



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

APR 02 1980

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40-8698
8004800 106

MEMORANDUM FOR: Leo Higgenbotham, Assistant Director
Division of Fuel Facility and Materials Safety
Inspection

FROM: Ross A. Scarano, Chief
Uranium Recovery Licensing Branch

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR DAM CONSTRUCTION INSPECTIONS FOR THE
UNITED NUCLEAR CORPORATION'S MORTON RANCH AND
THE PLATEAU RESOURCES LIMITED'S SHOOTERING CANYON
URANIUM MILLS (DOCKET NOS. 40-8602 and 40-8698)

The purpose of this memorandum is to request that I&E conduct inspections within the next three weeks, of foundation excavations for the tailings pond embankment and evaporation pond at the Morton Ranch Mill and the tailings pond embankment at the Shootering Canyon Mill. Also, at dates not yet determined, two additional inspections will be required of embankment fill placements at the 10 and 70 percent completion stages for Morton Ranch and at the 10 and 75 percent completion stages for Shootering Canyon. A notification period of six weeks will be required of the licensees with the intention of providing an adequate time period to arrange for these inspections.

The construction of the Morton Ranch tailings pond embankment and evaporation pond was authorized by Source Material License No. SUA-1356, dated May 10, 1979. The construction of the Shootering Canyon tailings pond embankment was authorized by Amendment No. 1 to Source Material License No. SUA-1371, dated September 28, 1979. Copies of these documents are attached.

A review of the documents which were referenced in the Morton Ranch license produced the attached list of specific items which we feel you should examine during your inspection. A list of specific items for the

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Leo Higgenbotham

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Shooter Canyon tailings pond will be sent within the next week. Two copies of the documents referenced in the licenses discussed above were sent to I&E upon receipt from the licensee. Should you have any questions concerning this request, or if we can be of any assistance in this matter, please contact Mr. John J. Linehan of my staff at X74103.



Ross A. Scarano, Chief
Uranium Recovery Licensing Branch
Division of Waste Management

Enclosures:

1. Source Material License No. SUA-1356
2. Amendment No. 1 to Source Material License No. SUA-1356
dated 9/28/79
3. Summary-Morton Ranch Evaporation Pond and Embankment
Specifications

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U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
MATERIALS LICENSE

ENCLOSURE 1
Page 1 of 7 pages

MAY 10 1979

Pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-623) and Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, Chapter I, Parts 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 40 and 70, and in reliance on statements and representations heretofore made by the licensee, a license is hereby issued authorizing the licensee to receive, acquire, possess, and transfer byproduct, source, and special nuclear material designated below: to use such material for the purposes and at the places designated below to deliver or transfer such material to persons authorized to receive it in accordance with the regulations of the applicable Part; and to import such byproduct and source material. This license shall be deemed to contain the conditions specified in Section 113 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, and is subject to all applicable rules, regulations and orders of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission now or hereafter in effect and to any conditions specified below.

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Licensee		3. License number	SUA-1356
1. United Nuclear Corporation		4. Expiration date	May 31, 1984
2. P.O. Box 2996 Casper, WY 82502		5. Locket or Reference No.	40-8602
6. Byproduct, source, and/or special nuclear material	7. Chemical and/or physical form	8. Maximum amount that licensee may possess at any one time under this license	
Natural uranium	Any	Unlimited	

9. The licensee is hereby authorized to possess byproduct material in the form of uranium waste tailings generated by the licensee's milling operations authorized under SUA-1356.

10. Authorized place of use: The licensee's uranium milling facilities located in Converse County, Wyoming.

11. For use in accordance with statements, representations, and conditions contained in subsection 2.1, Figure 2.2-3, Section 3, Section 4 exclusive of subsection 4.2.1, Section 5 (including appendices), and subsection 7.5, all from licensee's application dated January 1, 1977 and supplements dated November 15, 1977, July 25, 1978, April 20, 1979 and April 23, 1979. Whenever the word "will" or "should" is used in the above mentioned sections, it shall denote a requirement.

12. The maximum mill throughput shall not exceed 2,400,000 lbs. of U_3O_8 per year.

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Entire document previously
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SEP 28 1979

WUUR:JER
Docket No. 40-0698
SUA-1371, Amendment No. 1

Plateau Resources Limited
ATTN: Mr. R. B. Sewell
Manager of Operations
772 Horizon Drive
Grand Junction, CO 81501

Gentlemen:

Distribution:
WUUR r/f REBrowning
WU r/f JSMartin
WISS r/f
Mill File
Docket File 40-0698
PDR
SHO
IE HQ (2)
JCatania
BBrooks
ACabell
Jpartlow
JRobertson
DWeiss
✓ JERothfleisch
RAScarano
RTWgolsby

Pursuant to Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 40, Source Material License SUA-1371 is hereby amended to authorize construction of the embankment for the tailings impoundment by adding Conditions Nos. 40, 41, 42, and 43 as follows:

40. The licensee shall construct a tailings disposal facility that will meet the safety criteria specified in Regulatory Guide 3.11 and will incorporate the features described in Alternative 1 of Section 10.3.2 and in Subsection 3.2.4.7 of NUREG-0583 dated July 1979, subject to revisions based on the conclusions of the Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement on Uranium Milling and any related rulemaking.

Construction, maintenance and operation of the tailings retention system shall be in accordance with the specifications, representations, and commitments contained in the following documents.

- a. "Tailings Management Plan and Geotechnical Engineering Studies, Shooter Canyon Uranium Project," Woodward-Clyde consultants, September 1978.
- b. Letter from M. B. Dannelsen, Senior Project Engineer, Woodward-Clyde Consultants to Mr. Ross A. Scarano, NRC, January 19, 1979.

"Stage I - Tailings Impoundment and Dam Final Design Report, Shooter Canyon Uranium Project," Woodward-Clyde consultants May 24, 1979, including contract drawings and supplemental data dated, J.

- d. Report, Uranium, Pete Gar

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