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40-8084

Rio Algom Mining Corp.

January 14, 1993

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Mr. Ramon Hall, Director
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Uranium Recovery Field Office
Box 25325
Denver, Colorado 80225

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Re: Lisbon Facility
License SUA-1119, Docket No. 40-8084

Dear Mr. Hall:

Please find attached information requested in a NRC letter dated May 11, 1992, concerning the reclamation of the culverts on the upper tailings pond and crest elevations of the upper tailings evaporation cell. We appreciate Ms. Dawn Jacoby's faxing of this NRC letter to us yesterday as we have no record of having received it in the Oklahoma City office.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact me at (405) 842-1773.

Sincerely,

Bill Ferdinand

Bill Ferdinand, Manager
Radiation Safety, Licensing &
Regulatory Compliance

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xc: F. Fossey/T. Warner
M. Freeman
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Certified By *Mary C. Good*

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RIO ALGOM MINING CORP.

NRC Information Request

NRC Request #1

Please submit the maximum and minimum crest elevations for each side of the evaporation pond embankment.

Information

Attached as Figure 1 are survey elevations taken across sections of the upper tailings evaporation pond embankment crest. As indicated from Figure 1, the elevations are well within the tolerance of placement of earth by heavy equipment at the 6696 foot elevation.

At the time of our initial application dated June 29, 1990, to construct the upper tailings evaporation pond, Rio Algom was still in the process of consolidating the upper tailings impoundment. Rio Algom anticipated the crest elevation of the evaporation cell would be near the 6695 foot level based upon the status of the on-going consolidation efforts at the time. Subsequently however, the consolidation efforts increased the base foundation elevation in several areas approximately 1 foot over what was previously anticipated.

Due to this increase in the base elevation and to maintain the evaporation capacity required by NRC, the cell was constructed with the same design and evaporation capacity. As such, the final elevations across the cell were approximately 1 foot higher to coincide with the increase in the base elevation. Thus, the crest elevation was established as 6696 feet with a maximum water level of 6694 feet to ensure a 2 foot freeboard capacity. During the use of the evaporation cell, the 2 foot freeboard capacity has been maintained. This is shown in the graph presented as Figure 2.

In regards to the Rio Algom's submittal dated October 11, 1991, as mentioned in NRC's May 11, 1992, letter, the elevations on the berm except the 6697.09 foot elevation, are very close to the 6696 foot level. These elevations were from surveys specifically performed for October 1991 submittal. The 6697.09 foot elevation represents a very small place on the berm where additional yardage had been placed by the heavy equipment. This small amount of material can be easily moved should NRC so request, since it has no effect on the freeboard capacity at 6694 feet.

NRC Request #2

Provide a brief description of the work that was performed to plug the culvert.

Information

There were three (3) spillway culverts and one (1) overflow pipe used in the past operation of the Lisbon facility's upper tailings pond. The 3 spillway culverts were removed from the impoundment and the area disturbed was filled with clay material and compacted to 95 % standard proctor.

The overflow pipe was an eight (8) inch diameter pipe built from the reclamation water storage tower to the evaporation cell. The pipe allowed any excess water transferred to the tower for reclamation purposes to flow back to the evaporation cell. As reclamation activities were reduced due to completion of the project, the pipe was plugged with a cement grout.

The plug was installed using pressure pumping cement equipment from Murdock Concrete Pumping, Clifton, Colorado. The cement was injected into the pipe under pressure until the 4500-5000 psi breakpoint cement displaced the full pipe. The plug was then pressure tested to 2000 psi pressure to ensure there were no voids in the cement.

FIGURE 1



FIGURE 2
LISBON FACILITY - UPPER EVAP. CELL
WATER LEVEL ELEVATIONS

