

# PETROTOMICS COMPANY

GETTY OIL COMPANY \* MANAGING PARTNER

P. O. DRAWER 2450 \* CASPER, WYOMING 82601

December 10, 1968

Mr. R. Lowenstein, Director  
Division of Licensing and Regulation  
U. S. ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION  
Washington, D. C. 20025

Re: License No. SUA-551 40-6659  
SX Fire, November 10, 1968

Dear Mr. Lowenstein:

In compliance with 10 CFR Part 20, Paragraph 20.405, sub-paragraph (a), the following information is submitted:

- a) The fire damage is estimated at \$400,000.00.
- b) The fire resulted in a loss of production for 10 days. Mill was placed in operation on November 21, 1968.
- c) Attached to this letter are the results of Geiger Counter surveys taken on November 11 and December 9, 1968.
- d) Fire damaged material was buried in compliance with 10 CFR Part 20, Paragraph 20.304.
- e) Notification of the fire and estimated damage was reported to the Division of Compliance, Region IV, Denver, Colorado, as directed by 10 CFR Part 20, Paragraph 20.403, sub-paragraph (a).

8507300477 850630  
PDR FOIA  
BURR85-229 PDR

Q 30 4

Rec'd 12/10/68

Date

Time

Mr. R. Lowenstein


-2-

December 10, 1968

f) No injuries were involved.

Very truly yours,

PETROTOMICS COMPANY

  
Judson H. Whitman  
Manager

JHW:dlw

Attachments

cc: Dr. Donald I. Walker, Director  
Division of Compliance  
Region IV  
U. S. ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION  
P. O. Box 15266  
Denver, Colorado 80215

Messrs. C. E. Wolff  
H. G. Cooley

# AIRBORNE RADIATION STUDY OF BURNED SOLVENT EXTRACTION CIRCUIT

PETROATOMICS COMPANY      SHIRLEY BASIN, WYOMING

<u>Sample No.</u>	<u>Assay</u>
1	0.26 ucU/ml x 10 <sup>-11</sup> 0.09 mr/hr
2	1.30 ucU/ml x 10 <sup>-11</sup> 0.09 mr/hr
3	0.32 ucU/ml x 10 <sup>-11</sup> 0.06 mr/hr
4	0.11 ucU/ml x 10 <sup>-11</sup> 0.07 mr/hr
5	0.23 ucU/ml x 10 <sup>-11</sup> 0.08 mr/hr
6	0.15 ucU/ml x 10 <sup>-11</sup> 0.05 mr/hr

1X	No. 4 Extractor	2 X
	No. 3 Extractor	
	No. 2 Extractor	
	No. 1 Extractor	
	3 X	
	No. 1 Strip	
	No. 2 Strip	
4 X	No. 3 Strip	5 X
	No. 4 Strip	

SX Lab  
X  
6

## REMARKS:

- (1) X denotes sample location
- (2) Wind gusting 20-30 mph from the west
- (3) Samples collected by P. J. Thornburg, Chemist
- (4) Sketch not to scale
- (5) Sampled at 12:00 noon, November 11, 1968

*H. G. Cooley*  
H. G. Cooley  
Mill Metallurgist

December 9, 1968

GEIGER COUNT SURVEY OF BURNED SOLVENT EXTRACTION CIRCUIT

PETROTOMICS COMPANY

SHIRLEY BASIN, WYOMING

↑  
N

<u>Sample Location</u>	<u>Assay</u>
1	0.07 mr/hr
2	0.06 mr/hr
3	0.14 mr/hr
4	0.28 mr/hr
5	0.14 mr/hr
6	0.08 mr/hr

1X	No. 4 Extractor	2 X
	No. 3 Extractor	
	No. 2 Extractor	
	No. 1 Extractor	3 X
	No. 1 Strip	
	No. 2 Strip	
4 X	No. 3 Strip	5 X
	No. 4 Strip	

SX Lab  
X6

REMARKS:

- (1) X denotes Geiger Counter location reading.
- (2) Survey conducted by P. J. Thornburg, Chemist.
- (3) Sketch not to scale.
- (4) Destroyed portions of the building have been removed.

*H. G. Cooley*


H. G. Cooley  
Mill Metallurgist

MR DONALD I WALKER, DIVN OF COMPLIANCE  
US ATOMIC ENERGY COM 103 95 WEST COLFAX

AS PER LICENSE REQUIREMENTS WE WISH TO REPORT  
A FIRE IN THE CR SECTION OF OUR SHIRLEY MGIN  
MILL. THERE WAS NO RELEASE OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL  
OPERATIONS OF THE MILLING FACILITY WILL BE  
SUSPENDED IMMEDIATELY. THERE WERE NO  
DEATHS OR INJURIES. IT IS AT THIS TIME ESTIMATED 500 LBS OF  
AT 2000,000 BURNING THERE WERE 10 PERSONS INVOLVED  
FIRE ORATED APPROX 1000 HRS NOW IS EXTINGUISHED  
SPR NOV 10

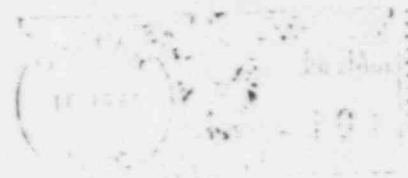
ALL CY TO SHIRLEY MGIN

ATTACHMENT "C"



**PETROTOMICS COMPANY**

P. O. DRAWER 2450  
CASPER, WYOMING 82601



Mr. R. Lowenstein, Director  
Division of Licensing and Regulation  
U. S. ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION  
Washington, D. C. 20025



## URANIUM MILL FIRE IN WYOMING

### Note by the Secretary

The Director of Legislation has requested that the attached report from the Director of Compliance be circulated for the information of the Commission.

