

February 27, 1997

Mr. Frank Fossey, RSO  
Rio Algom Mining Corp.  
Lisbon Operation  
P.O. Box 1269  
Moab, Utah 84532-1269

SUBJECT: RADON FLUX MEASUREMENTS - LICENSE CONDITION 55.A.(3)

Dear Mr. Fossey:

This letter is to acknowledge receipt of the letter from Rio Algom Mining Corp. dated December 31, 1996, transmitting a report submitted to fulfill License Condition (LC) 55.A.(3) of Source Material License SUA-1119. Based on our acceptance review, it appears that you have not provided sufficient information for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff to properly evaluate your request.

LC 55.A.(3) requires you to complete placement of the final radon barrier by December 31, 1996. Your letter states that you have done so. In order for NRC staff to conclude that you have fulfilled LC 55.A.(3), we must verify that: 1) the radon barrier has been constructed in conformance with the NRC approved design, and 2) you have shown by measurement that radon flux, averaged over the pile, is no more than 20 pCi/m<sup>2</sup>sec above background, as required by Criterion 6 of 10 CFR Part 40, Appendix A. Your report addresses the latter aspect of fulfillment of LC 55.A.(3). The former will be addressed separately as part of the NRC's construction completion review process.

The deficiencies we found in our acceptance review of your report are identified in the enclosure. We will initiate a more detailed review after we have received the information identified in the enclosure. During its detailed review, the NRC staff may request additional information, should it be needed to further technically justify your request.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or the NRC staff's review, you may contact the NRC project manager, Myron Fliegel, at (301) 415-6629.

Sincerely,

**NRC FILE CENTER COPY**

(Original signed by  
Daniel M. Gillen for)  
Joseph J. Holonich, Chief  
Uranium Recovery Branch  
Division of Waste Management  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

Enclosure: As stated

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Rio Algom - Lisbon  
Radon Flux Monitoring Results  
Acceptance Review

1. Provide the procedure(s) or the data sheets to show that requirements with respect to temperature and rainfall were met.
2. Provide the dates of completion of the radon barrier, the flux testing, and the data analysis. Criterion 6(4) requires the licensee to report the results within 90 days.
3. Provide data from duplicate counts and the calculation of precision.
4. Provide information on the construction of the large area activated charcoal canisters used.
5. Provide a description of the counting container and the analytical procedure.