

COGEMA

Mining, Inc.

January 6, 2003

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

RE: Quarterly Progress Report of Monitor Wells on Excursion Status

Dear Mr. Gillen:

The letter serves as the progress report required by License Sections 11.2 and 12.2, concerning 9 monitor wells which remained on excursion status during the third quarter of 2002. Excursion status is defined as a monitor well which exceeds more than one upper control limit (UCL). Excursion status can be removed when a monitor well no longer exceeds more than one UCL for three consecutive weeks.

Seven of these wells are located at the Irigaray Project (IR) where groundwater restoration has been completed. The other 2 wells are located at the Christensen Project which is undergoing groundwater restoration. Each well is summarized below and a table is attached listing their weekly sample analysis data and water level elevations. Normal historical fluctuations of most excursion parameters were observed, except where noted.

Interior Unit 1 Sand Monitor Wells - Irigaray Project

SSM3 (IR Production Unit 2) has been on excursion status since August 28, 1996. On December 30, chloride was 63.8 (UCL 38.5), conductivity was 1917 (UCL 1451) and alkalinity was 146.9 (UCL 219.1).

SSM18 (IR Production Unit 8) has been on excursion status since September 11, 1996. On December 30, chloride was 18.8 (UCL 14.7), conductivity was 1964 (UCL 1849) and alkalinity was 149.1 (UCL 119.4).

SSM40 (IR Production Unit 8) has been on excursion status since March 6, 1994. On December 30, chloride was 13.0 (UCL 13.6), conductivity was 1632 (UCL 1672) and alkalinity was 104.6 (UCL 109.2). Note that no UCLs were exceeded for the last two weeks of the year.

NMS501

Mr. Dan Gillen
January 6, 2003
Page 2 of 3

SSM41 (IR Production Unit 4) has been on excursion status since November 17, 1998. On December 30, chloride was 35.5 (UCL 24.9), conductivity was 2478 (UCL 2566) and alkalinity was 131.7 (UCL 126.8).

SSM42 (IR Production Unit 3) has been on excursion status since October 10, 1990. On December 30, chloride was 53.5 (UCL 23.3), conductivity was 1897 (UCL 1571) and alkalinity was 163.1 (UCL 213.2). Note that chloride and conductivity have shown a decreasing trend since the beginning of the year. Alkalinity has shown an increasing trend which peaked on December 16 and then began decreasing. On January 2, 2002, chloride was 72.8, conductivity was 2368 and alkalinity was 152.7.

SSM43 (IR Production Unit 1) has been on excursion status since October 11, 1989. On December 30, chloride was 35.8 (UCL 25.6), conductivity was 1725 (UCL 1456) and alkalinity was 133.5 (UCL 170.4).

Interior Deep Sand Monitor Well - Irigaray Project

DM10 (IR Production Unit 6) has been on excursion status since February 2, 1994. On December 30, chloride was 31.6 (UCL 16.4), conductivity was 813 (UCL 606) and alkalinity was 197.8 (UCL 107.5).

Perimeter Ore Zone Monitor Wells - Christensen Project

5MW54 (CR Mine Unit 5) has been on excursion status since November 19, 2002. On December 30, chloride was 36.8 (UCL 22.7), conductivity was 1272 (UCL 1004) and alkalinity was 337.6 (UCL 134.6). Corrective over-recovery in the wellfield area near 5MW54 was initially successful in lowering the excursions parameters, however, they then increased to even higher concentrations. In response, several changes in the corrective over-recovery were initiated in late December 2002 and early January 2003.

5MW8 (CR Mine Unit 5) has been on excursion status since December 16, 2002. This was reported by E-mail to the NRC Region IV Branch Chief and the Project Manager on December 17, 2002. On December 30, chloride was 48.2 (UCL 23.0), conductivity was 1746 (UCL 1423) and alkalinity was 483 (UCL 122.5). Corrective over-recovery in the wellfield area near 5MW8 was not successful in lowering the excursions parameters by year end. In response, several changes in the corrective over-recovery were initiated in late December 2002 and early January 2003.

