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5 April, 2002

Mr Alex Zapantis
Assistant Secretary
Office of Supervising Scientist
GPO Box 461
DARWIN NT 0801

Dear Sirs,

I am a former employee of the Ranger Uranium Mine Environmental Laboratory at Jabiru. From 1993 to 1998, I was a Technical Officer with responsibility to collect and analyse samples for the purposes of statutory reporting.

In recent times, the press has featured articles alleging that Ranger has a poor record in respect of spills both inside and outside its RRZ, has been less than transparent in its reporting, and is generally not up to standard with its environmental monitoring.

The publicity convinced me that I should make another effort to draw some matters to the attention of the authorities. I say "another", because, throughout the tenure of my employment with Ranger, I tried to alert its management to various matters, and to take remedial or preventative action. My efforts were not met with success.

Among its stories on the subject, the press has not canvassed the fact that Ranger no longer maintains a functional laboratory and contracts out its statutory analyses. That practice has increased my level of concern.

Accordingly, I have attached a statement and supporting documents for your consideration. In the statement, I provide details of a number of issues which I believe expose Ranger to charges of failing to honour the conditions of its authorisation to operate the mine. Those issues are:

1. Under-reporting and mis-reporting in respect of an RRZ infringement on the Corridor Road in December, 1997;

2. Failure to clean up a substantial amount of spilled tails material that occupied the Corridor Road Sump and its feeder drains as a result of the incident in 1 above;
3. Employment of *ad hoc* water management strategies that resulted in over 300 kg. of uranium being lost into RP2, from which pond water is released into the Magela system;
4. The routine discharge from the RRZ of water containing up to 10,000 ppb uranium from the toe loading of the tailings dam, via the South Road Culvert, (TDSRC), into the headwaters of Gulungul Creek.
5. When an indication was recorded that an effect from the discharge in 4, above, had been found downstream at Gulungul Creek, Ranger refused permission for field staff to investigate the matter, attempted to suppress the datum, and described it as "spurious" in a statement to shareholders. The offending result came from two separate samples, each tested in triplicate by the same experienced analyst who acquired the samples.
6. Laboratory management consistently refused to address technical issues that compromised the performance of the laboratory. This failure led to an inability to honour the conditions of its licence to operate the mine, especially in terms of the NATA registration of certain critical test procedures and equipment. Even when it was demonstrated that the points raised were valid, Ranger did not rectify the problems.

As a citizen, I find myself deeply concerned over this issue. It seems unlikely that the current commercial environment will allow mining at Jabiluka in the foreseeable future. And Pit 3 is pretty-much played out. It seems to me that Ranger might be applying the cap and re-vegetation sooner than originally envisaged.

For that reason, I believe it is critical that Ranger's ability and will to de-commission the mine and rehabilitate the surrounding area in a "best practice" exercise that will leave the park safe in future times, must be examined in terms of past performance.

I send this material to you with a formal request that you investigate the matters raised in my statement.

Please acknowledge receipt of this letter and statement within fourteen, (14), days, and indicate whether or not an investigation is to be

mounted. In the event that these issues are investigated, please inform me of progress on a regular basis.

Yours sincerely,



Geoffrey Kyle.
ADAC, MRACI, Chartered Chemist.

Cc: Dr Arthur Johnston
Office of Supervising Scientist

Senator Hill
Minister for Environment

Mr Peter Blake
Department of Business, Industry
& Resource Development

Mr Steve Tatzenko
Department of Business, Industry
& Resource Development

Mr Paul Henderson
Minister for Resource Development