

Rio Algom Mining LLC

June 30, 2026

Thomas Lancaster
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop T5-A10
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Subject: Letter of Intent for *Soil Decommissioning Plan* Revision
Rio Algom Mining LLC – Ambrosia Lake West Mill
Radioactive Material License SUA-1473, Docket No. 40-8905

Dear Mr. Lancaster,

Rio Algom Mining LLC (RAML) submitted a preliminary decommissioning schedule for its Ambrosia Lake West former uranium mill (ALW mill) to the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on May 30, 2025, (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System Accession No. [ML25153A726](#)) in response to an NRC staff request. To further address the need for a path forward to progress decommissioning consistent with NRC license SUA-1473, RAML submitted a letter of intent to pursue characterization, engineering, licensing, and construction of a new waste repository (“Cell 4”) on April 30, 2026 (ML26120A557).

This letter expresses RAML’s intent to revise the ALW mill *Soil Decommissioning Plan* [SDP ([ML18166A182](#))].

Purpose

The current SDP was approved by the NRC with amendment 57 to SUA-1473 ([ML061930157](#)) on August 16, 2006. Elements of approved 2006 SDP require revision to effectively complete ALW mill soil decommissioning pursuant to [10 CFR 40.42\(g\)\(4\)](#) and [10 CFR 40, Appendix A](#).

Past Work

Decommissioning under SUA-1473 has consisted of tailings reclamation, soil cleanup, and groundwater remediation and monitoring. Tailings reclamation began in 1986 with NRC approval of the *Tailings Stabilization Report* and was generally completed by 2000 for Cells 1 and 2. The ALW mill was demolished in 2003-2004 pursuant to the *Mill Demolition Plan* ([ML030360374](#)), with further demolition of auxiliary structures from 2014-2016. Between 2016 and 2025, RAML has completed surface and subsurface soil characterization and has identified areas where additional soil decommissioning may be required under the 2006 SDP.

Present Work

Following the previous soil decommissioning and characterization efforts at the ALW mill, RAML is standing up a formal project to advance identification, development, and execution of a final remedy(s) to address residual impacted soils. RAML follows a structured, phased approach to develop and deliver our projects to ensure they meet regulatory requirements, are aligned with business strategy and obligations, are technically achievable and sustainable, and efficiently deploy business capital and resources. This process involves the following phases:

- Initiation: The requirement is framed and a high-level plan for delivery of the project is prepared.
- Identification: Project alternatives are identified, developed and compared and a "Preferred Alternative" is selected.
- Selection: The value, configuration, scope, and implementation approach for the Preferred Alternative is optimized.
- Definition: Detailed design and execution planning for the optimized Preferred Alternative are refined and completed.
- Execution: The Preferred Alternative is implemented according to the design and execution plan as approved by NRC.

In line with the above process, RAML is currently estimating advancement of the ALW mill soil decommissioning project according to the following timeline, including touchpoints with NRC regarding the revised SDP at key points within the project process.

RAML considers the timeframe below to be reasonably achievable, assuming NRC provides review and feedback in a reasonable timeframe. Therefore, progress is dependent on NRC's review and request for additional information timeline for RAML to progress as described. Additionally, if field characterization is required to address RAI's from NRC, this will likely impact the timeline.



Figure 1. Executive schedule showing submittal of packages for pre-submittal audit and license amendment request.¹

RAML Goals for SDP Revision

Given the information presented above, RAML proposes the following next steps for engagement with NRC staff and licensing actions related to the SDP revision:

1. RAML will provide NRC with progress updates quarterly during routine project manager check in meetings.
2. RAML will provide NRC with a pre-submittal packet containing draft updates to sections 1-6 and 9 of the SDP¹ by the end of Q4 2027. RAML will request NRC complete a pre-submittal audit of this material to enable RAML to refine future submissions.

¹ Soil Decommissioning Plan section topics are identified in the currently approved plan ([ML18166A182](#)).

3. Provided item 2 results in a SDP scope that is mutually acceptable to both NRC and RAML, RAML will provide NRC with a pre-submittal packet containing draft updates to sections 7-8 of the SDP¹ by the end of Q2 2030. RAML proposes NRC conduct a pre-submittal audit of this material to ensure the subsequent submissions align with NRC expectations and requirements.
4. Following the pre-submittal audit, the anticipated submission for a request to amend SUA-1473 to revise the SDP is within two (2) years of NRC's completion of the pre-submission audit.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me.

Sincerely,
Rio Algom Mining LLC

Ryan Schietinger

Ryan Schietinger
Superintendent New Mexico and Utah Sites

cc: Document Control