

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

September 13, 1999

SUBJECT: REQUEST THAT SHOOTARING CANYON MILL DOES NOT MEET THE  
TIMELINESS REQUIREMENTS FOR DECOMMISSIONING IN 10 CFR  
PART 40.42

Dear Mr. Craft:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has completed its review of Plateau Resources Limited's (Plateau's) request of April 19, 1999, as to whether the Timeliness Rule in the decommissioning requirements of 10 CFR Part 40 should be applied to its Shootaring Canyon uranium mill. Because the mill has a recently renewed license, is currently in pre-operation status (pending NRC completion of the reclamation plan review), and is not in standby status, the NRC staff agrees that the Shootaring Canyon mill currently is not subject to the timeliness requirements of 10 CFR 40.42.

Since 1979, Plateau has been authorized to conduct activities at the Shootaring Canyon facility under NRC Source Material License SUA-1371. Constructed in early 1981, the Shootaring Canyon facility was operated on a trial basis for approximately three months in the summer of 1982. Operations were suspended on August 18, 1982, and the mill has been on standby status since that date. By letter dated December 21, 1995, Plateau notified the NRC of its intent to pursue full-scale operations of the Shootaring Canyon facility. An amended license renewal application for resumption of uranium milling operations was submitted to the NRC for its review and approval on March 1, 1996. The NRC staff issued an environmental assessment for license renewal on April 22, 1997, stating the acceptance of the renewal of SUA-1371 for milling operations. Therefore, as stated above, at this time the timeliness requirements in 10 CFR 40.42 are not applicable.

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,

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

**NRC FILE CENTER COPY**

Docket No: 40-8698

License No: SUA-1371

Case Closed: L51842

cc: L. Morton, DRC, Utah

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UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Surmeier", is written over a horizontal line.

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

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License No: SUA-1371  
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