



# Rio Algom

Rio Algom Mining Corp.  
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**Certified Mail - 7099 3220 0002 1633 0225**  
**Return Receipt Requested**

October 5, 2001

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

**RE: Corrective Action Report 2, 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:

<b>Chemical</b>	<b>Concentration</b>
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.

Several patches have since been placed on the liner and the water level will be raised in the near future to confirm the repairs. The cause of the small holes is unknown. Currently, the water level in the east pond is at 5' 2" and there is no leakage into the sump. Additional reports will follow until the water level is raised to 6' and the repairs are confirmed.

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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:

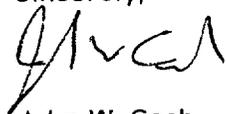
<b>Chemical</b>	<b>Concentration</b>
Chloride	8,985 mg/l
Specific Conductance @ 25 °C	5.24 m Siemens
Bicarbonate	260 mg/l
$U_{nat}$ as $U_3O_8$	2.7 mg/l
Sulfate	8,311 mg/l

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

Several patches were placed on the west pond liner and the water level was slowly raised from 4' 9" on September 25<sup>th</sup> to 5' 9" on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. The cause of the small holes is unknown. No leaks have occurred since repairs were made. The water level will be raised to 6' to confirm there are no leaks.

Although the leaks have been patched, monthly reports will follow until the repairs are 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 and Regulatory Affairs

xc: P. 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 0232**  
B. Ferdinand (RAMC-Smith Ranch Facility)  
M. Freeman (RAMC-OKC Office)  
P. Goranson (RAMC-OKC Office)  
file