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**PETITION FILE PPM 170-5  
(66FR 55604)**

February 22, 2002 (11:14AM)

Secretary  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

**OFFICE OF SECRETARY  
RULEMAKINGS AND  
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF**

Attention: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff

Re: Comment of Plateau Resources Limited on the National Mining Association's (NMA) Petition for Rulemaking to Exempt Uranium Recovery Licensee's from Nuclear Regulatory Commission Part 170 and 171 fees – Federal Register Volume 66, Number 213, Friday, November 2, 2001 pages 55604 to 55607

Gentleman:

I am writing on behalf of Plateau Resources Limited (PRL) to support the NMA's Petition to exempt uranium recovery licensees from NRC Part 170 and 171 fees.

PRL has a conventional uranium recovery mill in southeast Utah that is on standby awaiting the upturn of the uranium market. We have maintained the Mill on standby since our parent company acquired PRL in 1992 at a cost exceeding several million dollars. The Shootaring Canyon Mill has a operational license which includes all surety bonding required for operations with our agency. The Part 170 and 171 fees are a very large and significant portion of the standby costs of the Shootaring Mill. These fees make up 60 percent of our current standby costs.

This Mill is only one of five uranium recovery mills in the United States and to maintain a viable uranium recovery industry, all the remaining Mills need to be maintained ready for future operations. A reduction of the NRC Part 170 and 171 fees would allow PRL more options in retaining the Shootaring Canyon Mill in the current standby status.

For the above reasons, PRL urges favorable consideration of this petition as it is clearly in the public interest to waive license fees until the domestic uranium recovery industry sufficiently recovers.

Sincerely,  
Plateau Resources Ltd.

Fred Craft  
Director of Regulatory Affairs

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