



# Rio Algom

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**Certified Mail - 7001 2510 0008 1945 3848**  
**Return Receipt Requested**

June 11, 2002

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

**RE: Corrective Action Report 5, 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, May 11<sup>th</sup> through June 11<sup>th</sup>, repairs were made to the liner and the water level was slowly raised to 4' 0" at which point the sump began to collect water. The water level was dropped to 3' 3" and the leakage quickly stopped. Additional work will be performed during the next reporting period before the pond level is raised again.

*NMSSOI 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:

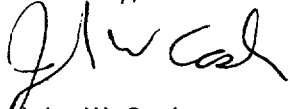
<b>Chemical</b>	<b>Concentration</b>
Chloride	2,900 mg/l
Specific Conductance @ 25 °C	2,857 u Siemens
Bicarbonate	244 mg/l
$U_{nat}$ as $U_3O_8$	23 mg/l
Sulfate	5,300 mg/l

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, May 11<sup>th</sup> through June 11<sup>th</sup>, the water level in the east pond was kept between 2' 8" and 4' 3". There was no seepage into the sump. The water level will be raised in order to confirm the integrity of the liner.

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  
**Certified Mail - 7001 2510 0008 1945 3831**  
B. Ferdinand (RAM-Smith Ranch Facility)  
P. Goranson (RAM-OKC Office)  
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file