



Rio Algom

Rio Algom Mining Corp.
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Return Receipt Requested

December 19, 2000

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

RE: Corrective Action Report 4, 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. The pond is not currently leaking and additional samples have not

IE72

Mr. Steve Ingle
November 20, 2000
Page 2 of 2

been collected because the sump contains less than six inches of liquid.

Additional monthly reports will be submitted until correction of the situation is confirmed. If you have any questions or comments regarding the submittal, please feel free to contact me at (307) 358-3744, ext. 14, or John Cash at ext. 62.

Sincerely,



John McCarthy
Radiation Safety Officer

xc: J. Lusher-U.S. NRC (Div. of Low Level Waste Mgt. & Dec.) Rockville, MD
Certified Mail - 7099 3220 0008 5206 1637, return receipt requested
B. Ferdinand (RAMC-Smith Ranch Facility)
M. Freeman (RAMC-OKC Office)
P. Goranson (RAMC-OKC Office)
file