

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Docket No. 40-8698

Plateau Resources Limited

DRAFT 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 Draft Finding of No Significant Impact

(1) Proposed Action

The proposed administrative action is to renew 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 Draft Finding of No Significant Impact

An Environmental Assessment was prepared and issued by the staff at the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Uranium Recovery Field Office, Region IV. The Environmental Assessment performed by the Commission staff evaluated potential impacts on-site and off-site due to radiological releases which may occur during the course of the interim shutdown period and during potential future operation. Documents used in preparing the 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, and the Final Environmental Statement prepared by the Commission staff for the original Shootaring Canyon project license dated July, 1979. Based on this assessment, the Commission has determined that no significant impact will result from the proposed action, and therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not warranted.

The following statements support the draft finding of no significant impact and summarize the conclusions resulting from the environmental assessment:

- (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 continuously monitored, minimal, and well within regulatory limits.
- (c) Environmental monitoring is comprehensive enough to detect any significant radiological releases from the mill during the shutdown mode.
- (d) No additional radioactive wastes will be produced or disposed of in the tailings area during the shutdown period. The existing wastes will be reclaimed in accordance with applicable federal and state regulations.

In accordance with 10 CFR 51.339, the Director, Uranium Recovery Field Office, made the determination to issue a draft finding of no significant impact and to accept comments on the

draft finding for a period of 30 days after issuance in the Federal Register.

This finding, together with the environmental assessment setting forth the basis for the finding, and other related environmental 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 24th day of August, 1985.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

/s/

Harry J. Pettengill, Chief

Licensing Branch 2

Uranium Recovery Field Office, RIV