



Rio Algom

Rio Algom Mining Corp.
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Return Receipt Requested

January 18, 2002

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

RE: Smith Ranch Project
Permit to Mine 633
License Number SUA 1548, Docket 40-8964
Monitor Well OMM-1 Status Report

Dear Mr. Ingle:

On December 6, 2001 the wellfield samplers discovered that the skillet on well OMM-1 in Wellfield 3 had been struck by a vehicle causing the tubing and pump to fall down hole. We attempted to fish the tubing using a Smeal pulling unit but were unsuccessful. On December 20th, I contacted you and asked for a sampling waiver for OMM-1 during the month of December which you granted.

We continued attempting to remove the downhole equipment and were finally successful on January 7th. A new pump was set on fiberglass tubing and a sample was subsequently taken on January 16th with the following results: chloride 3.0 mg/l, alkalinity 159 mg/l, pH 7.75, and specific conductance at 25 degrees Celsius 417 μ S/cm. These results are in line with historic values.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. If you need any further information, please feel free to contact me at (307) 358-3744 ext. 62.

Sincerely,

John W. Cash
Manager EHS and Regulatory Affairs

xc: B. Ferdinand (RAMC/SRP)
W. Goranson (RAMC/OKC)
J. Lusher (NRC/Rockville) Certified Mail - 7001 2510 0008 1946 3618
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