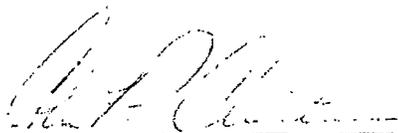


Decision:

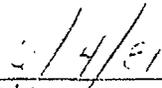
I have concluded in writing this Environmental Assessment that all actions planned by the operator are mitigated by the enclosed stipulations. The nature of the industrial process that the operator may use is beyond BLM jurisdiction, however the appropriate Federal agencies are aware of this activity. BLM does not recommend the preparation of an EIS for the project.

Rationale:

The preparation of an environmental assessment is required by regulation (43 CFR 3809.2-1) to (1) identify impacts of proposed or existing operations on the land, (2) determine the adequacy of mitigating measures and reclamation procedures included in the plan to insure the prevention of unnecessary or undue degradation of the land and (3) determine if there is "substantial public interest" in the plan.



Grand Resource Area Manager



Date

Handwritten scribbles and initials

Atlas Minerals
 Division of Atlas Corporation
Big Indian Mines
 LaSal, Utah 84530

April 27, 1981

Jeff Williams
 Bureau of Land Management
 Moab District
 125 W. 2nd. South
 Moab, Utah 84532

RECEIVED BLM MOAB APR 30 1981

ACTION	MOAB	INITIALS
DM	U-610	
AGM	U-610	
PA	U-612	
P	U-620	
R	U-630	
REC	CU	
G	U-650	
A	U-650	
PH	U-611	
ST	U-610	
G	U-650	
SI	U-601	

Dear Mr. Williams:

Enclosed please find the Plan of Operation as required under 48 CFR 3804.1-5 and .1-8 for the Pandora Mine.

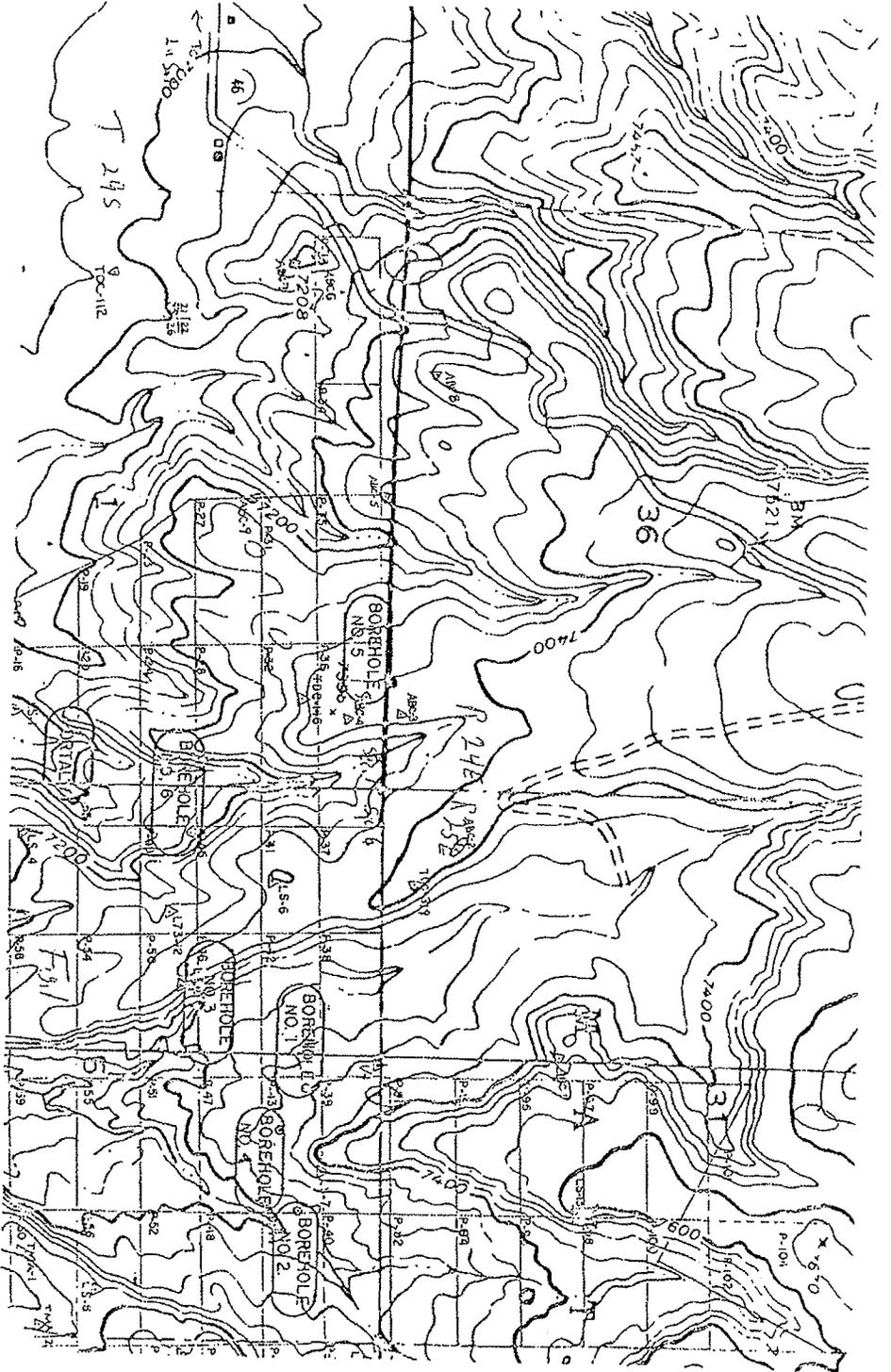
If there are any questions or you require further information, please don't hesitate to contact Mr. Rick Broschat or myself.

