

December 10, 2004

Mr. T. W. Hardgrove
Pathfinder Mines Corporation
935 Pendell Boulevard
P.O. Box 730
Mills, Wyoming 82644

SUBJECT: PATHFINDER MINES CORPORATION - LUCKY MC MILL TAILINGS SITE,
REVIEW OF THE TAILINGS SEEPAGE COLLECTION SYSTEM

Dear Mr. Hardgrove:

During the October 13, 2004, site visit by U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff, you identified a previously undocumented tailings seepage collection (drain) system between the 2A-11 Sump and Tailings Pond 2A. The collection system was installed to route surface seepage from the sump at the toe of the No. 2 dam (sump drain pipe had been capped in 2003). The NRC staff indicated that the licensee should document the factors leading to the collection system installation, and provide written details on the system construction. The Pathfinder Mines Corporation letter dated October 18, 2004, provided this information.

Based on our reviews of the field conditions and the documentation provided in the referenced licensee letter, it is our opinion that the sump and drain system constitutes an adequate response and a viable solution to the seepage situation at the 2A-11 sump. The system is passive and should minimize the risk of release of contaminated fluids to the environment. The history and remediation of the seepage condition should be summarized, and this letter referenced, in the licensee's construction completion report.

If you have any questions in regards to this letter, please contact me by phone at (301) 415-6606 or via e-mail to esb@nrc.gov.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

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Sincerely,

/RA/
Elaine S. Brummett, Project Manager
Fuel Cycle Facilities Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety
and Safeguards
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No. 40-2259
License No. SUA-672

cc: M. Moxley, WDEQ District II

T. W. Hardgrove

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Elaine S. Brummett, Project Manager
Fuel Cycle Facilities Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety
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Office of Nuclear Material Safety
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