

40-8084/CCJ/85/06/18/0

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Docket File 8064
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URFO:CCJ
 Docket No. 40-8084
 SUA-1119, Amendment No. 3
 040080845005

MEMORANDUM FOR: Docket File No. 40-8084

FROM: Candice C. Jierree, Project Manager
 Licensing Branch 2
 Uranium Recovery Field Office, RIV

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF RESPONSE TO LICENSE CONDITION NO. 44
 FOR THE RIO ALGOM MINING CORP., SUA-1119

By letter dated May 31, 1985, Rio Algom Mining Corp. (Rio Algom) submitted general response plans for dam failures and transportation accidents in compliance with License Condition No. 44 of Source Material License SUA-1119. The November 22, 1982 renewal application submitted by the licensee did not address response plans for dam failures and transportation accidents in accordance with current staff policy as specified in Regulatory Guide 3.8, "Preparation of Environmental Reports for Uranium Mills." Condition No. 44 of the renewed license therefore required the submission of emergency response plans. The licensee's response is reviewed below.

A. Dam Failures

Rio Algom presented a list of company personnel who should be notified in case of a problem with the tailings dam. M. D. Lawton, Mine Manager and president is listed first. He is responsible for initiating corrective action. In case of his absence L. Perkins, RSO, or R. Pattison, General Plant Superintendent, will direct activities described below. The USNRC, Uranium Recovery Field Office, is also listed for immediate notification of a failure in the dam and of a potential or actual release of radioactive material. The licensee proposed to take action necessary to seal any

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embankment breach and to increase downgradient ground water monitoring to assure that the best mitigative action would be taken. Areas of contamination would be restricted until cleaned. TLDs would be placed on the perimeter of the contaminated area to assess potential external exposure to the public, and additional radon and radioactive particulate monitoring would be performed when an airborne hazard is determined to be probable. Soil samples would be collected in and around the contaminated area during cleanup to assure that cleanup is effective and complete.

B. Transportation Accidents

The licensee addressed three types of transportation accidents, two of which could result in the release of radioactivity to the environment. They are: (1) yellowcake shipments from the mill, and (2) ore shipped to the mill.

When yellowcake is shipped from the mill, the licensee provides the carrier with a copy of Rio Algom's Emergency Procedures and an Evaluation Questionnaire in addition to the bill of lading and packing slips. Copies of the documents were provided in the May 31, 1985 submittal for NRC review. The Emergency Procedures describe the hazard of the yellowcake, the type of immediate action to be taken in order to prevent it from blowing around, and a list of personnel to be notified as soon as possible after an incident. The Evaluation Questionnaire is to be read to the people who are being notified. Answers to the questions tell receivers where the shipment incident occurred, the extent of the spill, origin and destination of the shipment and the need for medical help. The Emergency Procedures tell a receiver at Rio Algom who should be notified, which includes both Rio Algom management and the USNRC. M. Lawton, Mine Manager and president is responsible for dispatching a response team to the site of the incident. In his absence L. Perkins, RSO or J. May, Mill Superintendent will act in his behalf. Company personnel will be dispatched to the scene of any incident which results in release of yellowcake. Employees will clean up the spill, decontaminate where necessary, collect environmental samples to verify the effectiveness of the clean up effort, collect urine samples from potentially exposed personnel for internal uptake

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evaluation, and return the yellowcake and contaminated wastes to the mill site.

The licensee considered that spills of ore shipped to Rio Algom would not significantly impact the environment due to the low specific activity of the ore, high moisture content and low percent of particles in the respirable particle size range. Estimated 50 year lung doses were 130 mrem at 500 meters from the site of a maximum spill; therefore, Rio Algom did not propose any emergency actions in the event of a transportation accident involving uranium ore.

The licensee also addressed the impact from an ammonia spill. They determined that the probability of a release would be $1.6E-6$ per km of truck travel.

Rio Algom committed to meeting the packaging, marking, labelling and other shipping regulations contained in 49 CFR and 10 CFR 71.

The staff finds that the licensee's general response plans for dam failures and transportation accidents is adequate for the expected occurrence of such events and their expected environmental impacts. Therefore, the staff recommends that License Condition No. 44 be deleted and that License Condition No. 11 be revised to include the revised Section 6.0 submitted by letter dated May 31, 1985 submittal.

Based upon the above discussion, the staff concludes that Source Material License SUA-1119 be amended by deleting the current Condition No. 44, renumbering subsequent conditions, and revising Condition No. 11 to read as follows:

11. For use in accordance with statements, representations, and conditions contained in Sections 5.1.1., 5.1.3, 5.1.4, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5.1, 5.5.2, 5.5.3, 5.5.4, 5.5.5, 5.5.9, and Appendices 5.5.2, 5.5.3.3, and 5.5.5 of the licensee's renewal application dated December, 1982 as modified by the supplement submitted by letter dated May 30, 1984 and supplements dated August and September, 1984; except where superseded by license conditions below.

In addition, the licensee shall comply with Section 6.0 of the renewal application as modified in the supplement submitted by

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letter dated May 31, 1985, except that specific names and telephone numbers shall be updated as necessary. Such updates shall not require an amendment to this license.

Whenever the word "will" is used in the above referenced sections it shall denote a requirement.

The issuance of this amendment was discussed via telecon with Mr. Robert Pattison of Rio Algom Mining Corp. on June 28, 1985.

/s/

Candice C. Jierree, 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

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