Rio Algom Mining Corp.
P.O. Box 1390
Glenrock, Wyoming 82637 307.358.3744 tel
762 Ross Road 307.266.2449 tel
Douglas, Wyoming 82633 307.358.9201 fax

Rio Algom

**Certified Mail - 7099 3220 0008 5206 1507**
**Return Receipt Requested**

November 20, 2000

Mr. Steve Ingle
WDEQ/LQD
Herschler Building
122 West 25th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82002

**RE: Corrective Action Report 3, West Evaporation Pond Leak**
**Permit to Mine 633, License SUA-1548, Docket 40-8964**

Dear Mr. Ingle:

On September 14, 2000, during a routine inspection, it was discovered that the west evaporation pond sump contained greater than 6 inches of water. The water level in the pond, four feet six inches at the time of the discovery, was immediately lowered in order to stop the leak. The sump water was analyzed for chloride, specific conductance, bicarbonate, $U_{nat}$, and sulfate with the results shown below.

| Chemical | Concentration |
|---|---|
| Chloride | 8,510 mg/l |
| Specific Conductance @ 25 °C | 32.95 m Siemens |
| Bicarbonate | 283.1 mg/l |
| $U_{nat}$ as $U_3O_8$ | 22.6 mg/l |
| Sulfate | 7,429 mg/l |

Upon receipt of the confirming analysis, both Steve Ingle of WDEQ and John Lusher of NRC were notified via telephone on September 22, 2000.

After patching the suspect locations, the water level was slowly raised beginning on October 30th. On November 6th, with the pond level at four feet six inches, the sump began collecting water. The water level of the pond was dropped to three feet eight inches in order to stop the leakage. Due to snow cover and extremely cold temperatures, no additional repair work has been performed. Although the pond is not currently leaking, a sample of remnant

NMSS01 Public
Add: J. Lusher

water in the sump was collected on November 17th with the chemical analysis shown below.

| Chemical | Concentration |
|---|---|
| Chloride | 7,453 mg/l |
| Specific Conductance @ 25 °C | 17.19 m Siemens |
| Bicarbonate | 265 mg/l |
| $U_{nat}$ as $U_3O_8$ | 40 mg/l |
| Sulfate | 5,776 mg/l |

Additional monthly reports will be submitted until correction of the situation is confirmed. If you have any questions or comments regarding the submittal please fell free to contact me at (307) 358-3744, ext. 62.

Sincerely,

John W. Cash
Manager EHS & Regulatory

xc: J. Lusher-U.S. NRC (Div. of Low Level Waste Mgt. & Dec.) Rockville, MD
**Certified Mail - 7099 3220 0008 5206 1514**
B. Ferdinand (RAMC-Smith Ranch Facility)
M. Freeman (RAMC-OKC Office)
P. Goranson (RAMC-OKC Office)
file