June 1, 2000 submittal combines the baseline water chemistry from April 26, 1999 and June 1, 2000 submittals to develop values for Wellfield #4 and the expansion wellfield #4A. The referenced tables are to be used as the justification for this license amendment. If you have any questions, please call me at (405) 858-4807. I may also be contacted by email at pgoranson@ramc.net.

Sincerely,



William Paul Goranson, P.E.  
Manager, Radiation Safety, Regulatory  
Compliance and Licensing

Enclosures

CC: Paula Cutillo, WDEQ-LQD (w/o attachment)  
Marvin Freeman, RAMC (w/o attachment)  
Bill Ferdinand, RAMC (w/o attachment)  
John Cash, RAMC (w/o attachment)  
John McCarthy, RAMC (w/o attachment)