F. T. Nelson

Acting Secretary

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Commissioner Ramey	1	Asst. to the GM	
Commissioner Tape	1	General Counsel	
Commissioner Johnson	1	Biology & Medicine	
Commissioner Costagliola	1	Compliance	
General Manager	2	Congressional Relations	
Deputy General Manager	1	Controller	
Dir. of Regulation	4	Inspection	
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Asst. GM for Plans & Prod.	1	Idaho Operations	



ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

FIRE AT URANIUM MILL  
PETROTONICS COMPANY  
SHIRLEY BASIN, WYOMING  
LICENSE NO. SUA-551

Report to the Director of Regulation  
by the Director of Compliance

From a newscast on a local television station, Region IV (Denver), Division of Compliance learned of a fire at Petrotonics Company, Shirley Basin, Wyoming. Petrotonics possesses an AEC license which authorizes the processing of uranium ore. A subsequent telephone call to the Acting Mill Superintendent on November 12, 1968, revealed the following information:

The fire, which started at about 1:00 p.m. on November 10, 1968, was limited to one building in the licensee's facility. This building housed two solvent extraction process lines, one of which was totally destroyed by the fire while the other was damaged. Although the fire burned for about six hours, there were no injuries. The licensee estimated that several hundred pounds of organic uranium compounds were in the extraction process at the time of the fire but that the



compounds were contained in process vessels and vented or  
released to the environment. Processing operations are  
expected to be suspended for about three weeks. The fire  
is believed to have been caused by sparks from welding  
operation which ignited some kerosene in a drain pan located  
near the solvent extraction building.

An investigation is being conducted by the Division of Compliance.  
State of Wyoming personnel have been informed. The staff of the  
Joint Committee on Atomic Energy has been informed by telephone.

# PETROTOMICS COMPANY

GETTY OIL COMPANY • MANAGING PARTNER

P. O. DRAWER 2450 • CASPER, WYOMING 82501

December 10, 1968

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Division of Licensing and Regulation  
U. S. ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION  
Washington, D. C. 20025

Re: License No. SUA-551  
SX Fire, November 10, 1968

Dear Mr. Lowenstein:

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- a) The fire damage is estimated at \$400,000.00.
- b) The fire resulted in a loss of production for 10 days. Mill was placed in operation on November 21, 1968.
- c) Attached to this letter are the results of Geiger Counter surveys taken on November 11 and December 9, 1968.
- d) Fire damaged material was buried in compliance with 10 CFR Part 20, Paragraph 20.304.
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Mr. R. Lowenstein

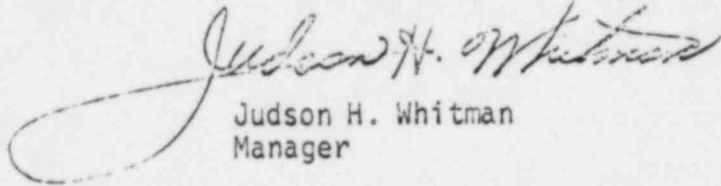
-2-

December 10, 1968

f) No injuries were involved.

Very truly yours,

PETROTOMICS COMPANY



Judson H. Whitman  
Manager

JHW:dlw

Attachments

cc: Dr. Donald I. Walker, Director  
Division of Compliance  
Region IV  
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P. O. Box 15266  
Denver, Colorado 80215

Messrs. C. E. Wolff  
H. G. Cooley

December 9, 1968

GEIGER COUNT SURVEY OF BURNED SOLVENT EXTRACTION CIRCUIT  
PETROTECHNICS COMPANY SHIRLEY BASIN, WYOMING



Sample  
Location

Assay

1	0.07 mr/hr
2	0.06 mr/hr
3	0.14 mr/hr
4	0.22 mr/hr
5	0.14 mr/hr
6	0.08 mr/hr

1X	No. 4 Extractor	2 X
	No. 3 Extractor	
	No. 2 Extractor	
	No. 1 Extractor	3 X
	No. 1 Strip	
	No. 2 Strip	
4 X	No. 3 Strip	5 X
	No. 4 Strip	

SX L.  
XG

REMARKS:

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- (2) Survey conducted by P. J. Thornburg, Chemist.
- (3) Sketch not to scale.
- (4) Destroyed portions of the building have been removed.

*H. G. Copley*  
H. G. Copley  
Mill Metallurgist

November 11, 1968

# AIRBORNE RADIATION STUDY OF BURNED SOLVENT EXTRACTION CIRCUIT

PETROBRONICS COMPANY SHIRLEY BASIN, WYOMING

N

Sample No.	Assay
1	0.25 ucw/ml x 10 <sup>-11</sup> 0.05 mr/hr
2	1.55 ucw/ml x 10 <sup>-11</sup> 0.05 mr/hr
3	0.02 ucw/ml x 10 <sup>-11</sup> 0.05 mr/hr
4	0.11 ucw/ml x 10 <sup>-11</sup> 0.07 mr/hr
5	0.20 ucw/ml x 10 <sup>-11</sup> 0.05 mr/hr
6	0.15 ucw/ml x 10 <sup>-11</sup> 0.05 mr/hr

1X	No. 4 Extractor	2X
	No. 3 Extractor	
	No. 2 Extractor	
	No. 1 Extractor	
	No. 1 Strip	
	No. 2 Strip	
4X	No. 3 Strip	5X
	No. 4 Strip	

SX 141  
A  
6

## REMARKS:

- (1) X denotes sample location
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