

August 3, 2005

Mr. T.W. Hardgrove
Manager, Reclamation Operations
Pathfinder Mines Corporation
935 Pendell Boulevard
Mills, WY 82644

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR AMENDMENT OF SOURCE
MATERIALS LICENSE SUA-442, FOR GROUND WATER ALTERNATE
CONCENTRATION LIMITS, SHIRLEY BASIN SITE (TAC LU0095)

Dear Mr. Hardgrove:

By letter dated December 24, 2002, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff issued a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) recommending the approval of alternate concentration limits (ACLs) at Pathfinder Mines Corporation (PMC) Shirley Basin site. This draft EA was in response to PMC's ACL application dated April 3, 2000, as revised on June 1, 2000, August 29, 2001, October 15, 2001, and November 21, 2002. In response to comments from Federal and State agencies, PMC submitted additional application supplements and reports dated June 18, 2003, September 26, 2003, November 14, 2003, January 30, 2004, February 20, 2004, and January 12, 2005.

NRC staff has completed its review of the application, comments, and additional submittal; and has completed an EA of the potential impacts associated with the implementation of ACLs. We have concluded that the proposed licensing action will not have a significant impact on the environment. Accordingly, the staff is preparing a notice to signify a Finding of No Significant Impact, as well as the availability of the EA, to be published in the *Federal Register*. A copy of the EA is enclosed. Safety aspects of the catchment basin reclamation are discussed separately in a technical evaluation report that will accompany the staff's final licensing action on PMC's request to amend Source Materials License SUA-442.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Stephen J. Cohen, the Project Manager for the PMC Shirley Basin site, at (301) 415-7182 or by e-mail to sjc7@nrc.gov.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "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 component of NRC's document system Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/reading-rm/adams.html>.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Gary S. Janosko, Chief
Fuel Cycle Facilities Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety
and Safeguards
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No.: 40-6622
License No.: SUA-442

Enclosure: Environmental Assessment

cc: Richard A. Chancellor, Wyoming DEQ
Kathleen Erwin, USFWS
David A. Finley, Wyoming DEQ
Richard Graham, USEPA, Region VIII
George Hoffman, Hydro-Engineering, LLC
Brian T. Kelly, USFWS
Jack Kelly, USBLM
Roberta Hoy, Wyoming DEQ
Arthur Kleinrath, DOE, Grand Junction
Mark Moxley, Wyoming DEQ, Lander Office
Claudia Nissley, Wyoming SHPO
Loren Setlow, USEPA, Headquarters
Mark Thiesse, Wyoming DEQ, Lander Office
John F. Wagner, Wyoming DEQ

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Sincerely,

/RA/

Gary S. Janosko, Chief
 Fuel Cycle Facilities Branch
 Division of Fuel Cycle Safety
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