



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Glen Canyon National Recreation Area
P.O. Box 1507
Page, Arizona 86040



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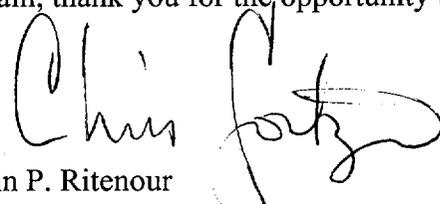
John Surmeier
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Uranium Recovery and Low-Level Waste Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Dear Mr. Surmeier:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Shootaring Canyon Mill Decommissioning and Reclamation Plan EA and the opportunity to join NRC staff on a site tour November 17, 1999.

It is very difficult to comment on an action that will have such a long life. Attempting to project out for the life of the mill is difficult itself as there are many variables. To project impacts from the reclamation plan over the time span that the reclamation plan must be successful is difficult. There is no projected life of the project – how long will the presence of the tailings present a potential threat to the human environment? As the mill has operated only a limited time and the tailings volume to-date is very small, it is very difficult to analyze impacts to surrounding, and downstream, off-site resources. It would appear from all monitoring equipment now in place that there are no impacts that have not been identified in the EA. Even so, projections of population increases, increased recreational use of surrounding lands, growth of the Ticaboo townsite, etc., might present a more robust assessment.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment.

For 
John P. Ritenour
Chief, Resource Management

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