



# Rio Algom

Rio Algom Mining Corp.

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**Return Receipt Requested**

April 11, 2002

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 Leak**  
**Permit to Mine 633, License SUA-1548, Docket 40-8964**

Dear Mr. Ingle:

### **West Pond Status**

By way of background, on January 4, 2002, during a routine inspection, it was discovered that the water level in the west evaporation pond sump exceeded six (6) inches. The water level in the pond, three feet two inches at the time of the discovery, was lowered to two feet ten inches in order to stop the leak. The sump water was analyzed for chloride, specific conductance, bicarbonate, U<sub>nat</sub>, and sulfate with the results shown below:

<b>Chemical</b>	<b>Concentration</b>
Chloride	5,100 mg/l
Specific Conductance @ 25 °C	3,941 u Siemens
Bicarbonate	396 mg/l
U <sub>nat</sub> as U <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub>	36 mg/l
Sulfate	4,700 mg/l

Upon receipt of the confirming analysis, both Steve Ingle of WDEQ and John Lusher of NRC were notified via telephone on January 11, 2002.

During this report period, March 12<sup>th</sup> through April 11<sup>th</sup>, with continued winter weather prohibiting meaningful repairs, the west evaporation pond continued to be shut-in. Although shut-in, a small trickle of solutions continued to be collected in the sump. Weekly samples continued to be analyzed for chloride and conductance. The results are shown in the table below:

### **West Pond Weekly Samples**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Chloride (mg/l)</b>	<b>Conductivity (µS)</b>
March 13, 2002	3,109	2,363
March 21, 2002	3,253	3,336
March 27, 2002	2,099	2,364

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The results for a monthly sample taken during the fourth week are pending.

The ice is now gone and the pond was evacuated of solutions to below the 2 feet 10 inch level, ceasing the trickle of solutions.

### **East Pond Status**

By way of background, on January 9, 2002, during a routine inspection, it was discovered that the water level in the east evaporation pond sump exceeded six (6) inches. The water level in the pond, four feet seven inches at the time of the discovery, was lowered to three feet six inches in order to stop the leak. The sump water was analyzed for chloride, specific conductance, bicarbonate,  $U_{nat}$ , and sulfate with the results shown below:

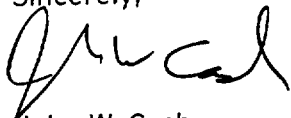
<b>Chemical</b>	<b>Concentration</b>
Chloride	2,900 mg/l
Specific Conductance @ 25 °C	2,857 u Siemens
Bicarbonate	244 mg/l
$U_{nat}$ as $U_3O_8$	23 mg/l
Sulfate	5,300 mg/l

Upon receipt of the confirming analysis, both Steve Ingle of WDEQ and John Lusher of NRC were notified via telephone on January 11, 2002.

During this reporting period, March 12<sup>th</sup> through April 11<sup>th</sup>, the water level in the east pond was raised, however, the pond did not leak. Therefore, no samples were collected. The cause of the leak is still being sought.

Additional monthly reports will be submitted until correction of the situation is 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: J. Lusher-U.S. NRC (Div. of Low Level Waste Mgt. & Dec.) Rockville, MD  
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