

July 31, 1996

Mr. Ron A. Juday, Supervisor  
Petrotoomics Company  
P.O. Box 8509  
Shirley Basin, Wyoming 82615

SUBJECT: AMENDMENT 52 - REVISED RECLAMATION SCHEDULE

Dear Mr. Juday:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff, based on its review of your request by letter dated May 22, 1996, hereby amends Conditions 50 of Source Material License SUA-551 for the Shirley Basin, Wyoming uranium mill site. The amendment extends the milestone for completion of placement of final radon barrier on a 9-acres portion of the tailings pile from October 31, 1997, to December 31, 2001, in Condition 50. All other conditions of this license shall remain the same.

The enclosed Technical Evaluation Report contains the staff's assessment of the licensing action. The license is being reissued to incorporate the requested change, and is enclosed. If you have any questions, please contact the NRC Project Manager, Mohammad Haque at (301) 415-6640.

Sincerely,

( Original signed by )

Joseph J. Holonich, Chief  
Uranium Recovery Branch  
Division of Waste Management  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

Docket No. 40-6659  
TAC No. L51410 (closed)

Enclosures: As stated

cc: G. Bonanno, EPA  
D. Finley, DEQ, WY  
J. Hough, RCPD, WY  
WDEQ-LQD, WY

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## TECHNICAL EVALUATION REPORT

DATE: July 29, 1996

DOCKET NO. 40-6659 LICENSE NO. SUA-551

LICENSEE: Petrotomics Company

FACILITY: Shirley Basin, Wyoming

PROJECT MANAGER: Mohammad Haque

TECHNICAL REVIEWER: Mohammad haque

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### SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS:

Petrotomics Company (Petrotomics), by its letter dated May 22, 1996, requested extension to the reclamation milestone for placement of the final radon barrier on a 9-acres portion of the tailings pile from October 31, 1997, to December 31, 2001. Based on its review, the NRC staff has determined that delays attributed to reasons given by the licensee, justify extension of the schedule date as requested; and accordingly, recommends amendment of Condition 50 of the Source Material License SUA-551. However, regardless of this extension, Petrotomics is to perform the work as expeditiously as possible.

### DESCRIPTION OF LICENSEE'S AMENDMENT REQUEST:

Petrotomics, by its letter dated May 22, 1996, requested extension of the reclamation milestone schedule in Condition 50 of the Source Material License SUA-551 for the Shirley Basin, Wyoming site. Specifically, the request was to extend the milestone for placement of the final radon barrier on a 9-acres portion of the tailings pile from October 31, 1997, to December 31, 2001, for:

- 1) maintaining, throughout the course of reclamation of the site, an area that can be utilized to place contaminated material that may be encountered in accomplishing this work;
- 2) disposal of the evaporation pond dike material; and
- 3) allowing continued pumping and maintenance of well 12-DC, located in the southern part of the area, if necessary.

### TECHNICAL EVALUATION:

Although the tailings pile does not have the final radon barrier in place, the average radon flux as measured by the licensee in 1991 was only 11.5 pCi/m<sup>2</sup>/s, well below the EPA standards and Appendix A limit of 20 pCi/m<sup>2</sup>/s.

Based on its evaluation of the licensee's justification for the extension of reclamation schedule for a small portion of the site and the fact that the site currently meets radon standards, the staff considers the licensee's request acceptable.

Any increased risk to public health and safety or the environment that might be incurred by this delay is considered insignificant.

**RECOMMENDED LICENSE CHANGE:**

The staff recommends that Condition 50.A.(3) of the Source Material License SUA-551 be revised to read as follows. The revision changes the scheduled reclamation milestone date for completion of final radon barrier on a 9-acres portion of the tailings pile.

**Condition 50.A.(3)**

"Placement of final barrier designed and constructed to limit radon emissions to an average flux of no more than 20 pCi/m<sup>2</sup>/s above background for:

- a. area of tailings pile not covered by evaporation ponds, except a 9-acres area in the north adjacent to the Stage I Evaporation Pond - October 31, 1997;
- b. 9-acres area in the north adjacent to the Stage I Evaporation Pond - December 31, 2001."

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT EVALUATION:**

An environmental assessment for this action is not required, since this action is categorically excluded under 10 CFR 51.22 (c)(10), and an environmental report from the licensee is not required by 10 CFR 51.60 (b)(2).