

# Rio Algom Mining LLC

November 22, 2021

40-8905

Mr. Kurt Vollbrecht  
New Mexico Environment Department  
1190 St. Francis Dr.  
P.O. Box 5469  
Santa Fe, NM 87502

**Re: July 2021 Extreme Precipitation Event Rio Algom Mining LLC, Ambrosia Lake Facility**

Dear Mr. Vollbrecht:

This letter is to inform you of the details, immediate consequences, and Rio Algom Mining LLC's (RAML) response to a series of extreme precipitation events that affected the former Section 4 Ponds area in the Ambrosia Lake Valley in late July 2021. This maintenance and repair information is provided as a courtesy to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) and will be documented in RAML's next semi-annual groundwater monitoring report to NMED, which RAML will submit before February 1, 2022.

## Details of the Precipitation Events

The Ambrosia Lake Valley experienced a series of extreme precipitation events from July 21<sup>st</sup> through 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021. One on-site station with hourly recording capability identified 2 inches of rain in one hour. The following table presents precipitation data collected by RAML during the July 2021 event; station locations are shown in the attached figure. A meteorology station located in T14N R09W Section 26 within the watershed up stream of the former Section 4 Ponds area recorded nearly 5 inches of precipitation during the event.

Date	T14N R09W Section 17	T14N R09W Section 26	T14N R10W Section 22	T13N R09W Section 2
21-Jul	0.29	0.043	0.007	0.023
22-Jul	0.019	0.1	0.043	0.093
23-Jul	0.001	0.003	0.002	0.023
24-Jul	0.465	1.036	0.272	1.185
25-Jul	0.773	2.433	0.299	1.6
26-Jul	0.533	0.838	0.04	0.439
27-Jul	0.48	0.447	0.184	0.207
28-Jul	0	0	0.005	0.005
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2.561</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>0.852</b>	<b>3.575</b>
Max 1 Hr.	0.618	2.076	0.235	1.399

Impacts of the Precipitation Events

The severe storms caused run-on to RAML property predominantly from property owned and controlled by others (involving several sections of land). This extreme precipitation resulted in excessive impounding of run-on water in the former Section 4 Ponds area; this impounded water ultimately breached an earthen containment berm that RAML uses to create a "non-discharging" watershed. The location of the berm breach is shown in the attached figure. Stormwater passed through the breached berm and ultimately flowed through non-industrial areas of RAML property and into the Arroyo del Puerto in an area downstream of existing the Ambrosia Lake West Mill outfalls.

RAML Response to the Precipitation Events

RAML maintains and complies with the Rio Algom Mining LLC Ambrosia Lake Mill (MSGP-2021) storm water pollution prevention plan (SWPPP), which covers the former Ambrosia Lake West Mill, including the former Section 4 Ponds. On July 29, 2021, RAML initiated a SWPPP Corrective Action in response to the breach of the earthen containment berm. Repairs were initiated in phases because the ground in some areas was initially too saturated for access by the necessary construction equipment. Repairs were achieved by collecting and stockpiling borrow material suitable for repairing breaches in the berm at southeast corner of the former Section 4 Ponds. Repair of the berm was completed on August 5, 2021.

If you have any questions or require additional information regarding the Ambrosia Lake Valley storms in late July 2021, please contact me at (916) 947-7637.

