



Rio Algom

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Return Receipt Requested

December 12, 2000

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

RE: Corrective Action Report 1, East Evaporation Pond Leak
Permit to Mine 633, License SUA-1548, Docket 40-8964

Dear Mr. Ingle:

On November 12, 2000, during a routine inspection, it was discovered that the east evaporation pond sump contained greater than 6 inches of water. The water level in the pond, five feet five 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	8,297 mg/l
Specific Conductance @ 25 °C	23.62 m Siemens
Bicarbonate	431 mg/l
U_{nat} as U_3O_8	101 mg/l
Sulfate	7,400 mg/l

Upon receipt of the confirming analysis, both Steve Ingle of WDEQ and John Lusher of NRC were notified via telephone on November 15, 2000.

After investigating the pond, it was concluded that the leak was caused by the expansion of ice. To prevent reoccurrence, RAMC is considering the use of expansion jugs. These jugs will enable the ice to compress against them, rather than against the pond liner.

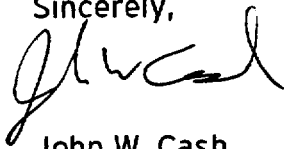
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After patching the suspect locations, the water level was slowly raised beginning on November 21. The water level of the east pond was maintained above the patch until November 29, 2000. During this time there was no detection of additional water entering the east sump. Therefore, this situation has been corrected and confirmed.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this submittal, please feel 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 1606
B. Ferdinand (RAMC-Smith Ranch Facility)
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