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40-8084/NMS/85/05/08/0

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MAY 31 1985

Docket File 8084
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URFO:NMS
Docket No. 40-8084
04008084471S

MEMORANDUM FOR: Docket File No. 40-8084

FROM: Noah M. Shopenn, Project Manager
Licensing Branch 2
Uranium Recovery Field Office, RIV

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF CORRECTIVE ACTION AS THE RESULT OF THE DAM
INSPECTION BY RIO ALGOM MINING CORP. CONSULTANT

A geotechnical engineering consultant was retained by Rio Algom when their ALARA auditor brought to the attention of the plant superintendent that there were four small sink holes along the strike of the embankment in the sand blanket where it outcrops at the base of the embankment. The area was left undisturbed until the geotechnical consultant could examine the situation. The result of the examination by the consultant revealed that the sinkholes were caused by rodent activity. He recommended poisoning the rodents, excavating the sink holes, recompact and placing either a rock cover or topsoil with grass cover to correct the problem.

Rio Algom opted to poison the rodents, dig out and recompact the affected areas, cover with topsoil and vegetate with native grasses. The corrective action was completed on March 25, 1985. In addition, a detailed monthly inspection of the dam will be performed. They also plan to conduct an annual rodent extermination at the dam area.

In a letter to NRC dated March 16, 1981, Rio Algom committed to meeting Regulatory Guide 3.11.1 "Operational Inspection of Embankment Retention Systems for Uranium Tailings." This requirement was incorporated as License Condition No. 45 of the license renewal issued September 28, 1984. Section 2(a) Regulatory Guide 3.11.1 requires that a visual inspection of the dam be inspected daily for signs of cracking, slumping, movement or concentration of seepage. In addition, C.2.c(1) required

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that the dam be checked quarterly for overall or localized settlement or depressions.

The staff accepts the results of the corrective action as being prudent, proper and in accordance with good engineering standards. The staff will review future records of dam inspections to assure that the licensee is adequately controlling rodent activity on the embankment.

/s/
Noah M. Shopenn, Project Manager
Licensing Branch 2
Uranium Recovery Field Office, RIV

Approved by:

/s/
Harry J. Pettengill, Chief
Licensing Branch 2
Uranium Recovery Field Office, RIV

Case Closed: 040080844715

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