



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

January 24, 2018

Ms. Theresa Ballaine, Manager
Rio Algom Mining, LLC
PO Box 218
Grants, NM 87020

SUBJECT: RIO ALGOM MINING AMBROSIA LAKE FACILITY, SECTION 4
PONDS, ACCEPTANCE OF AMENDMENT REQUEST AND
UPDATED SOIL DECOMMISSIONING PLAN FOR REVIEW

Dear Ms. Ballaine:

By letter dated November 8, 2017 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML17340A482), Rio Algom Mining LLC (Rio Algom) requests that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) release the Section 4 Ponds at the Ambrosia Lake facility, located in McKinley County, New Mexico for unconditional use and amend radioactive materials license SUA-1473. Specifically, Rio Algom proposes a partial site release for the Section 4 Pond area and that relevant areas of the previously approved soil decommissioning plan be updated to reflect this licensing action. In addition to the letter Rio Algom also submitted the report, "Final Radiological Condition and Dose Assessment for the Section 4 Ponds" (ADAMS Accession No. ML17340A484) as well as updated versions of the soil decommissioning plan (clean version ADAMS Accession No. ML17340A486; with track changes ADAMS Accession No. ML17340A485).

The NRC staff performed an acceptance review in accordance with the guidance provided in NUREG 1757, "Consolidated Decommissioning Guidance," Volume 1, Revision 2. The acceptance review was performed to determine if there was sufficient technical information in scope and depth to allow the NRC staff to complete its detailed technical review. The purpose of this letter is to inform you that we completed this acceptance review and determined that the submittal provides sufficient information to begin the detailed technical review.

Please note that given the lesser scope and depth of the acceptance review compared to the detailed technical review, there may be instances in which issues that impact the NRC staff's ability to complete the detailed technical review are identified. If additional information is needed, you will be notified by separate correspondence.

In accordance with NUREG-1757, we plan to prepare and publish a notice in the *Federal Register* announcing the receipt of the license amendment request and offer the public the opportunity for a hearing and provide comments. Using the information provided, the NRC staff will develop a Safety Evaluation Report to document the results of our detailed technical review. We may also elect to conduct an environmental assessment, if we determine that the environmental assessment associated with the previously approved

soil decommissioning plan does not adequately address the environmental impacts of the proposed action. Finally, upon approval of the license amendment request, NRC staff would amend your license to document the removal of the Section 4 Ponds and incorporate the updated soil decommissioning plan.

If you have any questions, please contact Varughese Kurian by telephone, (301) 415-7426, or e-mail, Varughese.Kurian@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Stephen Koenick, Chief
Materials Decommissioning Branch
Division of Decommissioning, Uranium Recovery,
and Waste Programs
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No.: 40-8905
License No.: SUA-1473

SUBJECT: RIO ALGOM MINING AMBROSIA LAKE FACILITY, SECTION 4
PONDS, ACCEPTANCE OF DECOMMISSIONING PLAN FOR
REVIEW **DATE January 24, 2018**

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