



Rio Algom

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May 10, 2002

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

**RE: Corrective Action Report 4, 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_{nat} , and sulfate with the results shown below:

Chemical	Concentration
Chloride	5,100 mg/l
Specific Conductance @ 25 °C	3,941 u Siemens
Bicarbonate	396 mg/l
U_{nat} as U_3O_8	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, April 12th through May 10th, repairs were made to the liner and the water level was slowly raised to 3' 6". Additional work will be performed during the next reporting period before the pond level is raised again. No samples were collected during this reporting period because the sump did not collect water. However, the results from the last monthly sample collected on April 11th are: conductivity 11,400 MicroS, pH 7.51, chloride 3,416 mg/l, bicarbonate 17 mg/l, sulfate 3,100 mg/l, and Unat 27 mg/l.

*NMSSO1
Public
Add: John Lusher*

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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:

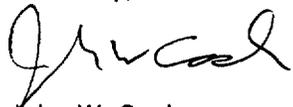
Chemical	Concentration
Chloride	2,900 mg/l
Specific Conductance @ 25 °C	2,857 u Siemens
Bicarbonate	244 mg/l
U _{nat} as U ₃ O ₈	23 mg/l
Sulfate	5,300 mg/l

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, April 12th through May 10th, the water level in the east pond was raised to 4' 5", without leakage. 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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file