Rio Algom Mining Corp.
P.O. Box 1390
Glenrock, Wyoming 82637 307.358.3744 tel
762 Ross Road 307.266.2449 tel
Douglas, Wyoming 82633 307.358.9201 fax

Rio Algom

Certified Mail - 7099 3220 0002 1633 0461
Return Receipt Requested

December 10, 2001

Mr. Joe Hunter
WDEQ/WQD
Emergency Response Coordinator
Herschler Building, 4th Floor West
122 West 25th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82002

RE: Smith Ranch Project
Permit to Mine 633
License Number SUA 1548, Docket 40-8964
Notification of Spill

Dear Mr. Hunter:

Please find enclosed a Spill Report, pursuant to Wyoming DEQ requirements, for an incident that occurred on December 5, 2001. The spill has been reported by telephone and e-mail to the proper agencies as required.

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)
M. Freeman (RAMC/OKC)
W. Goranson (RAMC/OKC)
S. Ingle (WDEQ/Cheyenne)
J. Lusher (NRC/Rockville) **Certified Mail - 7099 3220 0002 1633 0478**
Document Control Desk (NRC/Washington) **Cert. Mail-7099 3220 0002 1633 0485**
Region IV Uranium Recovery Chief (NRC/Arlington) **Cert. Mail-7099 3220 0002 1633 0492**
file

NMSS01 Public

Rec'd 01/23/02

RIO ALGOM MINING CORP.
SPILL NOTIFICATION

On December 5, 2001 at approximately 3:30 a.m., an unplanned release occurred from wells 3-I-44 and 3-I-53 in the NE quarter of the SW quarter of Section 26, T. 36 N., R. 74 W. An estimated 3,600 gallons of water was released. The spill stayed within the permit area and did not threaten any waters of the state.

The spill resulted when an operator turned on two wells without realizing surface piping had been disconnected in order to carry out maintenance. The piping had been taped shut but the tape was insufficient to prevent flow.

The natural uranium concentration of the injection fluid was about 0.8 ppm. The minor erosion resulting from the spill will be repaired and the area will be reseeded in the spring.

After a review and determination of the facts, notifications were made to the DEQ/WQD Spill Hotline and the NRC. The report was given by telephone to DEQ/WQD representative Connie Osborne at 14:52 on December 5, 2001. Mr. John Lusher and Mr. Charles Cain, of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, were notified by e-mail on December 5, 2001.

WQD Initial Pollution Incident Report

☐ **Complaint** ☐ **Release**

Incident number: 011205-252
Date and Time (YYMMDD-0000)

Report taken by: Connie Osborn

Report Date: 12/5/01	Time of Report:
Reported by Name: John Cash	Responsible Party Name: John Cash
Title: Manager EHS & Reg. Affairs	Title:
Company: Rio Algom Mining LLC.	Company:
Address: P.O. Box 1390	Address:
C, S & Z Glenrock, WY 82637	C, S & Z
Phone: 307-358-3744	Phone:
Date of incident: 12/5/01	Time of incident: 3:30 a.m.

Nature of Incident:
An operator started two wells which were disconnected at surface

Location of incident: County Converse | Legal ¼,¼ NE SW S 26 T 36N R 74W

Street address:
762 Ross Rd Douglas, WY 82633

Additional location info (mile post, highway, county road, tank battery, well #, etc.):
3-I-44 and 3-I-53

Source:
- ☑ Fixed
- ☐ Transportation
- ☐ Refinery
- ☐ Vehicle
- ☐ O&G
- ☐ Train
- ☑ Mine
- ☐ Government
- ☐ Business/Industry
- ☐ LAUST - FAC ID _____
- ☐ Other _____

Cause:
- ☐ Accident
- ☐ Pipeline incident
- ☐ Equipment failure
- ☑ Human error
- ☐ Dumping
- ☐ Other

Substance: ☐ Diesel ☐ Crude oil ☐ Condensate ☐ Oil ☐ Haz waste ☐ Gasoline ☑ Produced water ☐ Other_____	Quantity: 3,570 UoM: ☑ gallons ☐ barrels Other _____
Media affected: ☑ Land ☐ Air ☐ Other ☐ Storm sewer ☐ Sanitary sewer ☐ Groundwater ☐ Surface water Name of water _____	Sara Title III release: ☐ If marked, contact the State Emergency Response Commission at 777-4900

If water is affected, notify the WQD district supervisor **immediately**. Contact Game and Fish. If storm sewer, sanitary sewer or surface water is affected, copy the Watershed section. If air is affected, contact AQD. If UST, contact LAUST district supervisor.

Containment, removal, disposal or other actions: Allowed to evaporate

If a release, a follow up written report must be sent to the district office within seven (7) days.

Additional information (i.e., other agencies contacted, etc.):
NRC Project Manager John Lusher also notified

Referred to: (Mark appropriate box and give contact name(s))

☐ W&WW District Supervisor	☐ Emergency Response Coord	
☐ Watershed	☐ SHWD	☐ WEMA
☐ GPC	☐ AQD	
☐ UIC	☐ LQD	
☐ AUST/LAUST	☐ AML	☐ Other_____

Contact: _____ Date of referral: _____

This incident has been referred or resolved by:

_____ _____

Signature Date

pjb
90877.doc