

PDR



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

SEP 21 1978

FCPF:JER  
Docket No. 40-7869

Pleateau Resources Limited  
ATTN: Mr. R. B. Sewell  
Manager of Operations  
772 Horizon Drive  
Grand Junction, Colorado 81501

Gentlemen:

This will acknowledge receipt of your August 29, 1978 application for the renewal and amendment of Source Material License SUA-1013, Docket No. 40-7869 changing the materials license fee category from 2A to 2D to authorize possession only of source material. Your application is deemed timely filed, and accordingly, the license will not expire until final action has been taken by this office.

We have reviewed the proposed decommissioning plan submitted as an attachment to your application and find that the proposed procedure for decontamination and/or disposal of the facility processing equipment appears to be acceptable with the exception that the transfer of contaminated equipment should be conducted in accordance with 10 CFR 40.51, rather than "sold to a properly trained individual" as stated.

However, your proposed criterion for decontaminating the former processing areas to achieve surface radiation levels equal to no more than two times background does not meet the requirements of our Staff Technical Position, "Interim Land Cleanup Criteria for Decommissioning Uranium Mill Sites," dated May 1978. A copy of this document is attached for your information and guidance in developing an acceptable site decontamination plan.

As indicated in our telephone conversation on September 6, 1978, we appreciate the difficulty you may encounter in determining a meaningful background gamma dose-rate in an area where uranium mining and milling operations have been conducted in the past. We suggest that the background level be determined in an area upwind from, but reasonably close to, the decontaminated area where the earth surface has not been contaminated by previous operations. Grids of the background area and the former mill site should be established and measurements made at

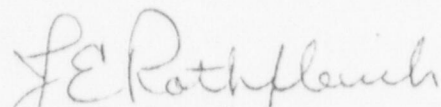
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appropriate intervals using a suitably calibrated meter. A map showing the grid layout along with the meter readings at each point should be provided so that confirmatory measurements can be made at the same locations if desired.

With regard to your concern that the readings obtained in the decontaminated area may be elevated by the surroundings, we suggest that appropriate shielding of the metering instrument should overcome this potential problem.

Please call me at 301/427-4103 if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,



Jack E. Rothfleisch  
Fuel Processing and Fabrication  
Branch  
Division of Fuel Cycle and  
Material Safety

Enclosure:  
As stated