

May 5, 2005

Mr. Peter Luthiger
Manager, Radiation Safety
and Environmental Affairs
Rio Algom Mining LLC
P.O. Box 218
Grants, NM 87020

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR THE SOIL
DECOMMISSIONING PLAN AND THE CLOSURE PLAN - LINED
EVAPORATION PONDS FOR RIO ALGOM MINING LLC'S AMBROSIA LAKE
FACILITY (TAC NO. LU0077)

Dear Mr. Luthiger:

The "Soil Decommissioning Plan" was submitted by Rio Algom Mining LLC's (RAM) letter dated January 19, 2005. It addressed some of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's comments (December 22, 2004) on the Lined Ponds Closure Plan. RAM also submitted other responses (but not all) to Lined Ponds Closure Plan comments dated January 28, 2005. After review of the two documents, the NRC staff determined that additional information is required to continue the review. There may be more questions or comments after staff has reviewed the requested information. The staff's request for additional information (RAI) is provided in the enclosure to this letter.

You are requested to respond to the RAIs within 30 days of the date of this letter. Please note that the Soil Decommissioning plan and Closure Plan - Lined Evaporation Ponds, will not receive a further review until all of the enclosed comments have been addressed to the satisfaction of the NRC staff. Responses should be as thorough as possible in order to avoid additional requests for information and delay of the approval process. Please refer to the comment numbers when responding to specific comments. This closes TAC No. LU0077 and a new TAC No. will be issued when your responses are received.

If you have any questions regarding the staff's RAI, please contact me at (301) 415-7694 or by e-mail to JHL@nrc.gov.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the

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Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Sincerely,

/RA/

John H. Lusher, Project Manager
Fuel Cycle Facilities Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety
and Safeguards
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No.: 40-8905
License No.: SUA-1473

Enclosure: Request for Additional
Information

cc: B. Law, Rio Algom, LLC
Kevin Meyers, NMED

P. Luthiger

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Sincerely,

/RA/

John H. Lusher, Project Manager
Fuel Cycle Facilities Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety
and Safeguards
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No.: 40-8905
License No.: SUA-1473

Enclosure: Request for Additional Information

cc: B. Law, Rio Algom, LLC
Kevin Meyers, NMED

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