VIA E-MAIL

September 18, 2018

e-Doc: 5542752

Subject: CNSC staff review of Rio Algom Limited’s update on actions from 2018 Ra-226 exceedance and 12(2) response

Dear Mr. Lambert,

This letter is in response to Rio Algom Limited’s (RAL) actions and subsequent response to the Request pursuant to subsection 12(2) of the General Nuclear Safety and Control Regulations (GNSCR): Exceedance of CNSC licence limit for Radium-226 for the Elliot Lake Historic Sites at the Stanleigh effluent discharge location dated April 12, 2018 [1]. As well, this letter takes into account the Stanleigh Effluent Treatment Plant Pilot Test Report, which provides the results of RAL’s addition of barite to reduce Ra-226 concentrations, submitted May 15, 2018 [2].

CNSC notes that RAL has completed the information requests related to increasing monitoring and installing physical barriers to mitigate impacts, improvements to the effluent treatment system including a Best Demonstrated Treatment Technologies and Techniques that are Economically Achievable (BATTEA) assessment and confirmation that a project plan and effective timeline are in place to ensure Ra-226 concentrations are returned to below licence limits.

CNSC staff conducted an on-site inspection in February in 2018 and confirmed that additional monitoring and interim measures were in place to mitigate any impacts and to prevent a similar event from happening in the future. CNSC staff also conducted another inspection in August 2018 but at that time could not confirm changes to the water treatment system as conditions were dry and treatment was not required.

CNSC staff have reviewed the submissions and conclude that RAL’s response to the GNSCR subsection 12(2) request is acceptable and the request is considered closed.

RAL has indicated that the treatment approach will still be further adjusted to reflect field conditions that deviate throughout the year. CNSC staff request that RAL submit the detailed treatment plan along with field scale results for review. CNSC staff have opened a regulatory action commitment that requires RAL to provide the detailed treatment plan and all available monitoring results by October 30, 2018. This item will be tracked under RIB number 14701.
CNSC staff also request that RAL continue to update on the treatment plant operations until this commitment is closed.

Yours sincerely,

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