

MAR 2 1989

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

DOCKET NO. 40-8064

EXXON COAL AND MINERALS COMPANY

FINAL FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT REGARDING TERMINATION OF THE SOURCE AND BYPRODUCT MATERIAL LICENSE FOR OPERATION OF EXXON COAL AND MINERALS COMPANY'S HIGHLAND IN-SITU PILOT TEST PROJECT, CONVERSE COUNTY, WYOMING

AGENCY: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

ACTION: Notice of Final Finding of No Significant Impact

1. Proposed Action

The proposed administrative action is to terminate the source and byproduct material license authorizing Exxon Coal and Minerals Company to operate the Highland In-situ Pilot Test Project facility located in Converse County, Wyoming.

2. Reasons for Final Finding of No Significant Impact

The Exxon Highland Pilot Test Project operated from 1978 to 1981. Ground-water restoration activities began in 1981 and continued until 1986. The staff's evaluation and approval of restoration activities is documented in a memorandum dated October 19, 1987.

The NRC staff approved a decommissioning plan for the Highland Project on March 16, 1988. Facility decommissioning activities were conducted between July and September 1988. The staff review of the decommissioning activities is documented in a memorandum dated March 2, 1989. Exxon requested that remaining facilities and responsibilities at the site be transferred to Everest Minerals Corporation, holder of Source and Byproduct Material License No. SUA-1511. Everest Minerals Corporation agreed to accept full responsibility for all remaining facilities by letter dated October 20, 1988.

Based on the staff reviews referenced above, the Commission has determined that no significant impact will result from the proposed administrative action. The following statements support the final finding of no significant impact and summarize the conclusions resulting from the environmental evaluations.

- A. Ground-water quality at the site has been restored to background levels.
- B. Facility decommissioning activities were conducted in accordance with an NRC-approved plan.
- C. Remaining facilities and responsibilities at the site were transferred to Everest Minerals Corporation by issuance of an amendment to Source Material License No. SUA-1511 on February 17, 1989.

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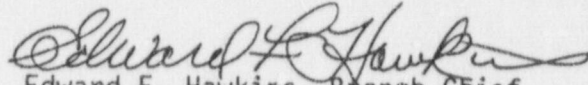
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In accordance with 10 CFR Part 51.33(a), the Director, Uranium Recovery Field Office (URFO), made the determination to issue a final finding of no significant impact in the Federal Register. Concurrent with this finding, Source Material License SUA-1064 for the Exxon Highland Pilot Test Project will be terminated.

The environmental evaluations setting forth the basis for the finding are available for public inspection and copying at the Commission's Uranium Recovery Field Office at 730 Simms Street, Golden, Colorado, and at the Commission's Public Document Room at 1717 H Street, Washington, D.C.

Dated at Denver, Colorado, this 2nd day of March, 1989.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Edward F. Hawkins, Branch Chief  
Uranium Recovery Field Office  
Region IV

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