

environmental impact statement for the proposed action.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee's letter dated July 14, 1999, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, The Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC. Publicly available records will be accessible electronically from the ADAMS Public Library component on the NRC Web site, <http://www.nrc.gov> (the Electronic Reading Room).

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 2nd day of March 2000.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

L.A. Wiens,

Senior Project Manager, Section 2, Project Directorate II, Division of Licensing Project Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 40-8698]

Plateau Resources Limited

AGENCY: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Final Finding of No Significant Impact; Notice of Opportunity for Hearing.

SUMMARY: Plateau Resources Limited (PRL) requested that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) amend NRC Source Material License SUA-1371, to approve the Reclamation Plan, as amended, for the Shootaring Canyon Uranium Mill near Ticaboo, Utah. An Environmental Assessment (EA) was performed by the NRC staff in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR Part 51. The conclusion of the EA is a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the proposed licensing action.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Richard Weller, Uranium Recovery and Low-Level Waste Branch, Division of Waste Management, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Mail Stop T7-J8, Washington, D.C. 20555. Telephone (301) 415-7287.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Materials License SUA-1371 was originally issued by NRC on September 21, 1979, pursuant to Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR), Part 40, "Domestic Licensing of Source

Material." The Shootaring Canyon site is licensed by the NRC under Materials License SUA-1371 to possess byproduct material in the form of uranium waste tailings and other uranium byproduct waste generated by the licensee's milling operations. The mill is currently in standby status, however, the licensee has requested that the license be amended. The license amendment would approve PRL's reclamation plan (RP). The proposed action is needed to minimize exposure to contaminated materials, once the mill operations have ceased, by reclaiming contaminated areas and stabilizing wastes. The goal of the RP is to permanently isolate and stabilize the tailings and associated contamination by minimizing disturbances by natural forces, and to do so without ongoing maintenance. The design objective is for stabilization to be effective for up to one thousand years, to the extent reasonable, and, in any case for at least 200 years, to provide reasonable assurance that releases of radon-222 from the residual radioactive material will be less than 20 pCi/m²/s (averaged over the entire impoundment), and to provide reasonable assurances to protect groundwater resources.

The facilities to be reclaimed include the following:

1. Mill buildings and equipment.
2. Tailings disposal area.
3. On-site contaminated areas.
4. Off-site contaminated areas (i.e., potential areas affected by windblown tailings).

The decommissioning and reclamation of the above facilities will include the following:

1. Remove mill structures and re-grade disturbed areas to blend with the surroundings. Radioactive waste and contaminated soils and concrete will be disposed of in the tailings impoundment.
2. Cover and stabilize the tailings impoundment area.
3. Replace stockpiled topsoil in selected areas for plant growth.
4. Re-vegetate disturbed areas using native and introduced species.

The RP further describes the designs, activities, schedule, and estimated costs for reclaiming PRL's Shootaring Canyon Uranium Mill site and tailings impoundment, for bonding and surety coverage requirements. The actual final reclamation design and cost analyses will depend on the quantity and depth of the tailings actually placed in the impoundment area and the surface area that they occupy. All conditions and commitments in the RP are subject to NRC inspection. Violation of the RP may result in enforcement action.

PRL submitted the RP in a letter dated January 10, 1997, and the RP was subsequently amended by letters of July 10, and December 17, 1997, and January 14, February 20, and September 3, 1998.

Summary of the Environmental Assessment

The NRC staff performed an appraisal of the environmental impacts associated with the RP for the Shootaring Canyon Uranium Mill, in accordance with 10 CFR Part 51, "Environmental Protection Regulations for Domestic Licensing and Related Regulatory Functions." In conducting its appraisal, the NRC staff considered the following: (1) information contained in the previous environmental evaluations of the Shootaring Canyon project; (2) information contained in PRL's RP; (3) environmental monitoring reports; and (4) information derived from NRC staff site visits and inspections of the Shootaring Canyon Uranium Mill site and from communications with PRL, the State of Utah Department of Environmental Quality, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management Henry Mountain Field Station, the U.S. National Park Service Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the State of Utah Historic Preservation Officer. The results of the staff's appraisal are documented in an Environmental Assessment placed in the licensee's docket file. Based on its review, the NRC staff has concluded that there are no significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Conclusions

The NRC staff has examined the actual and potential environmental impacts associated with the RP and has determined that the action is: (1) consistent with requirements of 10 CFR part 40; and (2) will not have long-term detrimental impacts on the environment. The following statements support the FONSI and summarize the conclusions resulting from the staff's environmental assessment:

1. An acceptable environmental and effluent monitoring program is in place to monitor effluent releases and to determine if applicable regulatory limits are exceeded. Radiological effluents from site operations have been and are expected to continue to remain below the regulatory limits.

