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# Rio Algom

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**Certified Mail - 7099 3220 0002 1633 0409**  
**Return Receipt Requested**

November 5, 2001

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

**RE: Corrective Action Report 3, 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<sub>nat</sub>, 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 <sub>nat</sub> as U <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub>	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 were placed on the liner and the water level was raised to confirm the repairs. From October 8<sup>th</sup> through October 12<sup>th</sup> the water level was held at six (6) feet with no leakage, thus confirming the repairs. The cause of the small holes is unknown. This concludes the monthly status reports for the east evaporation pond.

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

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analyzed for chloride, specific conductance, bicarbonate,  $U_{nat}$ , and sulfate with the results shown below:

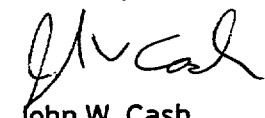
Chemical	Concentration
Chloride	8,985 mg/l
Specific Conductance @ 25 °C	5.24 m Siemens
Bicarbonate	260 mg/l
$U_{nat}$ as $U_3O_8$	2.7 mg/l
Sulfate	8,311 mg/l

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 water level was held near the six (6) foot limit for six days with no leakage resulting. The cause of the small holes is unknown. Since the repairs have been confirmed no additional monthly status reports will be submitted for the west evaporation pond.

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: P. Drummond (RAMC - Smith Ranch Facility)  
B. Ferdinand (RAMC-Smith Ranch Facility)  
M. Freeman (RAMC-OKC Office)  
P. Goranson (RAMC-OKC Office)  
J. Lusher-U.S. NRC (Div. of Low Level Waste Mgt. & Dec.) Rockville, MD  
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