Mr. Dan Gillen
January 6, 2003
Page 3 of 3

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Vaselein". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

John Vaselein
Radiation Safety Officer

cc: Donna Wichersi/COGEMA

WP\2002MEMO\NRC-EX-4

Monitor Wells on Excursion Status Page 1 of 3
COGEMA Mining, Inc. Irigaray and Christensen Projects

Monitor Well ID: SSM3 Location: Irigaray Project, PU # 2						
Sample Date	Chloride (UCL 38.5 mg/l)	Conductivity (UCL 1451 umhos)	Alkalinity (UCL 219.1 mg/l)	pH	Water Level Elevation	Uranium as U ₃ O ₈
10/07/02	66	1888	157.9	7.7	4310.3	< 0.4
10/14/02	64.8	1900	151.5	7.7	4310.4	< 0.4
10/21/02	65.4	1901	155.7	7.8	4310.5	< 0.4
10/28/02	65.6	1911	154.9	7.8	4310.8	< 0.4
11/04/02	66.9	1896	159.4	7.9	4310.8	< 0.4
11/11/02	66.2	1901	156.9	7.9	4310.9	< 0.4
11/19/02	65.4	1915	152.4	7.9	4311	< 0.4
11/25/02	67.8	1906	159.6	7.9	4311	< 0.4
12/02/02	66.8	1915	156	7.9	4311	< 0.4
12/09/02	66.6	1921	157.8	7.8	4311	< 0.4
12/16/02	66.6	1937	159.2	7.8	4311.1	< 0.4
12/23/02	63.7	1919	146.3	7.8	4311	< 0.4
12/30/02	63.8	1917	146.9	7.8	4311	< 0.4

Monitor Well ID: SSM18 Location: Irigaray Project, PU # 8						
Sample Date	Chloride (UCL 14.7 mg/l)	Conductivity (UCL 1849 umhos)	Alkalinity (UCL 119.4 mg/l)	pH	Water Level Elevation	Uranium as U ₃ O ₈
10/07/02	17.6	1838	141.1	7.8	4314	< 0.4
10/14/02	18	1864	144	7.8	4314	< 0.4
10/21/02	19.5	1907	152.2	7.8	4314.3	< 0.4
10/28/02	19.7	1950	155.2	7.7	4314.3	< 0.4
11/04/02	20	1913	159.1	7.8	4314.4	< 0.4
11/11/02	20.2	1933	161.1	7.8	4314.3	< 0.4
11/19/02	19.4	1927	154.6	7.8	4313.8	< 0.4
11/25/02	18.9	1900	150	7.9	4314.5	< 0.4
12/02/02	19.4	1915	152.7	7.9	4314.5	< 0.4
12/09/02	18.9	1932	149.6	7.8	4314.6	< 0.4
12/16/02	19.3	1936	154.2	7.7	4315.5	< 0.4
12/23/02	18.3	1924	145.6	7.7	4314.8	< 0.4
12/30/02	18.8	1964	149.1	7.8	4314.8	< 0.4

Monitor Well ID: SSM40 Location: Irigaray Project, PU # 8						
Sample Date	Chloride (UCL 13.6 mg/l)	Conductivity (UCL 1672 umhos)	Alkalinity (UCL 109.2 mg/l)	pH	Water Level Elevation	Uranium as U ₃ O ₈
10/07/02	14.1	1694	109.1	8	4315.8	< 0.4
10/14/02	13.9	1656	108.8	7.6	4315.1	< 0.4
10/21/02	14.2	1634	111.1	8.2	4316	< 0.4
10/28/02	14.3	1626	114.4	8	4315.9	< 0.4
11/04/02	14.4	1665	113.2	8.2	4316	< 0.4
11/11/02	14.4	1610	116.9	8.2	4316.1	< 0.4
11/19/02	14	1634	112.7	8.1	4316.2	< 0.4
11/25/02	14.3	1667	112.1	8.2	4316.2	< 0.4
12/02/02	14.3	1659	112.4	8.1	4316.2	< 0.4
12/09/02	13.9	1631	112.8	8.2	4316.2	< 0.4
12/16/02	14.7	1703	116.8	8.1	4316.6	< 0.4
12/23/02	12.7	1625	102.8	8.1	4316.5	< 0.4
12/30/02	13	1632	104.6	8	4316.5	< 0.4

