

RIO ALGOM CORPORATION

Lisbon Mine

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September 12, 1978

Mr. Glen D. Brown, Chief
Fuel Facility and Material Safety Branch
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region N
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 1000
Arlington, Texas 76011

Licence No. SUA-1119
Docket No. 40-8084

Dear Mr. Brown:

In reply to your letter and notice dated September 5, 1978, I submit the following:

- 1a. Bi-monthly radon samples in the ore processing buildings were carried out January 31st, March 31st, May 31st, and was done a few days late for July 21st. These are taken by the underground technicians and they omitted to send the results to the Mill for filing. Department heads have been notified of their error in not completing the assignment and will ensure that the records are kept in the best place for your department's perusal.
- 1b. Due to the extra water treatment facility, the old fence was inadequate and repositioning was necessary. The fencing and posts were ordered, but had not arrived at the time of the inspection. The new fence has now been erected, but we are waiting for the necessary radiation hazard signs to cover the increased length.
2. All yellowcake operators have been notified that showering at the end of their shift is a condition of their employment and the result-to-date indicates that they are conforming.
3. Section II.E.2 of NUREG-0046, "Final Environmental Statement - The Homeca Uranium Mill" has been read or interpreted incorrectly. Section II.E2 states - at the time the words were first written - in part, that water samples from the ventilation shaft are taken every second month. Production shaft water is also sampled every two months. It clearly states that, "When the treatment facility for radium removal is in operation, samples will be taken weekly from the discharge and analyzed for radium. Every two months complete analyses will be made as "was done" for the ventilation shaft samples.

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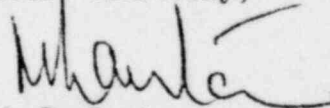
The water treatment facility was installed and since 1973, we put the water from the two shafts into the treatment facility and sample the discharge and not the individual discharge from each shaft. All the water comes from the same underground mine. Analyses are made weekly on pH, uranium and radium. Analyses are made monthly on pH, uranium, radium, T.D.S., hardness, sulphate, chloride, suspended solids, thorium and polonium. Analyses are made quarterly for the above, plus C.O.D., oil and grease, alpha total and beta total. Analyses are not done on nitrate and iron, since our NPDES permit dropped these two at the beginning of 1978.

Vegetation samples have never been taken quarterly. They have been taken annually and I enclose a letter dated February 20th, 1973, to John Kendig, notifying of our vegetation sampling program.

4. The tailings embankment is inspected regularly, once per day, but documentation had been omitted. This documentation has now been incorporated in the shift boss log sheet and is available for inspection.
5. A new operator's log has been designed and recordings are entered each shift of the static pressure gauges.
- 6a. The personal air samples for the five individuals were not analyzed for radioactivity in October, 1977, due to the absence of the technician and his relief not being aware of the need. The relief man has been made fully aware of this need and is fully capable of carrying out this duty.
- 6b. The condition indicated in 6a applies here as well and everything is now in order.

The relief man in question assumed this position September 1, 1977, and was instructed in his responsibilities by his predecessor during the period 1 - 15 September.

Yours sincerely,



M. D. Lawton
Manager

MDL:jaw