2. Potential risks from the reclamation were assessed. Given the remote location, the small area of impact, and the past activities on the site, the staff has determined that the risk factors for health and environmental hazards are insignificant.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action

The proposed action that the NRC is considering is approval of PRL's RP and the amendment to a source material license issued pursuant to 10 CFR Part 40. The principal alternatives available to the NRC are:

1. Approve the license amendment request as submitted; or
2. Amend the license with such additional conditions as are considered necessary or appropriate to protect public health and safety and the environment; or
3. Deny the request.

The NRC staff has concluded that there are no significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed action. Therefore, alternatives with equal or greater impacts need not be evaluated. The staff considers that Alternative 2 is the appropriate alternative for selection as the staff anticipates that some needed license conditions will likely result from the staff's safety review of the RP. A technical evaluation report (TER) will be completed with respect to the criteria for reclamation, specified in 10 CFR part 40, Appendix A, and the proposed license conditions will be discussed in the TER.

Finding of No Significant Impact

The NRC staff has prepared an Environmental Assessment for the proposed RP for NRC Source Material License SUA-1371. On the basis of this assessment, the NRC staff has concluded that the environmental impact that may result for the proposed action would not be significant, and, therefore, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not warranted.

The Environmental Assessment and other documents related to this proposed action are available for public inspection and copying at the NRC Public Document Room, in the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street NW., Washington, D.C. 20555.

Notice of Opportunity for Hearing

The Commission hereby provides notice that this is a proceeding on an application for a licensing action falling within the scope of Subpart L, "Informal Hearing Procedures for Adjudications in Materials and Operator Licensing Proceedings," of the Commission's Rules of Practice for Domestic Licensing Proceedings in 10 CFR Part 2 (54 FR 8269). Pursuant to § 2.1205(a), any person whose interest may be affected by this proceeding may file a request for a hearing. In accordance with § 2.1205(c), a request for a hearing must be filed within thirty (30) days from the

date of publication of the **Federal Register** notice. The request for a hearing must be filed with the Office of the Secretary either:

(1) By delivery to the Rulemaking and Adjudications Staff of the Office of the Secretary at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852; or

(2) By mail or telegram addressed to the Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555. Attention: Rulemaking and Adjudications Staff.

Each request for a hearing must also be served, by delivering it personally or by mail to:

(1) The applicant, Plateau Resources Limited, 877 North 8th West, Riverton, Wyoming, 82501;

(2) The NRC staff, by delivery to the Executive Director for Operations, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852, or by mail addressed to the Executive Director for Operations, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington D.C. 20555.

In addition to meeting other applicable requirements of 10 CFR Part 2 of the Commission's regulations, a request for a hearing filed by a person other than an applicant must describe in detail:

(1) The interest of the requestor in the proceeding;

(2) How that interest may be affected by the results of the proceedings, including the reasons why the requestor should be permitted a hearing, with particular reference to the factors set out in § 2.1205(g);

(3) The requestor's area of concern about the licensing activity that is the subject matter of the proceedings; and

(4) The circumstances establishing that the request for a hearing is timely in accordance with § 2.1205(c).

Any hearing that is requested and granted will be held in accordance with the Commission's "Informal Hearing Procedures for Adjudications in Materials and Operator Licensing Proceedings" in 10 CFR Part 2, Subpart L.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 2nd day of March 2000.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Daniel M. Gillen,

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

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

NRC Workshop on Environmentally Assisted Cracking

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The NRC Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) conducts contract research in many technical areas to support NRC activities in nuclear reactor regulation. The Materials Engineering Branch of RES conducts a significant research effort on evaluation of environmentally assisted cracking (EAC) in light water reactor (LWR) systems and components. In FY2000, a significant extension of this program is being planned to provide NRC with confirmatory research which will be required to deal with a variety of issues for operating reactors. The purpose of this workshop is to inform interested stakeholders of NRC research plans and to receive comments and suggestions.

DATES: April 20, 2000, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

LOCATION: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Headquarters, Two White Flint North, Room T-10-A1, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852-2738.

CONTACT: Mike McNeil, Phone: (301) 415-6794, E-mail:mbm@nrc.com.

ATTENDANCE: This meeting is open to the general public.

PROGRAM: The purpose of the meeting is to solicit the views of stakeholders on the proposed NRC research activities in this field. The meeting will start with presentations by NRC staff on past NRC activities in this area, the regulatory pressures leading to the future activities, and the proposed research program. There will then be a period open for questions and discussion. Key NRC and contractor personnel will be in attendance so as to permit, insofar as possible, the on-the-spot resolution of questions.

Dated in Rockville, Maryland this 2nd day of March 2000.

Michael E. Mayfield,

Acting Director, Division of Engineering Technology, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research.

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