Respectfully,

Richard A. Dye
 Richard A. Dye
 Chief Engineer

RD/v1

GRAND R. AH	
MAY 1 1981	
Act. <i>[Signature]</i>	
AM	
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CLERK	
RANGE	
WILD.	
SOILS	
SUR. PS.	
MIN.	
LANDS	
REC.	



ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

for Atlas Minerals Corp., Pandora Mine
Lisbon Valley, San Juan Co., Utah

I. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Atlas Minerals Corporation has operated the Pandora Mine for approximately seven years in T. 29 S., R. 24 E., Sec. 1, San Juan Co., Utah. This mine is on eight (8) claims owned by Mr. Robert Sayer, 726 26 Rd., Grand Junction, Colorado, 81501. The claims are filed as follows:

<u>CLAIM NAME</u>	<u>UMC NO.</u>
Pandora 12	129443
Pandora 16	129445
Pandora 36	129461
Pandora 42	129467
Pandora 43	129468
Pandora 44	129469
Pandora 49	129474
Pandora 50	129475

The location map, Fig. 1 shows the mine facilities. The uranium pay zone reached by this mine is in the Saltwash sandstone member of the Jurassic Aged Morrison Fm. The mine is entered by a sloping decline and ventilated by six ducts through boreholes. On the surface some 12.1 acres are covered with offices, shops, and stockpiles. The mine has an indeterminate future, due to the price market of uranium.

II. PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

A. Atlas proposed to continue mining, without further surface disturbance, until the ore body is depleted. At that time the mine entry will be sealed, ventilation equipment removed, boreholes filled, buildings, removed, all roads but one removed, and the area regraded and reseeded. The only proposal that will change the character of the area, then is the reclamation program.

B. Alternatives

Since this Environmental Assessment is written under the 3809 regulations. The plan cannot be disapproved per se. However, stipulations can be added to prevent unnecessary and undue environmental degradation.

C. Human Values

1. Land Uses

Aside from the mining activity that is the purpose of this Environmental Assessment, two other BLM permitted uses of the area are made. Some grazing of livestock is permitted in the area in spring and fall. Also, dead wood can be cut and gathered in the area. Roads and utility lines servicing the mine are either on claims or are in trespass.

2. Wilderness and Visual Resources

The area cannot be considered wilderness; the visual quality of the upper area of the claims is good but not much different from many other locations around the La Sal Mountains.

