

E. J. (JAKE) GARN  
U\*AH

5121 DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
TELEPHONE: 202-224-5444

JEFF M. BINGHAM  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

June 25, 1980

COMMITTEES:  
APPROPRIATIONS  
BANKING, HOUSING AND  
URBAN AFFAIRS  
INTELLIGENCE

Carlton Kammerer, Director  
Office of Congressional Affairs  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
1717 H Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20555

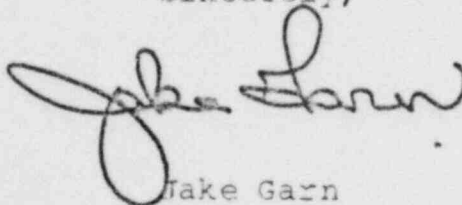
Dear Mr. Kammerer:

Enclosed you will find a copy of the letter I have received from Mr. M. D. Lawton.

I would appreciate your checking into this matter and reporting back to me. Please return the enclosed correspondence with your report.

In reply, please refer to Justine Davis, a staff member I have asked to keep me informed as to the status of this case.

Sincerely,



Jake Garn

JG/kd  
Enclosure

ENCLOSURE

8008080 331

# RIO ALGOM CORPORATION

## Lisbon Mine

LaSal Route  
MOAB, UTAH 84532

Phone (801) 259-5904

June 17, 1980

Senator Jake Garn  
U. S. Senate  
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Garn:

I am most concerned about a situation that could affect a great number of people and even a town in your State.

Rio Algom Corporation has been one of the larger uranium operations in the State over the last decade.

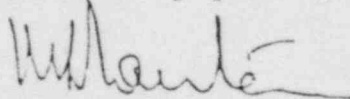
A year ago, it started communicating with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission concerning the increase in size of its tailings facility. It was clear from telephone discussions with them that they wanted an environmental impact statement for this amendment. It was pointed out to them that we would need the increased size by the end of the summer of 1980 and they said they would red-flag our application.

We have paid Dames & Moore nearly \$220,000 for their report which was submitted with our application in January this year. We have heard nothing from the N.R.C.

If we do not receive their agreement to our plan within a month, we doubt if we could increase the size of our tailings facility in time and we would be forced to close down our facility and lay off our 260 employees at the end of the summer of 1980! The families would be terribly badly hurt and the towns of Moab and Monticello would suffer a big loss.

This is the situation without any great detail. I am sure all the families concerned and the communities would appreciate any help you can provide, and we can arrange any meeting to supply you with additional information.

Respectfully yours,



M. D. Lawton  
President and Manager

MDL:jem  
cc: J. B. Lee