Monitor Wells on Excursion Status Page 2 of 3
COGEMA Mining, Inc. Irigaray and Christensen Projects

Monitor Well ID: SSM41 Location: Irigaray Project, PU # 4						
Sample Date	Chloride (UCL 24.9 mg/l)	Conductivity (UCL 2566 umhos)	Alkalinity (UCL 126.8 mg/l)	pH	Water Level Elevation	Uranium as U ₃ O ₈
10/07/02	35.5	2454	129.1	7.7	4311	< 0.4
10/14/02	35.2	2462	127.7	7.8	4311	< 0.4
10/21/02	37.7	2460	134.4	7.8	4311	< 0.4
10/28/02	38	2469	140.4	7.8	4311	< 0.4
11/04/02	38.1	2460	140.7	7.9	4311.1	< 0.4
11/11/02	37.8	2461	139.8	7.8	4311.3	< 0.4
11/19/02	37.4	2463	139.5	7.8	4311.3	< 0.4
11/25/02	38.1	2491	139.4	7.9	4311.7	< 0.4
12/02/02	39.7	2481	148.3	7.8	4311.5	< 0.4
12/09/02	37.6	2464	142.5	7.8	4311.5	< 0.4
12/16/02	37	2465	139.8	7.8	4311.7	< 0.4
12/23/02	35.5	2467	132.4	7.8	4311.8	< 0.4
12/30/02	35.5	2478	131.7	7.7	4311.8	< 0.4

Monitor Well ID: SSM42 Location: Irigaray Project, PU # 3						
Sample Date	Chloride (UCL 23.3 mg/l)	Conductivity (UCL 1571 umhos)	Alkalinity (UCL 213.2 mg/l)	pH	Water Level Elevation	Uranium as U ₃ O ₈
10/07/02	58.7	2058	158.1	7.8	4304.1	< 0.4
10/14/02	58.5	2048	160.1	8	4304	< 0.4
10/21/02	58.9	2022	159.9	8	4304.1	< 0.4
10/28/02	58.5	2017	167.4	7.9	4304.2	< 0.4
11/04/02	59.1	1995	169.4	7.9	4304.1	< 0.4
11/11/02	58.4	1973	172.3	8	4304.2	< 0.4
11/19/02	56.7	1958	172	7.9	4304	< 0.4
11/25/02	58.3	1956	171.5	8	4304.8	< 0.4
12/02/02	55.7	1942	170.6	7.9	4304.3	< 0.4
12/09/02	56.5	1932	172.7	7.9	4304.2	< 0.4
12/16/02	57.1	1941	178.1	7.9	4304.5	< 0.4
12/23/02	53.1	1919	159.9	7.9	4304.2	< 0.4
12/30/02	53.5	1897	163.1	8	4304.2	< 0.4