3. Cultural No cultural resources are known on the Pandora Mining Claims. See Appendix I for archaeologist's report.

4. Socioeconomic

Currently the Pandora Mine employs approximately 30 individuals, most of who live in the town of Moab, though some live in the much smaller nearby community of La Sal. Since the mine is in operation, the home communities of the employees have already adjusted to the economic and social service demands of these people.

III. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

A. Nonliving Components

1. Climate

The climate in the area of the mine is described in the Indian Creek-Dry Valley U.R.A. Since the mine is in operation, minor air pollution is already present.

2. Land and Geology

The mine entrance is at the very top of Morrison Fm., with a rather sheer face above of Cretaceous Burro Canyon and Dakota Sandstones. The sheer face forms a "U" shape with surface facilities inside the "U" at the level of the mine entrance. The ventilation boreholes are on the higher elevation area and are reached by a road from the other direction. At this location, the facilities are approximately 7300' above sea level; the mine entrance is about 6800'. Fig 1 shows the location of these facilities.

3. Soils and Water

Soils are described in the Indian Creek Dry Valley U.R.A. Surface water courses are not found at the mine site and underground aquifers are not penetrated by the mine. Consequently, this is a rather unusual "dry mine."

B. Living Components

1. Vegetation

The Indian Creek-Dry Valley U.R.A. describes vegetation generally found in the area of the mine. More specifically, the Pandora Mine is in the Pinyon-Juniper zone, high enough that Pinyon pine trees are considerably more prevalent than Junipers. Also present are a few small Gambel Oak trees. Crested Wheat grass, "true" sagebrush, threadandneedle, brom grass, serviceberry, and rabbit brush constitute the understory vegetation. No threatened or endangered plant species are known on the claims.

2. Wildlife

Small mammals, small birds, and common reptiles are frequently observed in the area. Larger mammals and raptors may traverse the area, but are not resident on these mining claims. No threatened or endangered animal species are known to exist on the claims. The Indian Creek-Dry Valley U.R.A. describes in more detail the species present at this elevation - approximately 7,200 feet.

C. Human Values

1. Land Uses

Aside from the mining activity that is the purpose of this Environmental Assessment, two other BLM permitted uses of the area are made. Some grazing of livestock is permitted in the area in spring and fall. Also, dead wood can be cut and gathered in the area. Roads and utility lines servicing the mine are either on claims or are in trespass.

2. Wilderness and Visual Resources

The area cannot be considered wilderness; the visual quality of the upper area of the claims is good but not much different from many other locations around the La Sal Mountains.

3. Cultural

No cultural resources are known on the Pandora Mining Claims. See Appendix I for archaeologist's report.

4. Socioeconomic

Currently the Pandora Mine employs approximately 30 individuals, most of who live in the town of Moab, though some live in the much smaller nearby community of La Sal. Since the mine is in operation, the home communities of the employees have already adjusted to the economic and social service demands of these people.

IV. ANALYSIS OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

A. Proposed Action

Since this is an existing mine, many impacts have already been accomplished and are now part of the existing environment.

1. Anticipated Impacts

a. Nonliving Components

(1) Climate

Since the mine and support facilities at the site are already in operation, the air pollution created by machinery, vehicle emissions, etc., is already part of the environment. This pollution should end when the mine is ultimately depleted.

(2) Land and Geology

Further disturbance to the surface is not anticipated, since ore stockpiles, airvents, roads, buildings, etc. are already in place. When the mine is abandoned and the reclamation process takes place, these facilities will be removed and the locations recontoured. Uranium ore removed is a continuing impact but is confined to the underground mine.

(3) Soils and Water

Further impacts to the resources of soils and water are not anticipated by this action, until the reclamation process. During reclamation, soil will be replaced on portions of the area of the claims.

b. Living Components

(1) Vegetation

No impacts are expected to the vegetation present in the area except for a small amount of additional land added to suitable environment for vegetation after the reclamation process is completed. Reseeding as part of the process should produce additional vegetation in keeping with native species.

c. Human Values

(1) Land Uses

Since the mine is in place, the proposal will not affect current land uses until the mine is abandoned. At that time a few acres of land more suitable for grazing will result.

