

MEETING SUMMARY

DATE: May 23, 2005

TIME 5:00 p.m.

PLACE: Beethoven Conference Room, Executive Towers Hotel, Denver, CO.

PURPOSE: To discuss issues for Rio Algom Mining LLC's Closure Plan - Lined Evaporation Ponds, ACL Application, Soil Plan Request for Additional Information and Future Submittals for the Ambrosia Lake facility

ATTENDEES: Peter Luthiger, Rio Algom Mining LLC
Bruce Law, Rio Algom Mining LLC
Robert Miller, Omega Project Services
Robert Lewis, Komex
Janet Schromke, Komex
Russel Jones, Kerr McGee
Daniel W. Erskine, Maxim
Anthony Thompson, Thompson & Simmons, PLLC.
Chris Pugsley, Thompson & Simmons, PLLC
John Lusher, NRC
Robert Nelson, NRC
Stephen J. Cohen, NRC
Paul Michalak, NRC
Brooke Smith, NRC/OGC
Jack E. Whitten, NRC/RIV
Judith Walker, NRC/RIV

BACKGROUND:

Rio Algom Mining 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 "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 issues for Rio Algom's Closure Plan - Lined Evaporation Ponds, ACL Application, Soil Plan Request for Additional Information and Future Submittals for the Ambrosia Lake facility. Rio Algom representatives provided the NRC staff

Enclosure

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 its 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 representatives discussed responses to the Request for Additional Information letter dated May 5, 2005.

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 develop a TER concurrent to the State's review of the EA. NRC stated that the environmental review process also requires that a Finding of No Significant Impact be published in the *Federal Register*.

ACTIONS:

NRC will schedule a conference call with Rio Algom and NRC technical reviewers to discuss clarification on Request for Additional Information.