

crews and not be distracted by completing the licensed operator requalification program by December 31, 2004.

#### *Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action*

The NRC has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that there are no significant environmental impacts associated with the extension of the completion date for the operator requalification program from December 31, 2004, to February 28, 2005.

The proposed action will not significantly increase the probability or consequences of accidents, no changes are being made in the types of effluents that may be released off site, and there is no significant increase in occupational or public radiation exposure. Therefore, there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed action does not have a potential to affect any historic sites. It does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Accordingly, the NRC concludes that there are no significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

#### *Environmental Impacts of the Alternatives to the Proposed Action*

As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action (i.e., the "no-action" alternative). Denial of the application would result in no change in current environmental impacts. The environmental impacts of the proposed action and the alternative action are similar.

#### *Alternative Use of Resources*

The action does not involve the use of any different resources than those previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for CR-3.

#### *Agencies and Persons Consulted*

On May 1, 2003, the staff consulted with the Florida State official, William Passetti, of the Florida Department of Health Bureau of Radiation Control, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

#### **Finding of No Significant Impact**

On the basis of the environmental assessment, the NRC concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the NRC has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee's letter dated March 6, 2003. Documents may be examined, and/or copied for a fee, at the NRC's Public Document Room (PDR), located at One White Flint North, Public File Area O1 F21, 11555 Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville, Maryland. Publicly available records will be accessible electronically from the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Public Electronic Reading Room on the Internet at the NRC Web site, <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. Persons who do not have access to ADAMS or who encounter problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS, should contact the NRC PDR Reference staff by telephone at 1-800-397-4209 or 301-415-4737, or by e-mail to [pdr@nrc.gov](mailto:pdr@nrc.gov).

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 5th day of May, 2003.

**Allen G. Howe,**

*Chief, Section 2, Project Directorate II, Division of Licensing Project Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*

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#### **NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

**[Docket No. 40-6622]**

#### **Finding of No Significant Impact and Availability of the Environmental Assessment Regarding the Proposed Changes to the Reclamation Plan for the Pathfinder Mines Corporation's Shirley Basin Site, Shirley Basin Region of Wyoming**

##### **I. Introduction**

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is considering an amendment of NRC Source Material License SUA-442 to authorize the licensee, Pathfinder Mines Corporation (PMC), to change the Reclamation Plan for the Shirley Basin uranium mill tailings site located in the Shirley Basin region of Wyoming. PMC requested that NRC approve the proposed changes to the Reclamation Plan by letter dated

October 16, 2001, as amended August 9, 2002.

An Environmental Assessment (EA) was performed by the NRC staff in support of its review of PMC's license amendment request, in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR Part 51. Based on the evaluation, the staff concluded that a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is appropriate for this licensing action.

##### **II. EA Summary**

The EA was prepared to evaluate the environmental impacts of PMC's request to amend NRC license SUA-442, by revising the Reclamation Plan for the Shirley Basin site to allow PMC to do two things. First, in response to recent tailings analysis which showed a significant decrease in source term from what was estimated in the original Reclamation Plan, it would allow PMC to reduce the radon clay barrier thickness from 2.5 feet to .5 feet. The licensee has calculated that with this reduction on thickness, the average radon flux will still be within the required levels and they will confirm this fact by actual measurement. Second, it would allow PMC to create relatively flat vegetated surfaces or benches, with rock protected apron slopes to make the transition between benches. This would provide a reclamation surface covered primarily by vegetated topsoil instead of large expanses of rock. The technical aspects of the application are to be discussed separately in a Technical Evaluation Report (TER) that will accompany the agency's final licensing action.

The results of the staff's evaluation are documented in an EA placed in the Publicly Available Records (PAR) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS).

##### **III. Finding of No Significant Impact**

Based on the EA, as summarized above, the staff has concluded that the proposed licensing action would not have any significant effect on the quality of the human environment, and therefore, an environmental impact statement is unnecessary.

##### **IV. Further Information**

The EA for this proposed action as well as the licensee's request are available for inspection at the NRC's Public Document Reading Room at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (ADAMS Accession Number for licensee request is: ML012980334 (October 16, 2001), ML022310348 (August 8, 2002) and ADAMS Accession Number for the EA is: ML031190198). Documents can also