(2) Wilderness and Visual Resources

The proposal will not affect Wilderness and Visual Resources until the reclamation program commences. At that time the visual quality should be improved.

(3) Cultural

No impacts on cultural resources are anticipated.

(4) Socioeconomic

No impacts to socioeconomic conditions, as they exist, are anticipated from implementation of the plan until the mine closes at an indeterminate future date. Then a certain number of positions of employment will be terminated.

2. Recommended Mitigating Measures

The Operator's Plan provides for a reclamation plan which is fairly complete, however some details should be added. No other mitigating measures are needed since the mine is in operation.

The reclamation plan will include removal of all debris and buildings from the lower level. The adit entrance will be filled. The ventilation equipment on the upper level will be removed and the six borholes filled. Recontouring of the lower area will restore the natural land form. With the exception of one road into the lower area, all roads will be recontoured. All recontoured areas lacking sufficient topsoil will have soil placed on them. Revegetation will be accomplished by reseeding during the October -December season following abandonment of the mine. If the reseeding program is unsuccessful, as determined by inspection during the following April - June season, subsequent reseeding programs will be conducted adhering to the same seasonal schedule, until the program is successful. The seed mix will consist of appropriate species for the locale, to be determined by BLM.

3. Residual Impacts

After the reclamation of the area, the only residual impact anticipated at this time is the removal of the uranium ore from the underground pay zone, and the presence of the one road to remain.

4. Short-term Use and Long-term Productivity

The relatively short-term mining activity current in the area will not affect future long-term productivity that could occur from grazing, wood removal, or other unanticipated activities.

5. Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources

As noted in section 3, above, the only irreversible and irretrievable commitment of resources from this operation is the removal of uranium ore from the underground mine.

B. Alternatives

Because this Environmental Assessment is written under the 3809 regulations, the alternative of "no action", is unfeasible. However, the alternative of placing stipulations on the activity, to insure adequate reclamation, is the primary purpose of the 3809 regulations.

V. RECORDATION OF INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS, AGENCIES CONSULTED,
AND INTENSITY OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Since this mine is in operation, intensity of public interest is low. Aside from the operator, Atlas Minerals, BLM consulted Mr. F. A. Barnes, noted in local environmentalist activities, who made no objections to the Plan.

Appendix I

Archaeologist's Report



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Moab District
P. O. Box 970
Moab, Utah 84532

Evaluation of Compliance with FEO 11593 and Sec. 106 of the Historic Preservation Act of 1966

Project Name ATLAS PANDORA MINEDeveloper ATLAS MINERALS CORP.Antiquities Permit # N/AName of Permitted Institution BLM-MOAB D.O.Description of Activity MINE PORTAL + ASSOCIATED FACILITIES (Uranium)Location of Activity T29S, R24E, Sec. 1 and T29S, R25E, Sec. 6.

Description of Examination Procedures:

- Search of Site Survey Files and Available Literature
- Physical Examination

Evaluation of Findings

- Adequate for compliance with FEO 11593
- Adequate to substantiate a determination of no effect.
- Adequate to provide the basis for a determination of no adverse effect. BLM will have to present its case to the Historic Preservation Office and to the National Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.
- Will require consultation with the contractor to resolve certain questions. See attached analysis.
- Is inadequate for compliance purposes because:

Review of mine plan and on-site visit indicates that less than 5 acres of new disturbance will occur. Existing mine provides area for planned needs.

Bruce A. Louthan

Appendix II
Operator's Plan

PLAN OF OPERATIONS

ATLAS MINERALS

PANDORA MINE

APRIL 21, 1981

OPERATOR:

ATLAS MINERALS, DIVISION OF ATLAS CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 1207
MOAB, UTAH 84532
801-259-7161

CLAIMANT:

MR. ROBERT SAYER
726 26 ROAD
GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO 81501

OPERATION LOCATION:

The main surface plant is located in Section 1, Township 29 South, Range 24 East, in San Juan County, Utah. The claims upon which surface disturbance occurs are listed on Attachment A.

