

MEETING SUMMARY

DATE: March 23, 2005

TIME 10:00 a.m.

PLACE: NRC Headquarters, Rockville, MD

PURPOSE: To discuss review schedule for Rio Algom Mining LLC's Closure Plan - Lined Evaporation Ponds for Ambrosia Lake facility

ATTENDEES: Peter Luthiger, Rio Algom Mining LLC
Bruce Law, Rio Algom Mining LLC
Gibson Pierce, BHP Billiton, Inc
Jill Caverly, NRC
John Lusher, NRC
Robert Nelson, NRC
Gary Janosko, NRC

BACKGROUND:

Rio Algom LLC (Rio Algom) submitted a Closure Plan - Lined Evaporation Ponds under letter dated November 1, 2005. The plan includes the removal of the material located at area "Section 4" of the site. The material will be disposed of in Tailings Impoundment #2 at the same uranium mill facility. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) requested additional information and Rio Algom responded to this request by providing information in a letter dated January 28, 2005. This letter stated that the information included was related to the removal of the Section 4 material and asked that NRC consider this request independently of the closure of the Section 4 site.

DISCUSSION:

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the review schedule for Rio Algom's submittal for the Closure Plan - Lined Evaporation Ponds (Relocation Plan). Rio Algom representatives provided the NRC staff with a presentation of the on-going activities at the Ambrosia Lake site including on-going consolidation of the material located at Section 4. Rio Algom discussed their intention to split the review of the Section 4 area into two parts to include the removal of material and the closure of the area. Rio Algom inquired about the current review schedule for the closure plan and especially about the relocation plan review. Rio Algom stated that the permitting process for the highway overpass that would allow hauling this material was not yet complete but approval from the State was expected in the near future. After the State requirements have been met, Rio Algom plans to begin construction of the overpass and expects the construction to be completed in two months.

NRC staff informed Rio Algom that it was actively working on the review of the plan and would complete a licensing action for the relocation of the material prior to considering the final closure plan for Section 4. NRC reported that the current schedule would include finalizing an

Environmental Assessment (EA) and Technical Evaluation Report (TER). The EA would require a comment period for the State of New Mexico. During this time, the NRC will continue its review and author a TER concurrent to the State's review of the EA. NRC stated that environmental review process also requires that a Finding of No Significant Impact be published in the Federal Register.

Because the decommissioning of Section 4 is being considered under two licensing actions, NRC noted that the amount of material required to be removed at Section 4 would not be determined until the the closure plan for Section 4 was fully considered and accepted. Rio Algom stated that it was fully aware of this aspect of the license process.

After the issues associated with Section 4 were discussed, Rio Algom asked that NRC address the current issues associated with the Application for Alternate Concentration Limits for the Ambrosia Lake facility. NRC stated that non-radiological constituents need to be addressed under the Alternate Concentration Limits process. NRC and Rio Algom agreed that a conference call with technical representative should be scheduled and the technical issues associated with the ACL application be discussed in detail during the planned call.

ACTIONS:

NRC will schedule a conference call with Rio Algom and NRC technical reviewers to discuss non-radiological constituents for the ACL application review.