

Saxton, John

From: Mike Griffin <MGriffin@stratawyo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 20, 2016 5:20 PM
To: David Schellinger; Joe Hunter (joe.hunter@wyo.gov); Saxton, John
Cc: Ralph Knode; Nikolas Roche; Jan Fajgl
Subject: [External_Sender] Reportable spill at Ross Uranium Project

Gentlemen:

I am writing to report a spill at the Ross Uranium Project Central Processing Plant. The spill was discovered at 1830 on July 19, 2016 and involved a line that was in use to transfer waste water from Cell 3 of Pond 1 back to the CPP. The filters in the CPP that are used to filter solids from this line plugged at some point during the transfer. The resultant back pressure caused the failure of a gasket at a flange located on the west wall of the CPP. The released liquid flowed across the gravel pad at the west end of the CPP and collected in a drainage ditch that runs along the west side of the controlled area. The water remained in the ditch along the west side. The water did not leave the controlled area and did not enter a drainage or waterway.

It is difficult to estimate the volume of water released. The transfer began at 1700 and no problems were noted at that time. The pump used to transfer water back to the CPP is rated at 18 GPM. If the break had involved an open pipe, the maximum volume released could have been 1,620 gallons (90 minutes x 18 GPM). However, the release was actually a spray from where the gasket failed and it is not known exactly when the gasket failure occurred so the release was clearly less than 1,620 gallons. It is possible that the volume released was less than the reporting criteria of 420 gallons. However, since there is no method to determine the volume of the release with any accuracy, Strata will conservatively report it as 1,620 gallons.

A sample of the water was obtained. Analysis for uranium at the Strata lab resulted in 2 mg/L uranium. A sample has also been sent to an outside lab for analysis for Ra-226. Strata will submit a full written report as required by Permit to Mine #802 and NRC Materials License SUA-1601.

Please let me know if you have any questions.
Mike

Mike Griffin
Vice President of Permitting, Regulatory and Environmental Compliance
PO Box 38
Sundance, WY 82729
W 307-467-5995
C 307-257-3033

mgriffin@stratawyo.com

