

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Docket No. 40-8698

Plateau Resources Limited

FINAL FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT REGARDING THE RENEWAL OF SOURCE
AND BYPRODUCT MATERIAL LICENSE SUA-1371 FOR INTERIM SHUTDOWN OF THE
SHOOTARING CANYON URANIUM PROCESSING FACILITY LOCATED IN GARFIELD COUNTY,
UTAH

AGENCY: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

ACTION: Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact

(1) Proposed Action

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is
issuing a renewed Source and Byproduct Material License
SUA-1371 authorizing Plateau Resources Limited to
maintain, in an interim shutdown mode, their Shootaring
Canyon Uranium Processing Facility located in Garfield
County, Utah.

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(2) Reasons for Finding of No Significant Impact

The Commission's Uranium Recovery Field Office has prepared an Environmental Assessment for the proposed action. Based on this assessment, the Commission has determined that an Environmental Impact Statement for this particular action is not warranted.

The Environmental Assessment prepared by the Commission's staff evaluated potential impacts on surface and ground water due to accidents, seepage, reclamation, and decommissioning activities. Additionally, the assessment evaluated potential impacts on-site and off-site due to radiological releases which may occur during the course of the interim shutdown. Documents used in preparing the final assessment included operational data from the licensee's prior milling activities, the licensee's Environmental Report dated November 26, 1984, as revised by submittals of March 22, 1985, April 12, 1985, and August 13, 1985, the Final Environmental Statement prepared by the Commission staff for the original Shootaring Canyon project license dated July, 1979, and the Safety Evaluation Report prepared by the Commission staff in support of this action.

Based on these evaluations, the Commission's staff has determined that the proposed shutdown will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Specific reasons for making this determination are as follows:

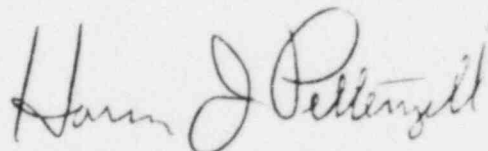
- (a) The ground water monitoring program in effect at the Shootaring Canyon Facility is sufficient to detect releases and thereby minimize any impact on ground water.
- (b) Radiological effluents from the facility during indefinite shutdown of the mill will be minimal and will be continuously monitored.
- (c) Environmental monitoring is comprehensive enough to detect any significant radiological release from the milling facilities.
- (d) No additional radioactive wastes will be produced or disposed of in the tailings area during the shutdown period. The existing wastes will be stabilized and reclaimed in accordance with applicable Federal and State regulations.

In accordance with 10 CFR Part 51.33(a), the Director, Uranium Recovery Field Office, made the determination to issue a draft Finding of No Significant Impact. A draft Finding of No Significant Impact was published on September 5, 1985, and no comments were received. In accordance with 10 CFR Part 51.33(e), the Director, Uranium Recovery Field Office, made the determination to issue a final Finding of No Significant Impact.

This finding, together with the Environmental Assessment setting forth the basis for the finding, and other related documents are available for public inspection and copying at the Commission's Uranium Recovery Field Office at 730 Simms Street, Golden, CO and at the Commission's Public Document Room at 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.

Dated at Denver, Colorado, this 8th day of October, 1985.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Harry J. Pettengill, Chief

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Uranium Recovery Field Office, RIV