

# Rio Algom Mining Corp.

## Smith Ranch Uranium Facility

Certified Mail - P 560 606 481  
Return Receipt Requested

December 17, 1999

Ms. Georgia Cash  
WDEQ/LQD  
Herschler Building, 4th Floor West  
122 West 25th Street  
Cheyenne, WY 82002

40-8964  
~~10-55021~~


**RE: Smith Ranch Project  
Permit to Mine 633  
Notification of Spill**

Dear Ms. Cash:

Please find enclosed a Spill Report for the incident that occurred on December 11, 1999. The spill has been reported by telephone to the proper agencies as required.

If you need any further information, please feel free to contact me at (307) 358-3744 ext. 62.

Sincerely,



John W. Cash  
Supervisor, Environmental &  
Regulatory Affairs

xc: B. Ferdinand (RAMC/SRP)  
M. Freeman (RAMC/OKC)  
P. Goranson (RAMC/OKC)  
J. Lusher (NRC/Rockville) Certified Mail - P 560 606 482  
file

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**RIO ALGOM MINING CORP.  
SPILL NOTIFICATION**

On December 11, 1999 at 3:00 a.m., an unplanned release occurred from header house 2 in wellfield 1, SE quarter of the NW quarter of Section 36, T. 36 N., R. 74 W. An estimated 25,000 gallons of injection fluid was released. The spill left the fenced wellfield area but did not leave the permit area and did not threaten any waters of the state.

The spill was caused by a failure of an aluminum camlock fitting that was connected to the header house filtration system used to remove suspended particulates within the injection solutions. Rio Algom, due to this failure and to assure prevention of similar spills, shut-in wellfield #1 production to visually inspect and rectify this type of construction setup. Bleed solutions however, were continued in the wellfield to maintain hydrologic control of the wellfield mining solutions. The inspection indicated that no other operating wellfield utilized aluminum camlock fittings.

Environmental impact was limited to moderate erosion near the header house. Due to thick vegetation and erosion control structures below the header house, the force of the spill was quickly dispersed. Much of the rilling caused by the spill has already been cleaned up. Areas adversely affected by the spill will be reseeded as the seasons permit. In the mean time, additional erosion control structures will be constructed and the affected soil graded.

The natural uranium content of the injection fluid was approximately 5.6 mg/l.

After a review and determination of the facts, telephone calls were made to the DEQ/LQD Spill Hotline and the NRC. The report was given by telephone to DEQ after hours representative Officer Aaron Foy at 9:26 a.m., on December 11, 1999. Mr. John Lusher, of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, was notified by telephone voice mail at 9:35 a.m. on December 11, 1999.

Department of Environmental Quality  
Initial Pollution Incident Report

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Incident number: 991211-0926  
Date and Time (YYMMDD-0000)

Report taken by: Aaron Foy

Report Date: <u>12/11/99</u>	Time of Report: <u>9:26 A.M.</u>
Reported by Name: <u>John Cash</u>	Responsible Party Name: <u>Rio Algom Mining Corp.</u>
Title: <u>Supervisor, Enviro &amp; Reg Affairs</u>	Title:
Company: <u>Rio Algom Mining Corp</u>	Company:
Address: <u>P.O. Box 1390</u>	Address:
<u>C, S &amp; Z</u> <u>Glenrock, WY 82637</u>	<u>C, S &amp; Z</u>
Phone: <u>307-358-3744 ext. 62</u>	Phone:
Date of release: <u>12/11/99</u>	Time of release: <u>3:00 A.M.</u>
Location of release: County <u>Converse</u>	Legal <u>1/4, 1/4 SE NW S 36 T 36 R 74</u>
Mile post, highway, county road <u>Ross Rd</u>	Street address: <u>762 Ross Rd Douglas WY 82633</u>
Tank battery, well #, etc. <u>Header House 1-2</u>	Additional info:
Source: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fixed <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation ----- <input type="checkbox"/> Refinery <input type="checkbox"/> Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> O&G <input type="checkbox"/> Train <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mine <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Business/Industry <input type="checkbox"/> LAUST - FAC ID _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	Cause: <input type="checkbox"/> Accident <input type="checkbox"/> Pipeline incident <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Equipment failure <input type="checkbox"/> Human error <input type="checkbox"/> Dumping <input type="checkbox"/> Other Additional info on cause:
Substance: <input type="checkbox"/> Diesel <input type="checkbox"/> Crude oil <input type="checkbox"/> Condensate <input type="checkbox"/> Oil <input type="checkbox"/> Haz waste <input type="checkbox"/> Gasoline <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Produced water <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	Quantity: <u>25,000</u> UoM: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> gallons <input type="checkbox"/> barrels Other _____
Media affected: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Land <input type="checkbox"/> Air <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Storm sewer <input type="checkbox"/> Sanitary sewer <input type="checkbox"/> Groundwater <input type="checkbox"/> Surface water Name of water _____	Sara Title III release: <input type="checkbox"/> If marked, contact the State Emergency Response Commission at 777-4900

If water is affected, notify the WQD district supervisor immediately. Contact Game and Fish. If storm sewer, sanitary sewer or surface water is affected, copy the Watershed section. If air is affected, contact AQD. If UST, contact LAUST district supervisor.