

September 25, 2002

MEMORANDUM TO: File

FROM: Jill Caverly, Project Manager **/RA/**  
Fuel Cycle Facilities Branch

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF RIO ALGOM  
MINING LLC REGARDING THE DESIGN OF EROSION PROTECTION  
AT THE AMBROSIA LAKE MILL SITE

On August 28, 2002, a meeting was conducted with staff of the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and representatives of Rio Algom Mining LLC (RAM). The meeting was scheduled at the request of Rio Algom and was held at the NRC Headquarters complex in Rockville, MD. RAM holds two source material licenses for uranium mill facilities in New Mexico and Utah. RAM submitted a proposed erosion control design for areas of its Ambrosia Lake facility dated May 16, 2002. Staff completed an initial review and noted sections in the design which were not complete or detailed appropriately. RAM requested this meeting with the NRC staff to discuss guidance for these types of designs and discuss the areas in which the design was not adequate.

The staff identified several areas in RAM's submittal where data was not sufficient, including the calculation of the Probable Maximum Flood (PMF) and the erosion effects of flow in the Arroyo Del Puerto. The engineering consultant working for RAM presented the staff with additional analysis of the PMF calculation in which several variables were adjusted to account for discrepancies between the previously determined value and other PMF values in neighboring drainage basins. Variations of lag time, curve number and rainfall sequences were used in a sensitivity analysis of the PMF calculation. Staff stated that the approach appears satisfactory, but asked that an official report be submitted for a more detailed review by the staff.

In addition to the PMF, the staff discussed several issues associated with erosion effects from the Arroyo Del Puerto. The staff stated that the effects of these forces should be investigated more, and that several areas along the toe of the tailings impoundment and along the channel should be modeled for erosive forces. The staff noted its concern that the erosive forces could undermine the side slope of the tailings impoundment if not included in the analysis of the erosion control of the site. Several design concepts were discussed for erosion protection along these areas. RAM and its consultant agreed to complete additional analysis and, if warranted, provide an updated design.

The meeting concluded with a short visit from Daniel Gillen, Chief, Fuel Cycle Facilities Branch, and Gary Janosko, Chief, Uranium Processing Section. RAM briefed NRC management of its proposed schedule for final decommissioning of both sites.

ATTENDEES:

W. Paul Goranson, RAM  
Russel Jones, Kerr-McGee  
William Bucher, Maxim Technologies  
Jill Caverly, NRC  
Ted Johnson, NRC  
Gary Janosko, NRC  
Daniel Gillen, NRC

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<b>NAME</b>	J. Caverly		J. Muczkiwicz*		G. Janosko		D. Gillen	
<b>DATE</b>	9/4/02		9/4/02		9/23/02		9/23/02	

\*see previous concurrence

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