

COGEMA

From: Tom Nicholson <tgnicholson@vcn.com>
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Date: 5/22/03 10:54AM
Subject: Well excursion - Christensen Ranch Project

Please see the attached file providing notification of monitor well 5MW54 on excursion status.

Docket # 40-8502
SWA-1341

NMSSO1

Memorandum

DATE: May 22, 2003
To: Chuck Cain, Elaine Brummett
From: COGEMA Mining -Tom Nicholson
Subject: Christensen Mine well excursion
CC: Donna Wichers

As per License Section 12.2, a monitor well excursion will be reported to the NRC Branch Chief and Project Manager within forty-eight (48) hours. Accordingly COGEMA is notifying you that monitor well 5MW54 went on excursion status as of May 21, 2003.

5MW54 is a perimeter ore zone monitor well located on the southwest side of module 5 in unit 5 of the Christensen Ranch project. Mine unit 5 is currently in the reverse osmosis phase of restoration. A routine monthly sample was collected from this well on May 19, 2003 which exceeded all three upper control limits (UCL). A verification sample was collected on May 21, 2003 which also exceeded all three UCLs and confirmed the excursion. Sample analysis are given below:

DATE	CHLORIDE (UCL 22.7)	CONDUCTIVITY (UCL 1004)	ALKALINITY (UCL 134.3)	U ₃ O ₈
5/19/03	34.0	1327	322	<0.4
5/21/03	40.9	1536	389.9	<0.4

As per section 11.2, sampling frequency of 5MW54 will be increased to weekly and a status report will be submitted in the upcoming quarterly progress report for all wells on excursion status.

Two adjacent recovery wells have been turned on to correct the excursion situation as quickly as possible. A formal written report will follow this notification within the time frame stipulated in section 12.2.