COGEMA
Mining, Inc.

November 26, 2002

LICENSE SUA-1341
DOCKET NO. 40-8502

Mr. Dan Gillen, Chief
Fuel Cycle Licensing Branch, FCSS
c/o Document Control Desk
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Subject: Excursion status reporting of monitor well 5MW54

Dear Mr. Leach:

As per license Section 12.2 and 9.2, this letter serves as the written notification of the excursion status for monitor well 5MW54. The excursion was initially reported on November 22, by phone to the Region IV Branch Chief and our Project Manager.

A routine monthly water sample collected on November 19, 2002 from monitor well 5MW54, exceeded all of its upper control limits (UCLs). A confirmation sample was collected on November 21, which exceeded 2 UCLs. Monitor well 5MW54 was then placed on excursion status and its sampling frequency increased to weekly. This will continue until 3 consecutive weekly samples indicate that not more than one UCL is exceeded.

5MW54 is a perimeter ore zone monitor well located approximately 300 feet west of the wellfield boundary in Mine Unit 5 (module 5-5), at the Christensen Project. Module 5-5 is currently undergoing the reverse osmosis treatment phase of restoration. Corrective action began on November 20 and involved shutting down 5 injection wells in the area.

The following table gives the analysis data for the two samples which confirmed the excursion for 5MW54 along with the initial weekly sample. Note that all 3 excursion parameters have dropped significantly and that only alkalinity exceeded its UCL on November 25. This indicates that the corrective action succeeded in reversing the excursion.

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Monitor Well 5MW54

Sample Date	Chloride mg/l UCL 22.7	Conductivity umhos/cm UCL 1004	Alkalinity mg/l UCL 134.3	Uranium mg/l as U3O8	pH
11-19-02	**32.0**	**1145**	**297.0**	< 0.4	7.6
11-21-02	**22.9**	864	**187.5**	< 0.4	8.8
11-25-02	17.7	769	**154.3**	< 0.4	8.9

Written progress reports describing the status of all monitor wells on excursion status will be submitted on a quarterly basis, as per license Section 11.2. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this report.

Sincerely,

John Vaselin

John Vaselin
Radiation Safety Officer

cc: Chuck Cain - NRC, Arlington, TX
Elaine Brummett - NRC, Washington
Donna Wichers - COGEMA