Monitor Well ID: SSM43 Location: Irigaray Project, PU # 1						
Sample Date	Chloride (UCL 25.6 mg/l)	Conductivity (UCL 1456 umhos)	Alkalinity (UCL 170.4 mg/l)	pH	Water Level Elevation	Uranium as U ₃ O ₈
10/07/02	36.3	1711	134.2	7.9	4309.3	< 0.4
10/14/02	36.6	1723	135.5	8.1	4309.4	< 0.4
10/21/02	39.4	1717	146.7	8	4309.5	< 0.4
10/28/02	38.8	1718	144.1	8	4309.6	< 0.4
11/04/02	38.8	1706	145	8.1	4309.6	< 0.4
11/11/02	38.7	1706	145.4	8.1	4309.6	< 0.4
11/19/02	39	1718	146.7	8.1	4309.8	< 0.4
11/25/02	39.5	1722	146.7	8.1	4310	< 0.4
12/02/02	40.1	1724	152.5	8	4310	< 0.4
12/09/02	38.5	1723	145	8	4309.9	< 0.4
12/16/02	38.7	1730	145.6	8	4310	< 0.4
12/23/02	35.1	1720	137.1	8	4310	< 0.4
12/30/02	35.8	1725	133.5	8	4310	< 0.4

Monitor Wells on Excursion Status Page 3 of 3
COGEMA Mining, Inc. Irigaray and Christensen Projects

Monitor Well ID: DM10 Location: Irigaray Project, PU # 6						
Sample Date	Chloride (UCL 16.4 mg/l)	Conductivity (UCL 606 umhos)	Alkalinity (UCL 107.5 mg/l)	pH	Water Level Elevation	Uranium as U ₃ O ₈
10/07/02	30.7	804	196.7	8.2	4312.9	< 0.4
10/14/02	30.3	803	195	8.2	4312.9	< 0.4
10/21/02	30.3	800	205	8.4	4313.4	< 0.4
10/28/02	31.7	803	209.6	8.2	4313.7	< 0.4
11/04/02	32	801	209.9	8.3	4313.3	< 0.4
11/11/02	32	801	213.7	8.3	4313.8	< 0.4
11/19/02	31.6	804	207.5	8.3	4313.6	< 0.4
11/25/02	31.6	802	206.2	8.5	4314.2	< 0.4
12/02/02	32.2	806	212.6	8.4	4314.3	< 0.4
12/09/02	32.3	808	217.3	8.3	4314.4	< 0.4
12/16/02	31.5	815	209.6	8.2	4314.8	< 0.4
12/23/02	30.6	804	199.5	8.2	4315	< 0.4
12/30/02	31.6	813	197.8	8.1	4315	< 0.4

Monitor Well ID: 5MW54 Location: Christensen Project, MU # 5						
Sample Date	Chloride (UCL 22.7 mg/l)	Conductivity (UCL 1004 umhos)	Alkalinity (UCL 134.3 mg/l)	pH	Water Level Elevation	U ₃ O ₈
10/22/02	11.4	680	101.8	9.7	4500.7	
11/19/02	32	1145	297	7.6	4510.5	< 0.4
11/21/02	22.9	864	187.5	8.8	4510.5	< 0.4
11/25/02	17.7	769	154.3	8.9	4510.5	< 0.4
12/02/02	32.8	1145	291	7.3	4503.8	< 0.4
12/09/02	34.2	1182	306.6	7.2	4507.5	< 0.4
12/16/02	27.2	880	187	8.3	4502.6	< 0.4
12/23/02	34.6	1209	318.2	7.5	4511.2	< 0.4
12/30/02	36.8	1272	337.6	7.5	4512.3	< 0.4

Monitor Well ID: 5MW8 Location: Christensen Project, MU # 5						
Sample Date	Chloride (UCL 23.0 mg/l)	Conductivity (UCL 1423 umhos)	Alkalinity (UCL 122.5 mg/l)	pH	Water Level Elevation	U ₃ O ₈
10/21/02	14.4	808	135.9	8.2	4549.8	
11/18/02	21.5	930	183.7	7.9	4546.2	
12/16/02	43.8	1744	490.4	7.5	4534.2	< 0.4
12/17/02	43.8	1745	491.2	7.3	4534.2	< 0.4
12/23/02	47.4	1717	477.4	7.7	4532.1	< 0.4
12/30/02	48.2	1746	483	7.6	4533.2	< 0.4