



Rio Algom

Rio Algom Mining Corp.
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Return Receipt Requested

September 7, 2001

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

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

Dear Mr. Ingle:

On August 4, 2001, 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, four feet three inches at the time of the discovery, was immediately lowered in order to stop the leak. The day before the leak was detected the water level was at its maximum level of six feet and the water level was being lowered when the leak was discovered. The sump water was analyzed for chloride, specific conductance, bicarbonate, U_{nat} , and sulfate with the results shown below:

Chemical	Concentration
Chloride	7,179 mg/l
Specific Conductance @ 25 °C	5.23 m Siemens
Bicarbonate	599 mg/l
U_{nat} as U_3O_8	29.3 mg/l
Sulfate	8,907 mg/l

Upon receipt of the confirming analysis, both Steve Ingle of WDEQ and John Lusher of NRC were notified via telephone voicemail on August 10, 2001.

On August 5, 2001 a Wellfield Operator discovered the west evaporation pond sump also contained greater than six inches of water. The water level in the pond at the time of the discovery was at five feet nine inches. The water level was lowered and the sump water was analyzed for chloride, specific conductance, bicarbonate, U_{nat} , and sulfate with the results shown below:

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Chemical	Concentration
Chloride	8,985 mg/l
Specific Conductance @ 25 °C	5.24 m Siemens
Bicarbonate	260 mg/l
U _{nat} as U ₃ O ₈	2.7 mg/l
Sulfate	8,311 mg/l

Steve Ingle of WDEQ and John Lusher of NRC were notified via telephone voicemail on August 10th.

The cause of both leaks is unknown and crews are still looking for tears in the liner. Monthly reports will follow until the leaks are corrected and confirmed. If you have any questions or comments regarding the submittal, please feel free to contact me at (307) 358-3744, ext. 62.

Sincerely,



John W. Cash
Manager EHS and Regulatory Affairs

xc: Pat Drummond (RAMC - Smith Ranch Facility)
J. Lusher-U.S. NRC (Div. of Low Level Waste Mgt. & Dec.) Rockville, MD
Certified Mail -7099 3220 0002 1633 0171, return receipt requested
B. Ferdinand (RAMC-Smith Ranch Facility)
M. Freeman (RAMC-OKC Office)
P. Goranson (RAMC-OKC Office)
file