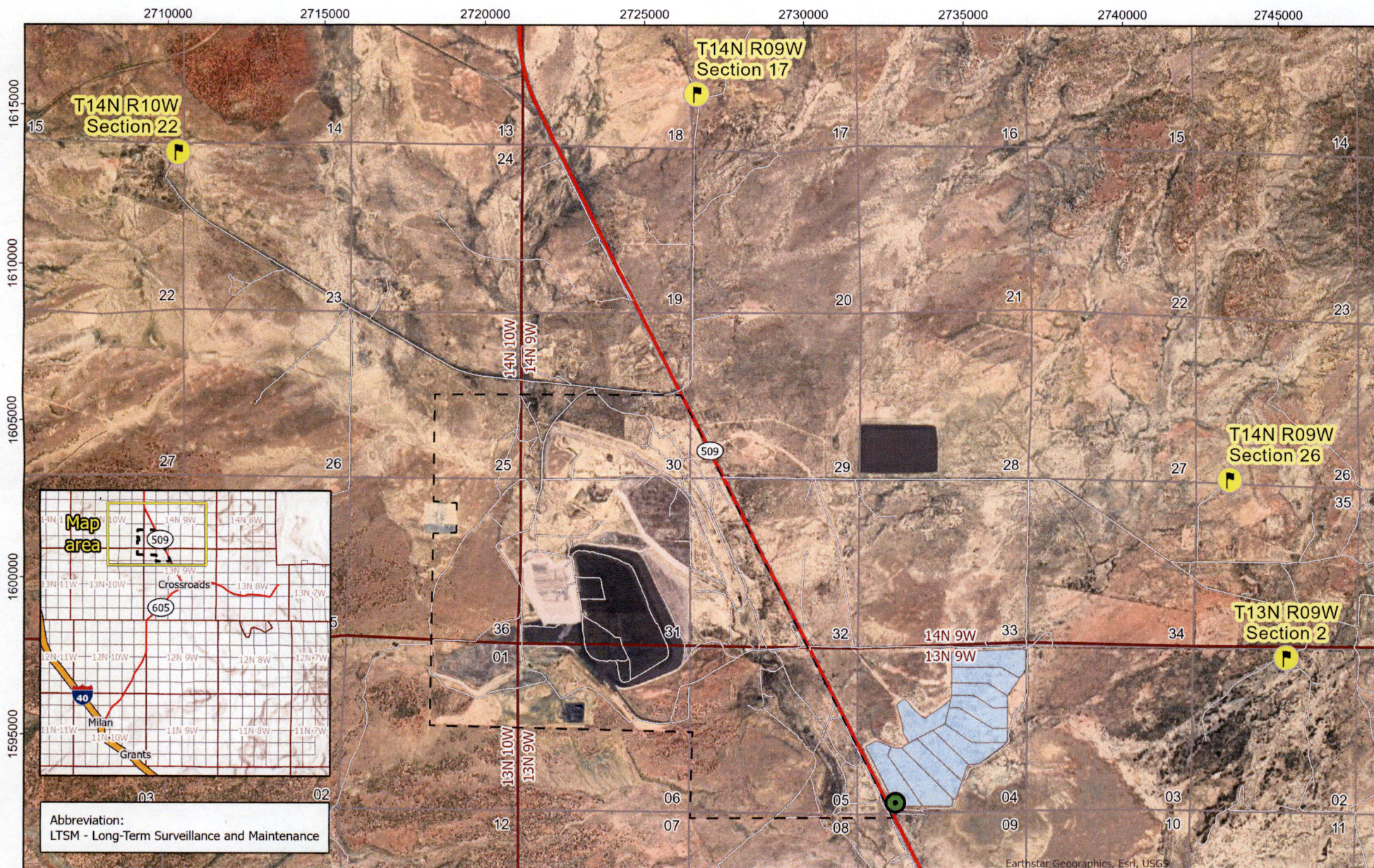
Sincerely,  
**Rio Algom Mining LLC**



Sandra L. Ross, P.G.  
Site Manager

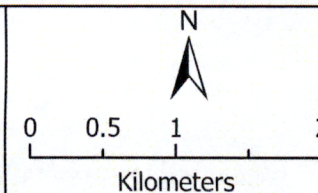
cc: Amber Rheubottom, NMED (email)  
Tom Lancaster, NRC (email)  
Document Control, NRC (hard copy)  
Mike Schierman, H3 (email)  
file





## Legend

- |                         |                        |            |
|-------------------------|------------------------|------------|
| Meteorology station     | Proposed LTSM boundary | NM highway |
| Containment berm breach | Township Range         | Interstate |
| Former Section 4 Ponds  | Section line           | Site Road  |



Date: 11/15/2021