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URFO:CCJ
Docket No. 40-8698
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MEMORANDUM FOR: Docket File No. 40-8698

FROM: Candice C. Jierree, Project Manager
Licensing Branch 2
Uranium Recovery Field Office, Region IV

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF THE SEMIANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING
REPORT FOR PLATEAU RESOURCES LIMITED (PRL)
SHOOTARING CANYON URANIUM PROCESSING FACILITY
FOR THE FIRST HALF OF 1985

By letter dated August 27, 1985, PRL submitted the environmental monitoring report for the period from January 1 through June 30, 1985 in compliance with 10 CFR 40.65 and License Condition No. 34 of Source Material License SUA-1371. PRL was not operating during the time this data was collected. This memorandum presents the URFO staff review of this data with respect to applicable standards. It should be noted that all measured and reported results include the contribution from natural background.

Stack Sampling

The sample preparation area stack is required to be sampled semiannually when in operation. During the first half of 1985, the stack was not in use; consequently, no sampling was performed nor was any required per License Condition No. 34 of SUA-1371.

Air Particulate Sampling

Air particulate data were reported for a total of five locations in accordance with License Condition No. 34 of SUA-1371. Two upwind

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locations provide background data. One monitoring station is located immediately downwind of the tailings impoundment. One monitoring station is in Ticaboo and one is at the Bullfrog Marina. The samples were analyzed for U-nat, Ra-226, Th-230 and Pb-210. All results were less than 4% of the maximum permissible concentrations (MPCs) for unrestricted areas. The lower limits of detection (LLDs) were in compliance with License Condition No. 47.

Radon Gas Sampling

Continuous radon monitoring was performed at the same five air particulate monitoring locations described above. The licensee utilized the Track Etch method for quarterly radon gas determinations. Sampling was performed in accordance with License Condition No. 25 of SUA-1371. The data indicated values ranging from 4% to 13% of the MPC for unrestricted areas at all locations. This range is just slightly less than that measured for the last half of 1984. The LLDs were in compliance with License Condition No. 47.

Ground Water Sampling

In accordance with License Condition No. 34 of SUA-1371, quarterly ground water samples were collected from four monitoring wells. All samples were analyzed for U-nat, Po-210, Th-230 and Pb-210 and for fifteen chemical parameters. The data indicated that ground water contaminants remain unchanged from data reported in the preoperational sampling program for both radionuclides and chemical parameters. The LLDs were appropriate except for U-nat which was $3\text{E-}9$ uCi/ml instead of the required $2\text{E-}10$ uCi/ml. The error limits for U-nat were, however, in compliance with Regulatory Guide 4.14, Section 5. PRL acknowledged in their report that the appropriate LLD could not be calculated since the samples were measured fluorimetrically.

Seep Water Monitoring

Two surface seeps were sampled quarterly and analyzed for U-nat, Ra-226 and Po-210 and for fourteen other chemical parameters. Sampling and analyses were in accordance with SUA-1371 except for the first quarter for seep #3 where no pH level was determined. This value has not varied any more than from 7.9 to 9.6 in past years. The radionuclide analyses

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showed levels approaching the LLDs. Chemical parameters were within expected ranges and correlated well with previous sampling results. The LLDs listed for the radionuclides were acceptable.

Direct Radiation

Direct radiation measurements were made at five locations using TLDs which were exchanged quarterly. Collection was in accordance with Condition No. 34 of SUA-1371. All values were consistent with past measurements and are typical of background measurements in the area. The maximum exposure was 13.2 mR/quarter which is a decrease from 30.8 mR/quarter measured during the last half of 1984.

Vegetation Samples

A vegetation sample was collected downwind of the tailings impoundment and ore stockpile during the second quarter of 1985 and was analyzed for U-nat, Th-230, Ra-226 and Pb-210 per SUA-1371. Sample results were similar to the preoperational monitoring data and no trends were observed. The LLDs were in accordance with License Condition No. 47 to SUA-1371. No soil sampling data was submitted with this report. The data are required to be submitted annually; consequently, they will be reviewed in the report to be submitted for the last half of 1985.

Conclusion

The semiannual environmental monitoring report submitted by PRL on August 27, 1985, indicated that environmental monitoring has been performed in accordance with Condition Nos. 34 and 47 of Source Material License SUA-1371. No trends were observed. Since PRL is in shutdown status, environmental samples are sent off-site for analyses. Results are reflective of a nonoperational processing facility.

/S/

Candice C. Jierree, Project Manager
Licensing Branch 2
Uranium Recovery Field Office, RIV

Approved by:

/S/

Harry J. Pettengill, Chief
Licensing Branch 2
Uranium Recovery Field Office, RIV

Case Closed: 04008698431E

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