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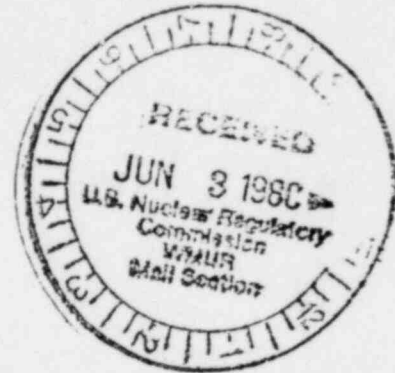
40-7869

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May 27, 1980



Mr. Ross Scarano
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
1725 Eastern Ave.
Silver Spring, MD 20910

RE: SUA-1013, DOCKET #40-7869 - DECOMMISSIONING

Dear Mr. Scarano:

Plateau Resources Limited has completed the decommissioning of the old Hydro-Jet leaching facility pursuant to its plan and pursuant to the Staff technical position on Interim Land Clean-up Criteria dated May, 1978, with the exception of the west leach vat area and the temporary contaminated equipment storage area.

Plateau previously submitted a plan whereby residues in the west leach vat area would be transported by truck to the new tailings impoundment area associated with our Mill (NRC License SUA- 1371). As a result of a suggestion by one of your staff, Mr. Roy Person, Plateau has explored another alternative.

The residues are in the middle of the area designated for mine waste disposal from Plateau's Tony M Mine. Plateau now proposes to cover these residues with mine waste rather than move the residues as previously planned.

The west leach vat area contains approximately 28,000 tons of leach residues. This consists of the original residues and residues from the east leach vat as well as soil associated with cleaning up the east leach vat. The vat area is lined with hypalon and now contains approximately 65% solids. Evaporation is causing the percentage of solids to increase.

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Approximately a million tons of mine waste will be deposited in the disposal area. The depth of mine waste covering the residue would be about 40 feet.

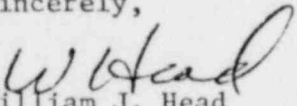
This cover would essentially eliminate airborne dispersal from the leach residues. It is impracticable to remove residues to achieve a target or upper limit criteria for airborne dispersal of radon 222 flux and gamma dose-rate since the mine waste covering the residues will exceed those limits.

The contaminated equipment could also be disposed of by burying under mine waste.

Mr. Steven Abt visited this area and viewed the residues while he was on an inspection trip concerning our new tailings impoundment dam. Mr. Abt indicated he would include his observations when he submitted a report to your office.

Plateau requests approval to proceed with decommissioning as described above.

Sincerely,


William J. Head
Manager, Land and Licensing

WJH:jkb

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