

40-8905



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TEXAS 75201-1445

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MAY 23 1991

Mr. Bill Ferdinand, Manager
Radiation Safety, Licensing
& Regulatory Compliance
Rio Algom Mining Corporation
6305 Waterford Blvd., Suite 325
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73118

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MAY 28 1991
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Dear Mr. Ferdinand:

This responds to your letter of April 25, 1991, to Mr. Hank May of my staff. You asked for clarification of the intent of item #4 of Attachment A to my letter to you of April 24, 1991, approving construction of four tailings disposal cells at Quivira's Uranium Mill site at Ambrosia Lake, New Mexico.

The intent of item #4 of Appendix A is to insure that the portion of tailings impoundment #2 covered by a new disposal cell is in compliance with the radon emissions standard at 40 CFR 61.222(a) following the placement of the synthetic liner but prior to adding tailings to the new disposal cell. There was no intent to require the entire tailings impoundment #2 to be covered, as specified at 40 CFR 61.223(a) before conducting the radon emissions testing specified at 40 CFR 61.223(a).

Sincerely yours,

Original Signed By:
A. Stanley Meiburg

A. Stanley Meiburg
Acting Director
Air, Pesticides & Toxics Division (6T)

cc: Judith Espinosa, New Mexico
Environmental Improvement Division

Ramon E. Hall, Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Uranium Recovery Field Office.

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