



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

August 16, 1999

Plateau Resources Limited
ATTN: Mr. Frederick Craft
877 North 8th West
Riverton, Wyoming 82501

SUBJECT: SHOOTARING CANYON MILL - WILDLIFE MONITORING AND MITIGATION PROGRAM

Dear Mr. Craft:

This letter is a followup to my June 4, 1999, letter to you requesting a biological assessment for the Shootaring Canyon uranium mill site. Since then, you contacted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to discuss the implications of the threatened and endangered species list that FWS provided for the Shootaring Canyon site. As discussed in the enclosed June 30, 1999, letter from Reed Harris, the FWS has determined that reclamation activities will not affect threatened or endangered species, except possibly the Jones Cycladenia plant. The FWS has requested that Plateau Resources Limited (Plateau) conduct site-clearance surveys for Jones Cycladenia prior to any new ground disturbing activities and avoid disturbance to identified plant locations. Please provide a written commitment to conduct these surveys and avoid disturbance to these plants.

The FWS also recommended that Plateau implement a monitoring plan to determine the extent of wildlife mortality (with emphasis on migratory birds) during mill operations and to develop appropriate mitigation plans to avoid or minimize documented wildlife mortality. Please provide a written wildlife monitoring and mitigation plan. The plan should include a wildlife monitoring program to monitor the use of the impoundment by wildlife and the potential for off-site surface water impacts. Part of this program should be the previous verbal agreement by Plateau to conduct and document a daily visual inspection of the tailings impoundment; this agreement was noted in the 1997 Environmental Assessment for the renewal of the source material license.

If you have made the written commitments concerning the Jones Cycladenia and the wildlife monitoring and mitigation plan, a biological assessment will no longer be required for the Shootaring Canyon site. A response within 30 days of receipt of this letter is appreciated.

F. Craft

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If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact the NRC Project Manager for the Shooting Canyon site, Phyllis Sobel, at (301) 415-6714.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By

John Surmeier, Chief
Uranium Recovery and
Low-Level Waste Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Enclosure: As stated

Docket No: 40-8698

License No: SUA-1371

~~Case Closed: TBD~~

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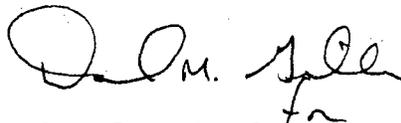
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(Date)

F. Craft

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If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact the NRC Project Manager for the Shootaring Canyon site, Phyllis Sobel, at (301) 415-6714.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Surmeier". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized, with a large initial "J" and "S".

John Surmeier, Chief
Uranium Recovery and
Low-Level Waste Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Enclosure: As stated

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