

PDR 40-8084

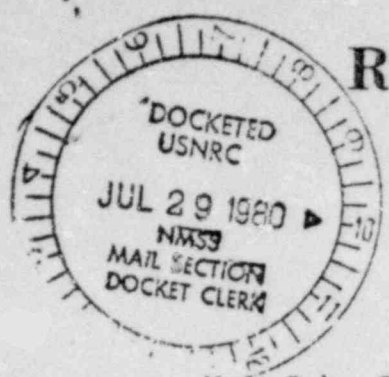
# RIO ALGOM CORPORATION

## Lisbon Mine

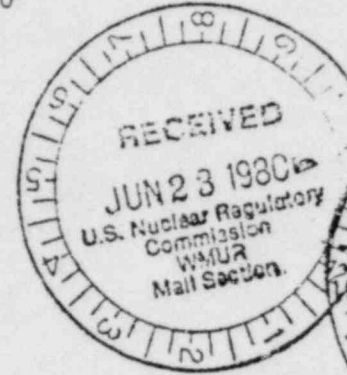
LaSal Route  
MOAB, UTAH 84532

Phone: (801) 259-5904

June 17, 1980



Mr. John Linehan, Section Leader  
Uranium Recovery Licensing Branch  
Division of Waste Management  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D. C. 20555



Dear John:

I am very worried by our tailings situation. We do not have many more months to go before our upper tailings dam becomes full with its retention wall at its present height. The raising of the wall of the lower dam will take a fair amount of time if we are to raise it by the downstream method. A large amount of dirt has to be placed before one even reaches the present crest level. We need to start this work soon so that it will be ready for the time when the upper dam is filled, plus the fact that I don't like building dam walls in the winter when snow, ice and frost is in the ground.

It will certainly ease matters if you agree to allow us to place the "emergency" five foot raise on the currently-used upper dam, but we still do not wish to build the lower dam up in wintertime.

The diversion ditch and emergency spillway from Bisco Lake to cater for more than a Probable Maximum Flood is almost completed.

If the upper tailings fills up and we have no license amendment prior to this, I don't believe we have any alternative and stay within the law, but to close down our operation and lay off our 260 odd employees.

Yours very sincerely,

M. D. Lawton  
President

MDL:jem

cc: P. Pullen  
File

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