OPERATIONS:

Uranium ore in the Saltwash sandstone member of the Morrison formation is currently being mined from this site using a modified room and pillar technique. Access to the mine is gained through a sloping decline. Six bore holes provide primary ventilation air to the mine working areas.

Surface disturbance near the mine portal is limited to waste and ore rock stockpiles, shops, and office buildings. A total of 12.1 acres is affected by the surface plant. The six boreholes comprise an affected 2.5 acres.

The Pandora Mine has been in operation for approximately seven years

and based upon current market conditions, its ore reserve life is indeterminate.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION:

At all times, mining activity will continue to be conducted in such a manner as to minimize visual and environmental degradation to the area.

Topsoil was not salvaged in advance of initial site disturbance. Drainages which would have run through the mine site were rerouted prior to development of the mine. Culverts or berms have been placed where necessary to avoid erosion.

RECLAMATION:

Upon final abandonment of the mine, extraneous debris, scrap metal, discarded wood, and unusable buildings will be removed from the site. The mine portal and ventilation holes will be sealed to prevent unauthorized or accidental entry.

Waste dumps, ore pads, and other disturbed sites will be stabilized. Stabilization will consist of rounding off the outside edges of the dump and pads, reducing the slope of the waste rock faces, and regrading drainage contours on the disturbed areas. During regrading, blocked ephemeral drainages will be reestablished and installed culverts removed. Before seeding, compacted surfaces will be scarified. The appropriate seed mixture will be broadcast and drag covered.

The main access road which skirts the operation site to the west will be left open to provide access for mine adjacent to the Pandora. All spur roads from the main access road to the mining site will be reclaimed,

ATTACHMENT A

PANDORA MINE

AFFECTED CLAIM	UMC NUMBER
PANDORA 36	129461
PANDORA 49	129474
PANDORA 50	129475
PANDORA 42	129467
PANDORA 43	129468
PANDORA 44	129469
PANDORA 16	129445
PANDORA 12	129443

Appendix III

Stipulations

Stipulations for Reclamation of the Pandora Mine

T. 29 S., R. 24 E., Sec. 1

1. Upon termination of mining activities at the Pandora Mine the operator, Atlas Minerals, shall remove all equipment from within the mine and shall plug the mine entrance to preclude future entry.
2. Upon termination of mining activities at the Pandora Mine, the operator shall remove the ventilation equipment on the surface above the mine. The operator shall fill the boreholes to the surface to prevent accidental or unauthorized entry.
3. Upon termination of mining activities, the operator shall remove all existing facilities such as buildings, oil tanks, ore stock piles, and debris.
4. Upon termination of mining activities, the operator shall recontour the entire area, including the roads both to the mine itself and to the boreholes. One road may be retained to the immediate vicinity of the mine entrance.
5. During the October - December season immediately following the recontouring activity outlined in Stipulation 4, above, the operator shall spread seed of a mix shown on the final sheet. Success of the reseeding activity shall be determined by BLM inspection during the April - June season following the seeding. If BLM determines that the seeding has been unsuccessful, the operator shall spread the seed mix during the subsequent October - December season with another BLM inspection the next April - June. This process shall continue during the requisite number of seasons until BLM has determined that the seeding proved successful.
6. In the event that the operator may unexpectedly find it necessary to make additional major surface changes beyond those covered in the Plan of Operations required for this Environmental Assessment, the operator shall submit a supplement to the submitted plan. Additional major surface changes shall include but not be limited to: additional roads, waste dumps, ore storage areas, mine shafts or portals, buildings, and ore car tracks.

SEED MIXTURE

Species

Grasses

lbs/acre

Hilaria jamesii	Galleta (Curlygrass)	1
Oryzopsis hymenoides	Indian ricegrass	1
Sitanion hystrix	Bottlebrush squirreltail	1

Forbs

Helianthus annuus	Common sunflower (Kansas sunflower)	1
Sphaeralcea coccinea	Scarlet globemallow	1

Shrubs

Eurotia lanata	Winterfat (Whitesage)	<u>1</u>
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Total 6